



MATTAGAMI REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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December 9, 2025

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

RE: Mattagami Region Conservation Authority position on the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities

Please be advised that the following resolution 2025-1730 was passed at the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority' Regular Board Meeting held on December 3, 2025:

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has posted Environmental Registry Notice No. 025-1257 ("Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities"), proposing to reduce Ontario's 36 conservation authorities to 7 regional entities as part of a broader restructuring that would create a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency to provide centralized oversight and direction under the Conservation Authorities Act; and

WHEREAS under this proposal, the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority (MRCA) would be merged into a new "Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority" together with the:

- Nickel District Conservation Authority
- North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority
- Sault Ste. Marie Conservation Authority

forming a single fragmented organization stretching from Sault Ste. Marie north to Timmins and southeast to Mattawa; and

WHEREAS the Board acknowledges and supports the Province's goals of improved efficiency, consistency and fiscal prudence in conservation delivery, but finds that the proposed "Northeastern Ontario Region" configuration would:

1. Create a geographically vast and administratively complex entity throughout the province with little shared watershed connection or economic alignment;
2. Dilute local accountability and municipal partnerships, contrary to the principle that decisions are best made closest to the communities they affect;
3. Generate substantial transition costs — including human-resources integration, governance restructuring, IT migration and policy

harmonization — that would divert resources from front-line service delivery and delay measurable outcomes, contrary to the Province's own business-planning principles of value for money, cost containment and service continuity;

4. Risk greater uncertainty and delays in program delivery, permitting and hazard management where local staff are merged with larger and more distant regional structures; and

WHEREAS the MRCA has consistently demonstrated fiscal responsibility, effective stewardship, and strong partnerships with municipalities, Indigenous communities, landowners, and stakeholders throughout the region; and

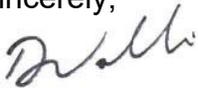
WHEREAS the Board further recognizes that the MRCA serves the City of Timmins, within the Arctic watershed and faces vastly different climatic, hydrological and infrastructure realities, which would be ill-served by a larger overarching administrative structure extending over 600 kilometres to the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and its administrative Ministry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors:

1. Formally opposes the proposed conservation authority amalgamations as they pertain to the MRCA and their member municipality as outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257; and
2. Urges the Province of Ontario to maintain the existing watershed-based governance structure, which ensures local accountability, comprehensive hazard management, and effective environmental protection; and
3. Requests meaningful consultation with municipalities, Indigenous communities, and Conservation Authority boards prior to any legislative or structural changes affecting watershed management in Ontario; and
4. THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the City of Timmins, Wabun Tribal Council, Mushkegowuk Council, Conservation Ontario, and Conservation Authorities.

Sincerely,



David Vallier

General Manager, Mattagami Region Conservation Authority