



## Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association

December 5, 2025

**Hon. Todd McCarthy**

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
College Park, 5th Floor  
777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

**Dear Minister McCarthy,**

**Re: Concerns Regarding Proposed Consolidation of Regional Conservation Authorities (ERO 025-1257)**

On behalf of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), representing 37 municipalities across the Northwest, we are writing to express our **significant concerns** regarding the Province's proposed *Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority* boundary configuration outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257.

The proposal would consolidate the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) into a new regional entity located more than **1,500 kilometres away** from the Lakehead watershed and grouped with 72 Southern Ontario municipalities with whom our region shares **no watershed, geographic, or municipal connection**. This raises serious questions about the ability of any consolidated authority to effectively support and understand the unique environmental and watershed realities of Northwestern Ontario.

While NOMA acknowledges the Province's broader goals in reviewing and consolidating conservation authorities, we echo and support the position of the **LRCA Board of Directors**, who have clearly articulated that Northwestern Ontario's watershed characteristics, climate conditions, governance structures, and environmental management needs are fundamentally distinct from those in Southern Ontario. These differences must be recognized and respected in any future model.

For more than 70 years, the LRCA has provided knowledgeable, responsive, and locally grounded watershed management and frontline services to the Lakehead region. This expertise—deeply rooted in northern geography and hydrology—cannot be replicated through amalgamation with conservation authorities that have no shared watershed boundaries or regional context.

In alignment with the LRCA, NOMA supports the recommendation that the Province consider establishing a **stand-alone, independent Regional Conservation Authority for Northwestern Ontario** should consolidation proceed. A dedicated *Northwestern Ontario Regional Conservation*



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*Authority* would ensure watershed management remains connected to the realities and priorities of our region and maintains the local capacity needed to effectively support our municipalities.

We also echo the LRCA's request that the Ministry **engage directly with all affected Northwestern Ontario municipalities** before any consolidation boundaries are finalized. Meaningful municipal consultation is critical to ensuring that decisions reflect the needs, geography, and environmental priorities of the North.

NOMA encourages the Province to review ERO posting 025-1257 with careful consideration of these regional differences and the well-founded concerns raised by the LRCA and member municipalities. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your officials to discuss a respectful, regionally appropriate approach to watershed governance moving forward.

Thank you for your attention and for your ongoing engagement with Northern Ontario communities.

Sincerely,

**Rick Dumas**

President

**Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)**

**cc:** NOMA Board of Directors

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority

Northwestern Ontario Municipal Councils

Hon. Kevin Holland, MPP Thunder Bay – Atikokan

Lise Vaugoius, MPP Thunder Bay – Superior North

Sol Mamakwa – MPP Kiiwetinoong