

Ottawa City Council / Conseil Municipal d'Ottawa

Motions Requiring Suspension of the Rules of Procedure / Motions exigeant la suspension des Règles de procédure

Meeting date / Date de la réunion : 10 December 2025 / 10 décembre 2025

Agenda No. / Ordre du jour n° : 71

Item / Point de l'ordre du jour : Motions Requiring Suspension of the Rules of Procedure

Re / Objet : Consolidation of Eastern Ontario Conservation Authorities

Moved by / Motion de : Councillor Lo

Seconded by / Appuyée par : Councillor Kitts

That the Rules of Procedure be suspended to consider the following motion due to the comment period for the relevant provincial legislation regarding the proposed consolidation of Eastern Ontario Conservation Authorities closes 22 December 2025.

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has proposed a consolidation of the province's conservation authorities into seven regional conservation authorities, including the merger of the Cataraqui, Mississippi, Raisin, Rideau, and South Nation conservation authorities into the St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority; and

WHEREAS the St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority will cover more than 18,500 square kilometres and be funded by levies from 46 member municipalities, with the City of Ottawa contributing approximately 50 per cent of the total levies; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has proposed the establishment of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, which will provide centralised leadership and oversight of the regional conservation authorities; and

WHEREAS the proposed agency will be authorised to recover its costs from the current and future regional conservation authorities; and

WHEREAS the existing conservation authorities each have individual governance, municipal levy, and financial and reserve structures, ownership of

assets such as dams/dykes/levies as well as plans for investment within their respective watersheds; and

WHEREAS the work by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks on the conservation authority consolidation and establishment of the new agency continues; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor write to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks urging the Government of Ontario:

- To maintain local, municipally-governed, watershed-based Conservation Authorities to ensure effective natural resource and hazard management, transparent local services, bilingualism obligations, and accountability over municipal levy dollars; and**
- To work collaboratively with municipalities and current conservation authorities to identify opportunities for improved consistency, modernisation, and shared service approaches within the existing watershed-based governance model; and**
- To explore options for a Lower Ottawa River-based solution (i.e. merger of the Mississippi Valley, Rideau Valley, and South Nation conservation authorities) aligned with the objectives of the proposed mergers without combining water basins; and**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, should the provincial government's current proposals proceed, the Mayor request that the Government of Ontario:

- Consider options for a Lower Ottawa River-based solution (i.e. merger of the Mississippi Valley, Rideau Valley, and South Nation conservation authorities) aligned with their objectives without combining water basins; and**
- Protect municipalities and taxpayers from any financial pressures from the merger and new oversight agency; and**
- Preserve the current conservation authorities' capital reserve funds in separate legacy accounts to fund projects within the respective boundaries of the current conservation authorities; and**
- Ensure under the new governance, there is a clear understanding of maintenance, lifecycle and ownership of assets that are currently the responsibility of conservation authorities and local governments; and**
- Ensure proper representation of municipalities based on collected levy contribution, population size and scope of undertakings within the governance structure of any future conservation authority.**



The Municipality of
SOUTH DUNDAS

DATE: December 10, 2025

Resolution: 22-26- 965

MOVED BY		SECONDED BY	
Deputy Mayor St. Pierre	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deputy Mayor St. Pierre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Veinotte	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councillor Veinotte	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Smyth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councillor Smyth	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Ward	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Councillor Ward	<input type="checkbox"/>

WHEREAS the *Conservation Authorities Act* (1946) enables municipalities to establish Conservation Authorities and appoint locally elected representatives to their Boards, ensuring direct municipal oversight and accountability for programs funded by municipal taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities within the South Nation River watershed established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 to protect people, property, farmland, water resources, and natural systems through a watershed-based model that reflects local geographic, hydrologic, and community needs;

AND WHEREAS municipalities within the SNC jurisdiction currently provide between 25% and 50% of total funding for conservation authority operations, while provincial funding has declined to approximately 3% in recent years;

AND WHEREAS SNC delivers essential services that support municipal responsibilities, including:

- natural hazard identification and permitting;
- watershed planning and development review;
- flood forecasting, emergency management, and low water response;
- drinking water source protection;
- watershed monitoring, reporting, and technical studies;
- sustainable forestry, agricultural stewardship, and restoration programs;
- management of over 13,000 acres of conservation lands, including lands donated by residents and managed through municipal service agreements;

AND WHEREAS on November 7, 2025, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks posted ERO #025-1257 proposing to consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional conservation authorities and to establish a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, with limited consultation and without accompanying cost-benefit analysis or evidence demonstrating the need for this restructuring;



The Municipality of
SOUTH DUNDAS

DATE: December 10, 2025

Resolution: 22-26- 965

MOVED BY

Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Councillor Veinotte
Councillor Smyth
Councillor Ward

SECONDED BY

Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Councillor Veinotte
Councillor Smyth
Councillor Ward

AND WHEREAS Schedule 3 of Bill 68 enables the Province to assume governance authority over regional conservation authorities, raising concerns regarding diminished municipal representation, loss of local decision-making, and centralization of watershed management;

AND WHEREAS municipalities in Eastern Ontario have expressed concern, including the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry that restructuring may increase red tape and administrative burden, impose significant transition costs for HR, IT, land transfers, and governance realignment; dilute rural voices within large regional agencies dominated by major urban centres; erode donor confidence and affect the stewardship of thousands of acres of locally donated lands; disrupt bilingual service delivery in designated municipalities governed by the *French Language Services Act*;

AND WHEREAS Conservation Authorities—including SNC—already collaborate regionally through successful shared-service models, joint watershed studies, coordinated flood forecasting, agricultural stewardship partnerships, digital permitting, and harmonized technical reviews, demonstrating that modernization and efficiency can be achieved without dismantling local governance structures;

AND WHEREAS municipalities rely on SNC’s field-based expertise, rapid on-site support, landowner relationships, and local knowledge—services that risk being weakened under a large, centralized regional structure;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of **the Municipality of South Dundas** urges the Government of Ontario to maintain local, municipally governed, watershed-based Conservation Authorities, including South Nation Conservation, to ensure effective natural resource and natural hazard management, transparent local services, and accountability for municipal levy dollars;

AND FURTHER THAT this Council supports evidence-based analysis, transparent consultation, and clear articulation of impacts to municipal budgets, local service delivery, donor lands, and bilingual obligations in the proposed consolidation boundaries presented in ERO #025-1257 before the creation a new provincial Conservation Agency .

AND FURTHER THAT this Council encourages the Province to work collaboratively with municipalities and Conservation Authorities to identify opportunities for improved consistency,



The Municipality of
SOUTH DUNDAS

DATE: December 10, 2025

Resolution: 22-26- 965

MOVED BY		SECONDED BY	
Deputy Mayor St. Pierre	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deputy Mayor St. Pierre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Veinotte	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councillor Veinotte	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Smyth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councillor Smyth	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Ward	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councillor Ward	<input type="checkbox"/>

modernization, and shared-service approaches within the existing watershed governance model;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
- local MPPs and MPs;
- all municipalities within the South Nation Watershed;
- the Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- the Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- Conservation Ontario; and
- all Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

Facilities - Report CAO-2025-04

That Council receive report CAO-2025-04 dated December 8, 2025, and approve a budget of \$75,000 to support a consultant-led masterplanning process for the future use of the Township's surplus recreation facilities, including the Russell Arena, Embrun Arena, Camille Piché Hall, and the Russell Centennial Pool;

And that Council approve the scope and timeline of Option A, as outlined in this report, as the basis for the development of the Request for Proposals;

And that staff be directed to initiate the Request for Proposals process, with a contract to be awarded in February 2026.

12. REPORTS FROM AN INVESTIGATOR OR THE OMBUDSMAN

13. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

- a. Notice of Motion - Mayor Mike Tarnowski - Proposed Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act and ERO #025-1257

Moved by Mike Tarnowski

Seconded by Marc Lalonde

Whereas the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish Conservation Authorities and appoint locally elected representatives to their Boards, ensuring direct municipal oversight and accountability for programs funded by municipal taxpayers; and

Whereas the municipalities within the South Nation River watershed established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 to protect people, property, farmland, water resources, and natural systems through a watershed-based model that reflects local geographic, hydrologic, and community needs; and

Whereas municipalities within the SNC jurisdiction currently provide between 25% and 50% of total funding for conservation authority operations, while provincial funding has declined to approximately 3% in

recent years; and

Whereas SNC delivers essential services that support municipal responsibilities, including:

- natural hazard identification and permitting;
- watershed planning and development review;
- flood forecasting, emergency management, and low water response;
- drinking water source protection;
- watershed monitoring, reporting, and technical studies;
- sustainable forestry, agricultural stewardship, and restoration programs;
- management of over 13,000 acres of conservation lands, including lands donated by residents and managed through municipal service agreements; and

Whereas on November 7, 2025, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks posted ERO #025-1257 proposing to consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional conservation authorities and to establish a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, with limited consultation and without accompanying cost-benefit analysis or evidence demonstrating the need for this restructuring; and

Whereas Schedule 3 of Bill 68 enables the province to assume governance authority over regional conservation authorities, raising concerns regarding diminished municipal representation, loss of local decision-making, and centralization of watershed management; and

Whereas municipalities in Eastern Ontario have expressed concern, including the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, as well as the United Counties of Prescott Russell that restructuring may:

- increase red tape and administrative burden;
- impose significant transition costs for HR, IT, land transfers, and governance realignment;
- dilute rural voices within large regional agencies dominated by major urban centres;
- erode donor confidence and affect the stewardship of thousands of acres of locally donated lands;
- disrupt bilingual service delivery in designated

municipalities governed by the French Language Services Act; and

Whereas Conservation Authorities—including SNC—already collaborate regionally through successful shared-service models, joint watershed studies, coordinated flood forecasting, agricultural stewardship partnerships, digital permitting, and harmonized technical reviews, demonstrating that modernization and efficiency can be achieved without dismantling local governance structures; and

Whereas municipalities rely on SNC's field-based expertise, rapid on-site support, landowner relationships, and local knowledge—services that risk being weakened under a large, centralized regional structure; now therefor be it resolved

That the Council of the Township of Russell urges the Government of Ontario to maintain local, municipally governed, watershed-based Conservation Authorities, including South Nation Conservation, to ensure effective natural resource and natural hazard management, transparent local services, and accountability for municipal levy dollars; and further

That the Council of the Township of Russell does not support the proposed consolidation boundaries presented in ERO #025-1257 or the creation of a new provincial Conservation Agency without evidence-based analysis, transparent consultation, and clear articulation of impacts to municipal budgets, local service delivery, donor lands, and bilingual obligations; and further

That the Council of the Township of Russell encourages the province to work collaboratively with municipalities and Conservation Authorities to identify opportunities for improved consistency, modernization, and shared-service approaches within the existing watershed governance model; and

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, local MPPs and MPs, all municipalities within the South Nation Watershed; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, Conservation Ontario and all Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

- b. Notice of Motion – Councillor Lisa Deacon - Producer responsibility of blue boxes

Moved by Lisa Deacon

Seconded by Marc Lalonde

Whereas under Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box producers are fully accountable and financially responsible for their products and packaging once they reach their end of life and are disposed of, for “eligible” sources only; and

Whereas “ineligible” sources, which producers are not responsible for, include businesses, places of worship, daycares, campgrounds, public-facing and internal areas of municipal-owned buildings, and not-for-profit organizations, such as shelters and food banks; and

Whereas failure to include “ineligible” sources under the Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box program is in essence a provincial tax on ineligible sources; and

Whereas should a municipality continue to provide services to the “ineligible” sources, the municipality will be required to oversee the collection, transportation, processing of the recycling, assuming 100% of the cost which amounts to yet another provincial municipal download; now therefore be it resolved

That the Council of the Township of Russell supports the resolution of the Township of North Glengarry dated August 11, 2025, and hereby requests that the province amend Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box so that producers are responsible for the end of life management of recycling product from all sources; and further

That this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, Mike Harris, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Stéphane Sarrazin, Member of Provincial Parliament for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, Rob Flack, Minister of Affairs and Housing, and the Clerk of the Township of North Glengarry.

14. QUESTION PERIOD ON MEETING OF THE DAY

1) Questions must be in relation to an item on the



The Corporation of the Township of
NORTH STORMONT
RESOLUTION

Date: December 16, 2025

Resolution No. 382-2025

MOVED BY:

Mayor F. Landry	_____
Deputy Mayor S. Densham	_____
Councillor A. Bugelli	_____
Councillor A. McDonald	_____
Councillor C. Shane	_____ <i>CS</i>

SECONDED BY:

Mayor F. Landry	_____
Deputy Mayor S. Densham	_____ <i>SD</i>
Councillor A. Bugelli	_____
Councillor A. McDonald	_____
Councillor C. Shane	_____

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities within Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (SDG) established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 and the Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA) in 1963;

AND WHEREAS local municipalities currently provide between 25% and 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 3%;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of acres of land, much of which was donated by local residents and entrusted to conservation authorities as a personal legacy for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment yet to be defined;

AND WHEREAS the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of North Stormont calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection

and management of conservation lands;

AND FURTHER THAT while the Council of the Township of North Stormont supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down agency structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Township of North Stormont supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity, and program delivery across the province, and requests that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities to determine the most effective level of strategic consolidation to achieve both provincial and local objectives.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, to the local MP and MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and all municipalities and Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

CARRIED DEFEATED DEFERRED


Chair

Declaration of Conflict of Interest: _____

- Disclosed His/Her/Their Interest
- Vacated His/Her/Their Seat

RECORDED VOTE

Councillor C. Shane	_____
Councillor A. McDonald	_____
Councillor A. Bugelli	_____
Deputy Mayor S. Densham	_____
Mayor F. Landry	_____

December 4, 2025

RE: Resolution of Support - Local Governance of Conservation Authorities

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of Municipality of North Grenville, at a meeting held on December 2, 2025, passed the following resolution pertaining to the Resolution of Support - Local Governance of Conservation Authorities

C-2025-453

Moved by: Deb Wilson

Seconded by: John Barclay

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act, 1990 enables municipalities to establish Conservation Authorities and appoint locally elected representatives to their Boards, ensuring direct municipal oversight and accountability for programs funded by municipal taxpayers; and,

WHEREAS the municipalities within the South Nation River watershed established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 and municipalities within the Rideau River watershed established the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) in 1970 to protect people, property, farmland, water resources, and natural systems through a watershed-based model that reflects local geographic, hydrologic, and community needs; and,

WHEREAS municipalities within the SNC and RVCA jurisdictions currently provide between 25% and 50% of total funding for conservation authority operations, while provincial funding has declined to approximately 3% in recent years; and,

WHEREAS SNC and RVCA deliver essential services that support municipal responsibilities, including:

- natural hazard identification and permitting;
- watershed planning and development review;
- flood forecasting, emergency management, and low water response;
- drinking water source protection;
- watershed monitoring, reporting, and technical studies;
- sustainable forestry, agricultural stewardship, and restoration programs;
- management of significant public conservation lands, including lands donated by residents and managed through municipal service agreements; and,

WHEREAS on November 7, 2025, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks posted ERO #025-1257 proposing to consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional conservation authorities and to establish a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, with limited consultation and without accompanying cost-benefit analysis or evidence demonstrating the need for this restructuring; and,

WHEREAS Schedule 3 of Bill 68 enables the Province to assume governance authority over regional conservation authorities, raising concerns regarding diminished municipal representation, loss of local decision-making, and centralization of watershed management; and,

WHEREAS municipalities in Eastern Ontario have expressed concern that restructuring may:

- increase red tape and administrative burden;
- impose significant transition costs for HR, IT, land transfers, and governance realignment;
- dilute rural voices within large regional agencies dominated by major urban centres;
- erode donor confidence and affect the stewardship of thousands of acres of locally donated lands;
- disrupt bilingual service delivery in designated municipalities governed by the French Language Services Act; and,

WHEREAS Conservation Authorities including SNC and RVCA already collaborate regionally through successful shared-service models, joint watershed studies, coordinated flood forecasting, agricultural stewardship partnerships, digital permitting, and harmonized technical reviews, demonstrating that modernization and efficiency can be achieved without dismantling local governance structures; and,

WHEREAS municipalities rely on SNC's and RVCA's field-based expertise, rapid on-site support, landowner relationships, and local knowledge services that risk being weakened under a large, centralized regional structure,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Council of the Municipality of North Grenville urges the Government of Ontario to maintain local, municipally governed, watershed-based Conservation Authorities, including South Nation Conservation and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, to ensure effective natural resource and natural hazard management, transparent local services, and accountability for municipal levy dollars; and;

FURTHER THAT this Council does not support the proposed consolidation boundaries presented in ERO #025-1257 or the creation of a new provincial Conservation Agency without evidence-based analysis, transparent consultation, and clear articulation of impacts to municipal budgets, local service delivery, donor lands, and bilingual obligations; and,

FURTHER THAT this Council encourages the Province to work collaboratively with municipalities and Conservation Authorities to identify opportunities for improved consistency, modernization, and shared-service approaches within the existing watershed governance model; and,

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
- local MPPs and MPs;
- all municipalities within the South Nation and Rideau Valley watersheds;
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association; and,
- Conservation Ontario.

CARRIED

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at clerk@northgrenville.on.ca.

Thank you.



Kaitlin Bos

Municipal Clerk

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH DUNDAS
RESOLUTION**

Regular Meeting

Resolution: 2025- 248
Date: December 17, 2025

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Bergeron
Seconded By: Councillor Uhrig

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Council of the Township of North Dundas supports Resolution No. 2025-159 from the United Counties of Stormont Dundas and Glengarry passed on November 17, 2025 calling on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks, to the local MP and MPPS, the Association of Municipalities in Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and all municipalities and Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

Carried

**Resolution
Regular Council Meeting**



Agenda Number: 11.1.
Resolution Number RES-CM-227-2025
Title: Request for support from South Nation Conservation regarding the amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act and ERO Posting #025-1257
Date: December 8, 2025

Moved by: Marjorie Drolet
Seconded by: Alain Mainville

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish Conservation Authorities and appoint locally elected representatives to their Boards, ensuring direct municipal oversight and accountability for programs funded by municipal taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities within the South Nation River watershed established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 to protect people, property, farmland, water resources, and natural systems through a watershed-based model that reflects local geographic, hydrologic, and community needs;

AND WHEREAS municipalities within the SNC jurisdiction currently provide between 25% and 50% of total funding for conservation authority operations, while provincial funding has declined to approximately 3% in recent years;

AND WHEREAS SNC delivers essential services that support municipal responsibilities, including:

- **natural hazard identification and permitting;**
- **watershed planning and development review;**
- **flood forecasting, emergency management, and low water response;**
- **drinking water source protection;**
- **watershed monitoring, reporting, and technical studies;**
- **sustainable forestry, agricultural stewardship, and restoration programs;**
- **management of over 13,000 acres of conservation lands, including lands donated by residents and managed through municipal service agreements;**

AND WHEREAS on November 7, 2025, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks posted ERO #025-1257 proposing to consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional conservation authorities and to establish a new Ontario

Provincial Conservation Agency, with limited consultation and without accompanying cost-benefit analysis or evidence demonstrating the need for this restructuring;
AND WHEREAS Schedule 3 of Bill 68 enables the Province to assume governance authority over regional conservation authorities, raising concerns regarding diminished municipal representation, loss of local decision-making, and centralization of watershed management;

AND WHEREAS municipalities in Eastern Ontario have expressed concern, including the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, that restructuring may:

- increase red tape and administrative burden;
- impose significant transition costs for HR, IT, land transfers, and governance realignment;
- dilute rural voices within large regional agencies dominated by major urban centres;
- erode donor confidence and affect the stewardship of thousands of acres of locally donated lands;
- disrupt bilingual service delivery in designated municipalities governed by the French Language Services Act;

AND WHEREAS Conservation Authorities—including SNC—already collaborate regionally through successful shared-service models, joint watershed studies, coordinated flood forecasting, agricultural stewardship partnerships, digital permitting, and harmonized technical reviews, demonstrating that modernization and efficiency can be achieved without dismantling local governance structures;

AND WHEREAS municipalities rely on SNC's field-based expertise, rapid on-site support, landowner relationships, and local knowledge—services that risk being weakened under a large, centralized regional structure;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Nation Municipality urges the Government of Ontario to maintain local, municipally governed, watershed-based Conservation Authorities, including South Nation Conservation, to ensure effective natural resource and natural hazard management, transparent local services, and accountability for municipal levy dollars;

AND FURTHER THAT this Council does not support the proposed consolidation boundaries presented in ERO #025-1257 or the creation of a new provincial Conservation Agency without evidence-based analysis, transparent consultation, and clear articulation of impacts to municipal budgets, local service delivery, donor lands, and bilingual obligations;

AND FURTHER THAT this Council encourages the Province to work collaboratively with municipalities and Conservation Authorities to identify opportunities for improved consistency, modernization, and shared-service approaches within the existing watershed governance model;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

- local MPPs and MPs;
- all municipalities within the South Nation Watershed;
- the Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- the Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- Conservation Ontario; and
- all Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

Carried

Résolution
Réunion de Conseil Ordinaire



No. du point à l'ordre du jour: 11.1.

Numéro de résolution RES-CM-227-2025

Titre: Demande de soutien de la Conservation de la Nation Sud au sujet de la modification de la Loi sur les offices de protection de la nature et à l'Avis au Registre environnemental #025-1257

Date: le 8 décembre 2025

Proposé par: Marjorie Drolet

Appuyé par Alain Mainville

ATTENDU QUE la Loi sur les offices de protection de la nature (1946) permet aux municipalités de créer des offices de protection de la nature et de nommer des représentants élus localement à leur Conseil d'administration, garantissant ainsi une surveillance directe et une responsabilité municipale pour les programmes financés par les contribuables municipaux ;

ET ATTENDU QUE les municipalités du bassin versant de la rivière Nation Sud ont créé la Conservation de la Nation Sud (CNS) en 1947 afin de protéger les personnes, les biens, les terres agricoles, les ressources en eau et les systèmes naturels grâce à un modèle basé sur le bassin versant qui reflète les besoins géographiques, hydrologiques et communautaires locaux ;

ET ATTENDU QUE les municipalités relevant du territoire de la CNS fournissent actuellement entre 25 % et 50 % du financement total des activités de l'Office de protection de la nature, tandis que le financement provincial a diminué pour atteindre environ 3 % ces dernières années ;

ET ATTENDU QUE la CNS fournit des services essentiels qui soutiennent les responsabilités municipales, notamment :

- l'identification des risques naturels et la délivrance de permis ;
- la planification du bassin versant et l'examen des projets d'aménagement ;
- la prévision des inondations, la gestion des urgences et les interventions en cas de crue ;
- la protection des sources d'eau potable ;
- la surveillance des bassins versants, l'établissement de rapports et les études techniques ;

- les programmes de foresterie durable, de gestion agricole et de restauration ;
- la gestion de plus de 13 000 acres de terres de conservation, y compris les terres données par les résidents et gérées dans le cadre d'ententes de services municipaux ;

ET ATTENDU QUE le 7 novembre 2025, le ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs a publié le document Registre environnemental #025-1257 025-1257 proposant de regrouper les 36 offices de protection de la nature de l'Ontario en sept offices régionaux et de créer une nouvelle agence provinciale de protection de la nature de l'Ontario, après une consultation limitée et sans analyse coûts-avantages ni preuves démontrant la nécessité de cette restructuration ;

ET ATTENDU QUE l'annexe 3 du projet de loi 68 permet à la province d'assumer le pouvoir de gouvernance sur les offices régionaux de protection de la nature, ce qui soulève des inquiétudes quant à la diminution de la représentation municipale, à la perte du pouvoir décisionnel local et à la centralisation de la gestion des bassins versants ;

ET ATTENDU QUE les municipalités de l'Est de l'Ontario, notamment les comtés unis de Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry, ont exprimé leur inquiétude quant au fait que la restructuration pourrait :

- augmenter la bureaucratie et le fardeau administratif ;
- imposer des coûts de transition importants pour les ressources humaines, les technologies de l'information, les transferts fonciers et le réalignement de la gouvernance ;
- diluer la voix des zones rurales au sein des grandes agences régionales dominées par les grands centres urbains ;
- éroder la confiance des donateurs et affecter la gestion de milliers d'hectares de terres données localement ;
- perturber la prestation de services bilingues dans les municipalités désignées régies par la Loi sur les services en langue française ;

ET ATTENDU QUE les offices de protection de la nature, y compris la CNS, collaborent déjà à

l'échelle régionale grâce à des modèles de services partagés efficaces, des études conjointes sur les bassins versants, la coordination des prévisions d'inondations, des partenariats en matière de gestion agricole, la délivrance de permis numériques et des examens techniques harmonisés, démontrant ainsi que la modernisation et l'efficacité peuvent être réalisées sans démanteler les structures de gouvernance locales ;

ET ATTENDU QUE les municipalités comptent sur l'expertise de terrain de la CNS, son soutien rapide sur place, ses relations avec les propriétaires fonciers et sa connaissance du terrain, autant de services qui risquent d'être affaiblis dans le cadre d'une grande structure régionale centralisée ;

IL EST DONC RÉSOLU QUE le Conseil municipal de [municipalité] exhorte le gouvernement de l'Ontario à maintenir les offices de protection de la nature locaux,

gérés par les municipalités et basés sur les bassins versants, y compris la Conservation de la Nation Sud, afin de garantir une gestion efficace des ressources naturelles et des risques naturels, des services locaux transparents et la responsabilité des fonds municipaux prélevés ;

ET DE PLUS QUE le Conseil ne soutient pas les limites de consolidation proposées dans le document Registre environnemental #025-1257 025-1257 ni la création d'une nouvelle agence provinciale de conservation sans analyse fondée sur des preuves, consultation transparente et articulation claire des répercussions sur les budgets municipaux, la prestation de services locaux, les terres données et les obligations bilingues ;

ET DE PLUS QUE ce Conseil encourage la province à collaborer avec les municipalités et les

offices de protection de la nature afin d'identifier les possibilités d'améliorer la cohérence, la modernisation et les approches de services partagés dans le cadre du modèle actuel de

gouvernance des bassins versants ;

ET EN OUTRE QUE une copie de cette résolution soit envoyée à :

- le ministre de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs ;**
- les députés provinciaux et fédéraux locaux ;**
- toutes les municipalités du bassin versant de la Nation Sud ;**
- l'Association des municipalités de l'Ontario ;**
- l'Association des municipalités rurales de l'Ontario ;**
- Conservation Ontario ; et**
- toutes les autorités de conservation de l'Ontario.**

Adoptée

TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH/CARDINAL

Resolution Number 2014-339

December 8, 2025

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: Joe Mc

WHEREAS the *Conservation Authorities Act* (1946) enables municipalities to establish Conservation Authorities and appoint locally elected representatives to their Boards, ensuring direct municipal oversight and accountability for programs funded by municipal taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS SNC delivers essential services that support municipal responsibilities, including:

- natural hazard identification and permitting;
- watershed planning and development review;
- flood forecasting, emergency management, and low water response;
- drinking water source protection;
- watershed monitoring, reporting, and technical studies;
- sustainable forestry, agricultural stewardship, and restoration programs;
- management of over 13,000 acres of conservation lands, including lands donated by residents and managed through municipal service agreements;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal is concerned that restructuring may:

- increase red tape and administrative burden;
- impose significant transition costs for HR, IT, land transfers, and governance realignment;
- dilute rural voices within large regional agencies dominated by major urban centres;
- erode donor confidence and affect the stewardship of thousands of acres of locally donated lands;
- disrupt bilingual service delivery in designated municipalities governed by the *French Language Services Act*;

AND WHEREAS SNC already collaborates regionally through successful shared-service models, joint watershed studies, coordinated flood forecasting, agricultural stewardship partnerships, digital permitting, and harmonized technical reviews, demonstrating that modernization and efficiency can be achieved without dismantling local governance structures;

TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL

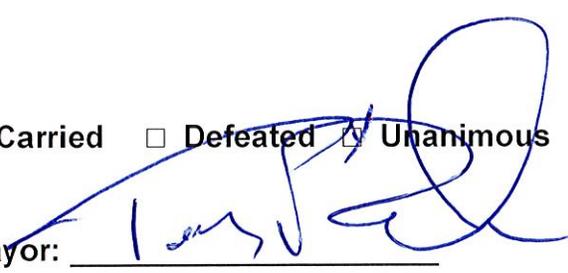
December 8, 2025

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal urges the Government of Ontario maintain South Nation Conservation as a local, municipally governed, watershed-based Conservation Authority;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
- local MPPs and MPs;
- all municipalities within the South Nation Watershed;
- the Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- the Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- Conservation Ontario; and
- all Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

Carried Defeated Unanimous

Mayor: 

RECORDED VOTE REQUESTED BY: _____		
NAME	YEA	NAY
Councillor J. Martelle		
Councillor W. Smail		
Councillor C. Ward		
Deputy Mayor S. Dillabough		
Mayor T. Deschamps		
TOTAL		



United Counties of
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

7a)

RESOLUTION

MOVED BY Councillor Densham

RESOLUTION NO 2025- 159

SECONDED BY

DATE November 17, 2025

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities within Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (SDG) established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 and the Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA) in 1963;

AND WHEREAS local municipalities currently provide between 25% and 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 3%;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of acres of land, much of which was donated by local residents and entrusted to conservation authorities as a personal legacy for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment yet to be defined;

AND WHEREAS the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local

representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands;

AND FURTHER THAT while the United Counties of SDG supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down agency structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

AND FURTHER THAT the United Counties of SDG supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity, and program delivery across the province, and requests that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities to determine the most effective level of strategic consolidation to achieve both provincial and local objectives.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, to the local MP and MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and all municipalities and Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

CARRIED

DEFEATED

DEFERRED



WARDEN

Recorded Vote:

Councillor Bergeron	_____
Councillor Broad	_____
Councillor Densham	_____
Councillor Fraser	_____
Councillor Guindon	_____
Councillor Landry	_____
Councillor MacDonald	_____
Councillor McDonald	_____
Councillor McGillis	_____
Councillor St. Pierre	_____
Councillor Williams	_____
Warden Lang	_____

Avis de motion
Réunion ordinaire du Conseil

No. du point à l'ordre du jour : 7.1.1

Titre : Réponse au projet de loi 68 – Modifications aux offices de protection de la nature

Date : le mercredi 10 décembre 2025

Proposée par Mike Tarnowski

Appuyée par Geneviève Lajoie

Attendu que la *Loi sur les offices de protection de la nature* (L.R.O. 1990, chap. C.27) permet aux municipalités d'établir des offices de protection de la nature et que, lorsque les municipalités choisissent de créer de tels offices, elles assument la responsabilité de leur gouvernance et de leur financement par la nomination de membres au conseil d'administration et par la fourniture de contributions municipales annuelles afin de soutenir les programmes et les services obligatoires et non obligatoires;

Et attendu que les municipalités de l'Est de l'Ontario, y compris les Comtés unis de Prescott et Russell (les « CUPR »), sont des partenaires fondateurs de la *South Nation Conservation Authority* (1947) et de la *Raisin Region Conservation Authority* (1963);

Et attendu que les gouvernements municipaux fournissent actuellement entre 25 % et 50 % du financement total des offices de protection de la nature, tandis que la province de l'Ontario en fournit environ 3 %;

Et attendu que les municipalités, depuis des décennies, gouvernent leurs offices de protection de la nature respectifs afin de s'assurer que les programmes, les services, les structures tarifaires, les processus d'autorisation et les services au public demeurent alignés avec les besoins locaux des bassins versants et imputables aux contribuables;

Et attendu que les offices de protection de la nature possèdent et gèrent collectivement d'importantes terres publiques à travers l'Ontario, y compris des terrains donnés par des résidents locaux avec l'attente qu'ils seraient protégés, gérés et gouvernés localement pour le bien public à long terme;

Et attendu que le projet de loi 68 propose la création d'une nouvelle Agence ontarienne de protection de la nature — une société de la Couronne qui assumerait les responsabilités de gouvernance et regrouperait les 36 offices de protection de la nature de l'Ontario en sept offices régionaux, sans que la répartition des coûts municipaux et les structures de gouvernance ne soient encore définies;

Et attendu que la province détient déjà le pouvoir d'établir des normes, des règlements et des attentes provinciales pour les opérations des offices de protection de la nature en vertu de la *Loi sur les offices de protection de la nature* et par l'entremise du ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs.

Qu'il soit résolu que le Conseil des CUPR demande au gouvernement de l'Ontario de maintenir des offices de protection de la nature locaux, indépendants, régis par les municipalités et fondés sur les bassins versants, assurant une forte représentation municipale dans les décisions liées aux contributions, à la prestation de services, à la gestion des terres et aux résultats des programmes axés sur la communauté.

Qu'il soit également résolu que, bien que les CUPR appuient les objectifs provinciaux liés à l'harmonisation des normes d'autorisation, aux services partagés et à la modernisation numérique, l'imposition d'une agence centralisée, de haut en bas, risque d'augmenter les coûts, la bureaucratie et la complexité administrative, tout en réduisant la transparence et la capacité de répondre aux besoins locaux des bassins versants.

Qu'il soit également résolu que les CUPR appuient des approches équilibrées visant à améliorer la capacité, l'efficacité et l'expertise technique des offices de protection de la nature et demandent à la province de travailler en collaboration avec les municipalités et avec les offices de protection de la nature existants pour évaluer où une consolidation stratégique — le cas échéant — serait appropriée, efficace et financièrement viable.

Qu'il soit également résolu qu'une copie de cette résolution soit envoyée au ministre ontarien de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs; aux députés fédéraux et provinciaux locaux; à l'Association des municipalités de l'Ontario; à l'Association des municipalités rurales de l'Ontario; ainsi qu'à toutes les municipalités et à tous les offices de protection de la nature de l'Ontario.



Notice of Motion
Regular Council Meeting

Agenda Number: 7.1.1
Title: Response to Bill 68 – Conservation Authority Changes
Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Moved by Mike Tarnowski

Seconded by Geneviève Lajoie

Whereas the *Conservation Authorities Act* (R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27) enables municipalities to establish conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of Board Members and the provision of annual municipal levies to support mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services;

And whereas the municipalities within Eastern Ontario, including the United Counties of Prescott and Russell (the “UCPR”), are founding municipal partners of the South Nation Conservation Authority (1947) and the Raisin Region Conservation Authority (1963);

And whereas municipal governments currently provide between 25% and 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 3%;

And whereas municipalities have, for decades, governed their respective conservation authorities to ensure that programs, services, fee structures, permitting processes, and public service delivery remain aligned with local watershed needs and accountable to ratepayers;

And whereas conservation authorities collectively own and manage significant public lands across Ontario, including lands donated by local residents with the expectation that they would be protected, stewarded, and governed locally for the long-term public good;

And whereas Bill 68 proposes the creation of a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency—a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario’s 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment and governance structures yet to be defined;

And whereas the Province already holds the authority to set provincial standards, regulations, and expectations for conservation authority operations under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and through the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

Be it resolved that the Council of the UCPR call on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities, ensuring strong municipal representation in decisions related to levies, service delivery, land management, and community-focused program outcomes.

Be it further resolved that while the UCPR support provincial objectives related to consistent permitting standards, shared services, and digital modernization, the imposition of a top-down centralized agency risks increasing cost, red tape, and administrative complexity while reducing accountability and responsiveness to local watershed needs.

Be it further resolved that the UCPR support balanced approaches to improving capacity, efficiency, and technical expertise across conservation authorities and request that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and existing conservation authorities to evaluate where strategic consolidation—if any—is appropriate, effective, and financially sustainable.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; local MPs and MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Rural Ontario Municipal Association; and all municipalities and conservation authorities in Ontario.



CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF
CLARENCE-ROCKLAND REGULAR MEETING

RESOLUTION

Council Regular meeting

Resolution: 2025-105
Title: Resolution to urge the Government of Ontario to maintain local, municipally governed, watershed-based Conservation Authorities
Date: December 10, 2025

Moved by Mario Zanth
Seconded by Carl Grimard

WHEREAS the *Conservation Authorities Act* (1946) enables municipalities to establish Conservation Authorities and appoint locally elected representatives to their Boards, ensuring direct municipal oversight and accountability for programs funded by municipal taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities within the South Nation River watershed established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 to protect people, property, farmland, water resources, and natural systems through a watershed-based model that reflects local geographic, hydrologic, and community needs;

AND WHEREAS municipalities within the SNC jurisdiction currently provide between 25% and 50% of total funding for conservation authority operations, while provincial funding has declined to approximately 3% in recent years;

AND WHEREAS SNC delivers essential services that support municipal responsibilities, including:

- natural hazard identification and permitting;
- watershed planning and development review;
- flood forecasting, emergency management, and low water response;
- drinking water source protection;
- watershed monitoring, reporting, and technical studies;
- sustainable forestry, agricultural stewardship, and restoration programs;
- management of over 13,000 acres of conservation lands, including lands donated by residents and managed through municipal service agreements;

AND WHEREAS on November 7, 2025, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks posted ERO #025-1257 proposing to consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional conservation authorities and to establish a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, with limited consultation and without accompanying cost-benefit analysis or evidence demonstrating the need for this restructuring;

AND WHEREAS Schedule 3 of Bill 68 enables the Province to assume governance authority over regional conservation authorities, raising concerns regarding diminished municipal representation, loss of local decision-making, and centralization of watershed management;

AND WHEREAS municipalities in Eastern Ontario have expressed concern, including the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, that restructuring may:

- increase red tape and administrative burden;
- impose significant transition costs for HR, IT, land transfers, and governance realignment;
- dilute rural voices within large regional agencies dominated by major urban centres;
- erode donor confidence and affect the stewardship of thousands of acres of locally donated lands;
- disrupt bilingual service delivery in designated municipalities governed by the *French Language Services Act*;

AND WHEREAS Conservation Authorities—including SNC—already collaborate regionally through successful shared-service models, joint watershed studies, coordinated flood forecasting, agricultural stewardship partnerships, digital permitting, and harmonized technical reviews, demonstrating that modernization and efficiency can be achieved without dismantling local governance structures;

AND WHEREAS municipalities rely on SNC's field-based expertise, rapid on-site support, landowner relationships, and local knowledge—services that risk being weakened under a large, centralized regional structure;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Clarence-Rockland urges the Government of Ontario to maintain local, municipally governed, watershed-based Conservation Authorities, including South Nation Conservation, to ensure effective natural resource and natural hazard management, transparent local services, and accountability for municipal levy dollars;

AND FURTHER THAT this Council does not support the proposed consolidation boundaries presented in ERO #025-1257 or the creation of a new provincial Conservation Agency without evidence-based analysis, transparent consultation, and clear articulation of impacts to municipal budgets, local service delivery, donor lands, and bilingual obligations;

AND FURTHER THAT this Council encourages the Province to work collaboratively with municipalities and Conservation Authorities to identify opportunities for improved consistency, modernization, and shared-service approaches within the existing watershed governance model;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
- local MPPs and MPs;
- all municipalities within the South Nation Watershed;
- the Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- the Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- Conservation Ontario; and
- all Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

CARRIED

Karine McCulloch/Deputy Clerk



Réunion régulière du conseil

Résolution: 2025-105

Titre: Résolution pour inciter le gouvernement de l'Ontario à maintenir les offices de protection de la nature locaux, gérés par les municipalités et basés sur les bassins versants

Date: le 10 décembre 2025

Proposée par Mario Zanth

Appuyée par Carl Grimard

ATTENDU QUE la *Loi sur les offices de protection de la nature* (1946) permet aux municipalités de créer des offices de protection de la nature et de nommer des représentants élus localement à leur Conseil d'administration, garantissant ainsi une surveillance directe et une responsabilité municipale pour les programmes financés par les contribuables municipaux ;

ET ATTENDU QUE les municipalités du bassin versant de la rivière Nation Sud ont créé la Conservation de la Nation Sud (CNS) en 1947 afin de protéger les personnes, les biens, les terres agricoles, les ressources en eau et les systèmes naturels grâce à un modèle basé sur le bassin versant qui reflète les besoins géographiques, hydrologiques et communautaires locaux ;

ET ATTENDU QUE les municipalités relevant du territoire de la CNS fournissent actuellement entre 25 % et 50 % du financement total des activités de l'Office de protection de la nature, tandis que le financement provincial a diminué pour atteindre environ 3 % ces dernières années ;

ET ATTENDU QUE la CNS fournit des services essentiels qui soutiennent les responsabilités municipales, notamment :

- l'identification des risques naturels et la délivrance de permis ;
- la planification du bassin versant et l'examen des projets d'aménagement ;
- la prévision des inondations, la gestion des urgences et les interventions en cas de crue ;
- la protection des sources d'eau potable ;
- la surveillance des bassins versants, l'établissement de rapports et les études techniques ;

- les programmes de foresterie durable, de gestion agricole et de restauration ;
- la gestion de plus de 13 000 acres de terres de conservation, y compris les terres données par les résidents et gérées dans le cadre d'ententes de services municipaux ;

ET ATTENDU QUE le 7 novembre 2025, le ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs a publié le document Registre environnemental #025-1257 proposant de regrouper les 36 offices de protection de la nature de l'Ontario en sept offices régionaux et de créer une nouvelle agence provinciale de protection de la nature de l'Ontario, après une consultation limitée et sans analyse coûts-avantages ni preuves démontrant la nécessité de cette restructuration ;

ET ATTENDU QUE l'annexe 3 du projet de loi 68 permet à la province d'assumer le pouvoir de gouvernance sur les offices régionaux de protection de la nature, ce qui soulève des inquiétudes quant à la diminution de la représentation municipale, à la perte du pouvoir décisionnel local et à la centralisation de la gestion des bassins versants ;

ET ATTENDU QUE les municipalités de l'Est de l'Ontario, notamment les comtés unis de Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry, ont exprimé leur inquiétude quant au fait que la restructuration pourrait :

- augmenter la bureaucratie et le fardeau administratif ;
- imposer des coûts de transition importants pour les ressources humaines, les technologies de l'information, les transferts fonciers et le réaligement de la gouvernance ;
- diluer la voix des zones rurales au sein des grandes agences régionales dominées par les grands centres urbains ;
- éroder la confiance des donateurs et affecter la gestion de milliers d'hectares de terres données localement ;
- perturber la prestation de services bilingues dans les municipalités désignées régies par la *Loi sur les services en langue française* ;

ET ATTENDU QUE les offices de protection de la nature, y compris la CNS, collaborent déjà à l'échelle régionale grâce à des modèles de services partagés efficaces, des études conjointes sur les bassins versants, la coordination des prévisions d'inondations, des partenariats en matière de gestion agricole, la délivrance de permis numériques et des examens techniques harmonisés, démontrant ainsi que la modernisation et l'efficacité peuvent être réalisées sans démanteler les structures de gouvernance locales ;

ET ATTENDU QUE les municipalités comptent sur l'expertise de terrain de la CNS, son soutien rapide sur place, ses relations avec les propriétaires fonciers et sa connaissance du terrain, autant de services qui risquent d'être affaiblis dans le cadre d'une grande structure régionale centralisée ;

IL EST DONC RÉSOLU QUE le Conseil municipal de la Cité de Clarence-Rockland incite le gouvernement de l'Ontario à maintenir les offices de protection de la nature locaux, gérés par les municipalités et basés sur les bassins versants, y compris la Conservation de la Nation Sud, afin de garantir une gestion efficace des ressources naturelles et des risques naturels, des services locaux transparents et la responsabilité des fonds municipaux prélevés ;

ET DE PLUS QUE le Conseil ne soutient pas les limites de consolidation proposées dans le document Registre environnemental #025-1257 ni la création d'une nouvelle agence provinciale de conservation sans analyse fondée sur des preuves, consultation transparente et articulation claire des répercussions sur les budgets municipaux, la prestation de services locaux, les terres données et les obligations bilingues ;

ET DE PLUS QUE ce Conseil encourage la province à collaborer avec les municipalités et les offices de protection de la nature afin d'identifier les possibilités d'améliorer la cohérence, la modernisation et les approches de services partagés dans le cadre du modèle actuel de gouvernance des bassins versants ;

ET EN OUTRE QUE une copie de cette résolution soit envoyée à :

- le ministre de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs ;
- les députés provinciaux et fédéraux locaux ;
- toutes les municipalités du bassin versant de la Nation Sud ;
- l'Association des municipalités de l'Ontario ;
- l'Association des municipalités rurales de l'Ontario ;
- Conservation Ontario ; et
- toutes les autorités de conservation de l'Ontario.

ADOPTÉE

Karine McCulloch/Greffière adjointe



**MUNICIPALITÉ DE CASSELMAN
ORDRE DU JOUR
RÉUNION ORDINAIRE**

Réunion Ordinaire

No. du point à l'ordre du jour: 13.3.
No. du point 2025-290
Titre: Conservation de la Nation Sud - Demande de soutien municipal -
Modification de la Loi sur les offices de protection de la nature et à l'Avis au
Registre environnemental #025-1257
Date: le mardi 9 décembre 2025

Proposé par: Paul Groulx
Appuyé par: Francine Leblanc

ATTENDU QUE la *Loi sur les offices de protection de la nature* (1946) permet aux municipalités de créer des offices de protection de la nature et de nommer des représentants élus localement à leur Conseil d'administration, garantissant ainsi une surveillance directe et une responsabilité municipale pour les programmes financés par les contribuables municipaux ;

ET ATTENDU QUE les municipalités du bassin versant de la rivière Nation Sud ont créé la Conservation de la Nation Sud (CNS) en 1947 afin de protéger les personnes, les biens, les terres agricoles, les ressources en eau et les systèmes naturels grâce à un modèle basé sur le bassin versant qui reflète les besoins géographiques, hydrologiques et communautaires locaux ;

ET ATTENDU QUE les municipalités relevant du territoire de la CNS fournissent actuellement entre 25 % et 50 % du financement total des activités de l'Office de protection de la nature, tandis que le financement provincial a diminué pour atteindre environ 3 % ces dernières années ;

ET ATTENDU QUE la CNS fournit des services essentiels qui soutiennent les responsabilités municipales, notamment :

- l'identification des risques naturels et la délivrance de permis ;
- la planification du bassin versant et l'examen des projets d'aménagement ;
- la prévision des inondations, la gestion des urgences et les interventions en cas de crue ;
- la protection des sources d'eau potable ;
- la surveillance des bassins versants, l'établissement de rapports et les études techniques ;
- les programmes de foresterie durable, de gestion agricole et de restauration ;
- la gestion de plus de 13 000 acres de terres de conservation, y compris les terres données par les résidents et gérées dans le cadre d'ententes de services municipaux ;

ET ATTENDU QUE le 7 novembre 2025, le ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs a publié le document Registre environnemental #025-1257 025-1257 proposant de regrouper les 36

offices de protection de la nature de l'Ontario en sept offices régionaux et de créer une nouvelle agence provinciale de protection de la nature de l'Ontario, après une consultation limitée et sans analyse coûts-avantages ni preuves démontrant la nécessité de cette restructuration ;

ET ATTENDU QUE l'annexe 3 du projet de loi 68 permet à la province d'assumer le pouvoir de gouvernance sur les offices régionaux de protection de la nature, ce qui soulève des inquiétudes quant à la diminution de la représentation municipale, à la perte du pouvoir décisionnel local et à la centralisation de la gestion des bassins versants ;

ET ATTENDU QUE les municipalités de l'Est de l'Ontario, notamment les comtés unis de Prescott-Russell, ont exprimé leur inquiétude quant au fait que la restructuration pourrait :

- augmenter la bureaucratie et le fardeau administratif ;
- imposer des coûts de transition importants pour les ressources humaines, les technologies de l'information, les transferts fonciers et le réalignement de la gouvernance ;
- diluer la voix des zones rurales au sein des grandes agences régionales dominées par les grands centres urbains ;
- éroder la confiance des donateurs et affecter la gestion de milliers d'hectares de terres données localement ;
- perturber la prestation de services bilingues dans les municipalités désignées régies par la *Loi sur les services en langue française* ;

ET ATTENDU QUE les offices de protection de la nature, y compris la CNS, collaborent déjà à l'échelle régionale grâce à des modèles de services partagés efficaces, des études conjointes sur les bassins versants, la coordination des prévisions d'inondations, des partenariats en matière de gestion agricole, la délivrance de permis numériques et des examens techniques harmonisés, démontrant ainsi que la modernisation et l'efficacité peuvent être réalisées sans démanteler les structures de gouvernance locales ;

ET ATTENDU QUE les municipalités comptent sur l'expertise de terrain de la CNS, son soutien rapide sur place, ses relations avec les propriétaires fonciers et sa connaissance du terrain, autant de services qui risquent d'être affaiblis dans le cadre d'une grande structure régionale centralisée ;

IL EST DONC RÉSOLU QUE le Conseil municipal de Casselman exhorte le gouvernement de l'Ontario à maintenir les offices de protection de la nature locaux, gérés par les municipalités et basés sur les bassins versants, y compris la Conservation de la Nation Sud, afin de garantir une gestion efficace des ressources naturelles et des risques naturels, des services locaux transparents et la responsabilité des fonds municipaux prélevés ;

ET DE PLUS QUE le Conseil ne soutient pas les limites de consolidation proposées dans le document Registre environnemental #025-1257 025-1257 ni la création d'une nouvelle agence provinciale de conservation sans analyse fondée sur des preuves, consultation transparente et articulation claire des répercussions sur les budgets municipaux, la prestation de services locaux, les terres données et les obligations bilingues ;

ET DE PLUS QUE ce Conseil encourage la province à collaborer avec les municipalités et les offices de protection de la nature afin d'identifier les possibilités d'améliorer la cohérence, la modernisation et les approches de services partagés dans le cadre du modèle actuel de gouvernance des bassins versants ;

ET EN OUTRE QUE une copie de cette résolution soit envoyée à :

- le ministre de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs ;
- les députés provinciaux et fédéraux locaux ;
- toutes les municipalités du bassin versant de la Nation Sud ;

- l'Association des municipalités de l'Ontario ;
- l'Association des municipalités rurales de l'Ontario ;
- Conservation Ontario ; et
- toutes les autorités de conservation de l'Ontario.

Sébastien Dion

Signed with ConsignO Cloud (2025/12/12)
Verify with verifio.com or Adobe Reader.



Adoptée

Sébastien Dion, Greffier



**MUNICIPALITY OF CASSELMAN
AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING**

Regular Meeting

Agenda Number: 13.3.
Resolution Number 2025-290
Title: South Nation Conservation - Request for Municipal Support - Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act and ERO Posting #025-1257
Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Moved by: Paul Groulx
Seconded by: Francine Leblanc

WHEREAS the *Conservation Authorities Act* (1946) enables municipalities to establish Conservation Authorities and appoint locally elected representatives to their Boards, ensuring direct municipal oversight and accountability for programs funded by municipal taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities within the South Nation River watershed established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 to protect people, property, farmland, water resources, and natural systems through a watershed-based model that reflects local geographic, hydrologic, and community needs;

AND WHEREAS municipalities within the SNC jurisdiction currently provide between 25% and 50% of total funding for conservation authority operations, while provincial funding has declined to approximately 3% in recent years;

AND WHEREAS SNC delivers essential services that support municipal responsibilities, including:

- natural hazard identification and permitting;
- watershed planning and development review;
- flood forecasting, emergency management, and low water response;
- drinking water source protection;
- watershed monitoring, reporting, and technical studies;
- sustainable forestry, agricultural stewardship, and restoration programs;
- management of over 13,000 acres of conservation lands, including lands donated by residents and managed through municipal service agreements;

AND WHEREAS on November 7, 2025, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks posted ERO #025-1257 proposing to consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional conservation authorities and to establish a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, with limited consultation and without accompanying cost-benefit analysis or evidence demonstrating the need for this restructuring;

AND WHEREAS Schedule 3 of Bill 68 enables the Province to assume governance authority over regional

conservation authorities, raising concerns regarding diminished municipal representation, loss of local decision-making, and centralization of watershed management;

AND WHEREAS municipalities in Eastern Ontario have expressed concern, including the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, that restructuring may:

- increase red tape and administrative burden;
- impose significant transition costs for HR, IT, land transfers, and governance realignment;
- dilute rural voices within large regional agencies dominated by major urban centres;
- erode donor confidence and affect the stewardship of thousands of acres of locally donated lands;
- disrupt bilingual service delivery in designated municipalities governed by the *French Language Services Act*;

AND WHEREAS Conservation Authorities—including SNC—already collaborate regionally through successful shared-service models, joint watershed studies, coordinated flood forecasting, agricultural stewardship partnerships, digital permitting, and harmonized technical reviews, demonstrating that modernization and efficiency can be achieved without dismantling local governance structures;

AND WHEREAS municipalities rely on SNC's field-based expertise, rapid on-site support, landowner relationships, and local knowledge—services that risk being weakened under a large, centralized regional structure;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Municipality of Casselman urges the Government of Ontario to maintain local, municipally governed, watershed-based Conservation Authorities, including South Nation Conservation, to ensure effective natural resource and natural hazard management, transparent local services, and accountability for municipal levy dollars;

AND FURTHER THAT this Council does not support the proposed consolidation boundaries presented in ERO #025-1257 or the creation of a new provincial Conservation Agency without evidence-based analysis, transparent consultation, and clear articulation of impacts to municipal budgets, local service delivery, donor lands, and bilingual obligations;

AND FURTHER THAT this Council encourages the Province to work collaboratively with municipalities and Conservation Authorities to identify opportunities for improved consistency, modernization, and shared-service approaches within the existing watershed governance model;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
- local MPPs and MPs;
- all municipalities within the South Nation Watershed;
- the Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- the Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- Conservation Ontario; and
- all Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

Sébastien Dion

Signed with ConsignO Cloud (2025/12/12)
Verify with verifio.com or Adobe Reader.



Carried

Sébastien Dion, Clerk



TOWNSHIP OF AUGUSTA

Date: November 24, 2025

Resolution No: 3

MOVED BY

- Deputy Mayor Wynands
- Councillor Bowman
- Councillor Henry
- Councillor Pape

SECONDED BY

- Deputy Mayor Wynands
- Councillor Bowman
- Councillor Henry
- Councillor Pape

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Corporation of the Township of Augusta support the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry resolution calling on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed watershed-based conservation authorities; and

THAT this supporting resolution and original correspondence be circulated to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, MP Barrett, MPP Steve Clark, the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and all municipalities and Conservation Authorities in Leeds & Grenville.

RECORDED VOTE:

	FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Bowman	—	—
Councillor Henry	—	—
Councillor Pape	—	—
Mayor Shaver	—	—
Deputy Mayor Wynands	—	—

- CARRIED DEFEATED DEFERRED



 Mayor

Declaration of pecuniary interest by: _____

Nature of interest: _____

- Disclosed His/Her/Their Interest
- Vacated His/Her/Their Seat
- Abstained from discussion & did not vote on the question



United Counties of
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

7a)

RESOLUTION

MOVED BY Councillor Densham

RESOLUTION NO 2025- 159

SECONDED BY

DATE November 17, 2025

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities within Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (SDG) established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 and the Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA) in 1963;

AND WHEREAS local municipalities currently provide between 25% and 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 3%;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of acres of land, much of which was donated by local residents and entrusted to conservation authorities as a personal legacy for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment yet to be defined;

AND WHEREAS the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local

representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands;

AND FURTHER THAT while the United Counties of SDG supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down agency structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

AND FURTHER THAT the United Counties of SDG supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity, and program delivery across the province, and requests that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities to determine the most effective level of strategic consolidation to achieve both provincial and local objectives.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, to the local MP and MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and all municipalities and Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

CARRIED

DEFEATED

DEFERRED



WARDEN

Recorded Vote:

Councillor Bergeron	_____
Councillor Broad	_____
Councillor Densham	_____
Councillor Fraser	_____
Councillor Guindon	_____
Councillor Landry	_____
Councillor MacDonald	_____
Councillor McDonald	_____
Councillor McGillis	_____
Councillor St. Pierre	_____
Councillor Williams	_____
Warden Lang	_____



Agenda Number: 6.2.
Resolution Number 2025-264
Title: South Nation Conservation -Response to Bill 68 – Conservation Authority Changes
Date: Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Moved by: Antoni Viau
Seconded by: Jean-Pierre Cadieux

Response to Bill 68 – Conservation Authority Changes

WHEREAS the *Conservation Authorities Act* (R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27) enables municipalities to establish conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of Board Members and the provision of annual municipal levies to support mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities within the South Nation River watershed established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 to protect people, property, farmland, water resources, and natural systems through a watershed-based model that reflects local geographic, hydrologic, and community needs;

AND WHEREAS municipal governments currently provide between 25% and 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 3%;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have, for decades, governed their respective conservation authorities to ensure that programs, services, fee structures, permitting processes, and public service delivery remain aligned with local watershed needs and accountable to ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities collectively own and manage significant public lands across Ontario, including lands donated by local residents with the expectation that they would be protected, stewarded, and governed locally for the long-term public good;

AND WHEREAS Bill 68 proposes the creation of a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency—a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario’s 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment and governance structures yet to be defined;

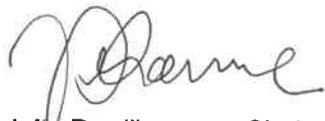
AND WHEREAS the Province already holds the authority to set provincial standards, regulations, and expectations for conservation authority operations under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and through the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Alfred and Plantagenet calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities, ensuring strong municipal representation in decisions related to levies, service delivery, land management, and community-focused program outcomes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT while the Township of Alfred and Plantagenet supports provincial objectives related to consistent permitting standards, shared services, and digital modernization, the imposition of a top-down centralized agency risks increasing cost, red tape, and administrative complexity while reducing accountability and responsiveness to local watershed needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Township of Alfred and Plantagenet supports balanced approaches to improving capacity, efficiency, and technical expertise across conservation authorities and request that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and existing conservation authorities to evaluate where strategic consolidation—if any—is appropriate, effective, and financially sustainable.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; local MPs and MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Rural Ontario Municipal Association; and all municipalities and conservation authorities in Ontario.



Julie Prud'homme, Clerk

Carried



No. du point à l'ordre du jour: 6.2.
No. de la résolution 2025-264
Titre: Conservation de la Nation Sud -Réponse au projet de loi 68 – Modifications aux offices de protection de la nature
Date: le mardi 16 décembre 2025

Proposée par: Antoni Viau
Appuyée par: Jean-Pierre Cadieux

Réponse au projet de loi 68 – Modifications aux offices de protection de la nature

ATTENDU QUE la *Loi sur les offices de protection de la nature* (L.R.O. 1990, chap. C.27) permet aux municipalités d'établir des offices de protection de la nature et que, lorsque les municipalités choisissent de créer de tels offices, elles assument la responsabilité de leur gouvernance et de leur financement par la nomination de membres au conseil d'administration et par la fourniture de contributions municipales annuelles afin de soutenir les programmes et les services obligatoires et non obligatoires;

ET ATTENDU QUE les municipalités du bassin versant de la rivière Nation Sud ont créé la Conservation de la Nation Sud (CNS) en 1947 afin de protéger les personnes, les biens, les terres agricoles, les ressources en eau et les systèmes naturels grâce à un modèle basé sur le bassin versant qui reflète les besoins géographiques, hydrologiques et communautaires locaux ;

ET ATTENDU QUE les gouvernements municipaux fournissent actuellement entre 25 % et 50 % du financement total des offices de protection de la nature, tandis que la province de l'Ontario en fournit environ 3 %;

ET ATTENDU QUE les municipalités, depuis des décennies, gouvernent leurs offices de protection de la nature respectifs afin de s'assurer que les programmes, les services, les structures tarifaires, les processus d'autorisation et les services au public demeurent alignés avec les besoins locaux des bassins versants et imputables aux contribuables;

ET ATTENDU QUE les offices de protection de la nature possèdent et gèrent collectivement d'importantes terres publiques à travers l'Ontario, y compris des terrains donnés par des résidents locaux avec l'attente qu'ils seraient protégés, gérés et gouvernés localement pour le bien public à long terme;

ET ATTENDU QUE le projet de loi 68 propose la création d'une nouvelle Agence ontarienne de protection de la nature — une société de la Couronne qui assumerait les responsabilités de gouvernance et regrouperait les 36 offices de protection de la nature de l'Ontario en sept offices régionaux, sans que la répartition des coûts municipaux et les structures de gouvernance ne soient encore définies;

ET ATTENDU QUE la province détient déjà le pouvoir d'établir des normes, des règlements et des attentes provinciales pour les opérations des offices de protection de la nature en vertu de la *Loi sur les offices de protection de la nature* et par l'entremise du ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs;

QU'IL SOIT RÉSOLU QUE le Conseil du Canton d'Alfred et Plantagenet demande au gouvernement de l'Ontario de maintenir des offices de protection de la nature locaux, indépendants, régis par les municipalités et fondés sur les bassins versants, assurant une forte représentation municipale dans les décisions liées aux

contributions, à la prestation de services, à la gestion des terres et aux résultats des programmes axés sur la communauté.

QU'IL SOIT ÉGALEMENT RÉSOLU QUE, bien que le Canton d'Alfred et Plantagenet appuie les objectifs provinciaux liés à l'harmonisation des normes d'autorisation, aux services partagés et à la modernisation numérique, l'imposition d'une agence centralisée, de haut en bas, risque d'augmenter les coûts, la bureaucratie et la complexité administrative, tout en réduisant la transparence et la capacité de répondre aux besoins locaux des bassins versants.

QU'IL SOIT ÉGALEMENT RÉSOLU QUE le Canton d'Alfred et Plantagenet appuie des approches équilibrées visant à améliorer la capacité, l'efficacité et l'expertise technique des offices de protection de la nature et demandent à la province de travailler en collaboration avec les municipalités et avec les offices de protection de la nature existants pour évaluer où une consolidation stratégique — le cas échéant — serait appropriée, efficace et financièrement viable.

QU'IL SOIT ENFIN RÉSOLU qu'une copie de cette résolution soit envoyée au ministre ontarien de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs; aux députés fédéraux et provinciaux locaux; à l'Association des municipalités de l'Ontario; à l'Association des municipalités rurales de l'Ontario; ainsi qu'à toutes les municipalités et à tous les offices de protection de la nature de l'Ontario.


Julie Prud'homme, Greffière

Adoptée



To: Council
From: Loriann Harbers, Director of Corporate Services
Date of Meeting: November 26, 2025
Subject: Support for SDG Counties in Maintaining Local Conservation Authorities

Recommendation:

Whereas the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry (SDG) has called on the Province of Ontario to maintain local, municipally governed conservation authorities;

And Whereas local governance ensures accountability, responsiveness, and effective stewardship of conservation lands;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Township of South Stormont supports the SDG resolution advocating for the preservation of local control over conservation authorities and opposes provincial consolidation that would reduce local representation;

And further, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, to the local MP and MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and all municipalities and Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

Executive Summary:

SDG Council is seeking South Stormont support in urging Ontario to keep local, municipally governed conservation authorities instead of consolidating them into regional bodies. The resolution highlights the importance of local control, accountability, and responsiveness, and warns that provincial consolidation could increase costs and bureaucracy. SDG supports modernization but calls for collaboration to balance provincial and local needs.

Background:

SDG Council passed a resolution on November 17, 2025, urging the Government of Ontario to maintain locally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities. The resolution responds to proposed provincial legislation (Bill 68, Schedule 3), which would consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional bodies under a new Crown corporation, potentially reducing local control and accountability.

Key points include:

- SDG municipalities have a long history of funding and governing local conservation authorities, ensuring programs are tailored to local needs and maintaining high service standards.

- Local authorities manage significant conservation lands, much of which was donated by residents with the expectation of local stewardship.
- The proposed provincial consolidation risks increased costs, bureaucracy, and reduced responsiveness to community needs.
- While SDG supports provincial goals for consistency and modernization, it advocates for collaboration to balance provincial and local objectives.
- The resolution calls for continued local representation in decision-making and requests that the Province work with municipalities to determine the most effective approach to conservation authority governance.

The resolution has been circulated to relevant provincial and municipal stakeholders seeking their support and endorsement.

Alignment with Strategic Action Plan:

Goal 2: Welcoming and Vibrant Community

Objective 2.3: Collaborating with community organizations/groups and other government partners

Risk and Asset Management Considerations:

If South Stormont does not support the resolution, it risks losing local control over conservation decisions, facing increased costs and bureaucracy, and reducing accountability and responsiveness to community needs. Stewardship of donated lands and funding arrangements may also become less predictable.

Options:

1. That Council supports the resolution of SDG Counites in maintaining our local Conservation Authorities.
2. Other.

Financial Impact:

There is no direct financial impact on the Township.

Others Consulted:

Support requested by Deputy Mayor Guindon



United Counties of
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

7a)

RESOLUTION

MOVED BY Councillor Densham

RESOLUTION NO 2025- 159

SECONDED BY

DATE November 17, 2025

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities within Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (SDG) established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 and the Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA) in 1963;

AND WHEREAS local municipalities currently provide between 25% and 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 3%;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of acres of land, much of which was donated by local residents and entrusted to conservation authorities as a personal legacy for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment yet to be defined;

AND WHEREAS the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local

representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands;

AND FURTHER THAT while the United Counties of SDG supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down agency structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

AND FURTHER THAT the United Counties of SDG supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity, and program delivery across the province, and requests that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities to determine the most effective level of strategic consolidation to achieve both provincial and local objectives.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, to the local MP and MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and all municipalities and Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

CARRIED DEFEATED DEFERRED



WARDEN

Recorded Vote:	
Councillor Bergeron	_____
Councillor Broad	_____
Councillor Densham	_____
Councillor Fraser	_____
Councillor Guindon	_____
Councillor Landry	_____
Councillor MacDonald	_____
Councillor McDonald	_____
Councillor McGillis	_____
Councillor St. Pierre	_____
Councillor Williams	_____
Warden Lang	_____