



Conservation Authorities Important Partners for a More Resilient Ontario

Pre-election Handout 2022

What Conservation Authorities Need From the Province

5 things that will help us serve Ontarians better:

1. **Natural Hazards Protection:** Increased financial and technical support for conservation authority natural hazard work
2. **Safe Conservation Areas:** Provincial support for the infrastructure, compliance and operational needs of conservation areas
3. **Resilient Natural Assets:** Financial support for the protection, restoration and rehabilitation of watershed natural assets such as trees, forests and wetlands for climate change adaptation
4. **Enforcement:** Improvements for the enforcement and offences abilities of conservation authorities
5. **Local Science:** Investments in CA watershed studies and research, to improve CA technical capacity and expand partnerships in conservation authority monitoring programs

Issue

Extreme weather and other climate change impacts take a costly toll on the well-being of Ontario's residents, on our infrastructure and with the functioning of business and industry.

The key to a more resilient Ontario lies in understanding how nature is so closely connected to our own health and well-being and to our economy; and then doing everything we can to protect, restore and conserve our environment and its natural systems.



Additional investments in conservation authorities would increase their ability to protect people and property from flooding and erosion, reduce natural hazard cost impacts, help Ontario to adapt to climate change, as well as support a more resilient economy and healthy population.

Conservation Authorities are important partners for the Province:

- They are **key delivery agents** for the Province particularly around natural hazards, source water protection, for Great Lakes' water quality and a healthy agricultural industry
- They **help to implement a provincial housing strategy** by producing and aggregating science to both support growth and protect the environment. Conservation authorities' improved plan application processes have sped up services and reduced red tape. Conservation authorities'

planning and regulatory programs, including subwatershed studies/plans ensure development does not create new costly or life-threatening hazards, or deplete natural resources, including drinking water

What does Ontario get in return?

- Reduced risk and costs of flooding and erosion events
- Safe natural areas for Ontario visitors
- Streamlined and informed development decisions in support of a provincial housing policy and sustainable growth
- Stronger local resilience to climate change impacts
- Improved public health and reduced healthcare costs
- Healthy and sustainable natural resources to support Ontario's economy



Advantages of Working with Conservation Authorities

- ✓ Long term relationship with the Province
- ✓ Known and valued for their watershed-based approach to managing flooding & erosion
- ✓ Watershed management model is scientifically solid and subwatershed studies/plans done early, supports streamlined and informed development decisions
- ✓ Cost effective partners using science to guide priorities and identify targets
- ✓ Governed by member municipalities and fosters collective actions at the local and community level
- ✓ Ability to leverage partnerships for greater resources and broader outcomes
- ✓ Conservation Authorities operate within a legislative and regulatory framework established by the Province

To read our Pre-election Discussion Paper, visit Conservation Ontario's website:

www.conservationontario.ca