



Conservation  
**ONTARIO**  
*Natural Champions*

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## Reviewing the *Conservation Authorities Act* to Reflect the Realities of Today

Conservation Authorities' activities around Ontario's natural resources has changed significantly over the years in response to increasing challenges to our water and land resources.

Stresses such as climate change, rapid growth, and changing land uses significantly challenge the ability of our natural ecosystems to support economic growth, a sustainable environment, and the lifestyles and health of residents. Conservation Authority programs contribute significantly to addressing Ontario's environmental priorities.

Conservation Authorities are recognized for their watershed management, science-based expertise and for being able to adapt to changing conditions.

A more integrated relationship with the Province and sustainable provincial funding would ensure greater consistency and continuation of programs.

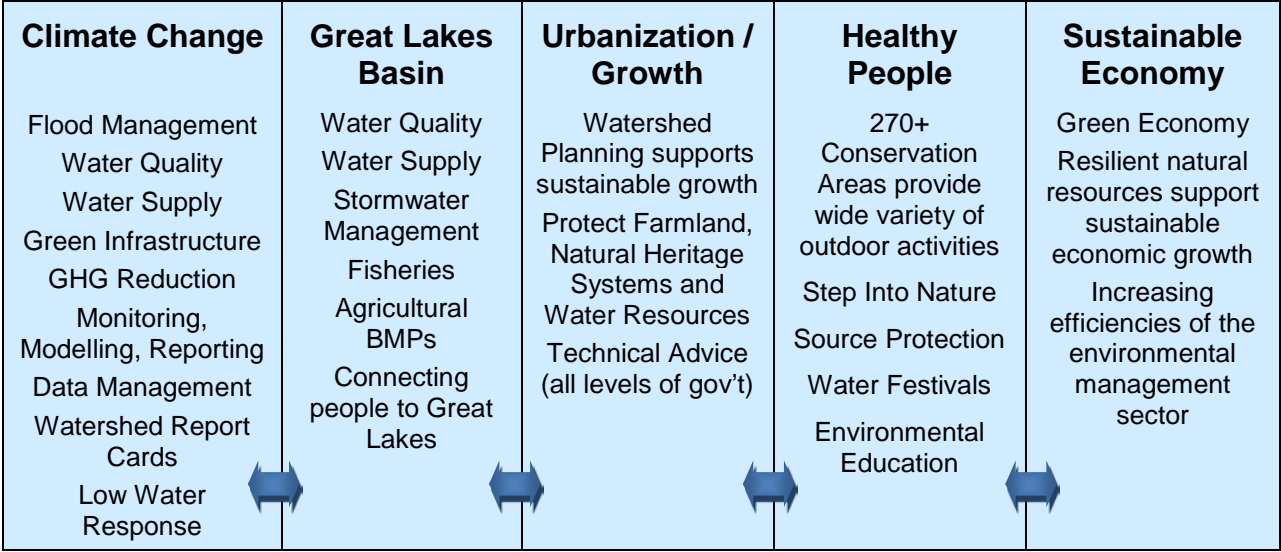
### Key Priorities of Conservation Authorities

Conservation Authorities are looking to discuss key priorities which include:

1. **Confirm the current Conservation Authority Mandate** as outlined in the *Conservation Authorities Act* which is to undertake watershed-based programs for the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources;
2. **Formalize and expand the CA working relationships across Ontario provincial ministries** in order to capitalize on the important contributions of CA programs and services, and to more widely leverage and support Conservation Authority efforts in local watersheds;
3. **Discuss the governance model** in relation to the funding model;
4. **Sustainable provincial funding formula** that captures and reflects the actual range of Conservation Authority programs and services that support multiple provincial objectives.

### Value of Conservation Authority Programs to Ontario

Conservation Authority programs help the Province and other levels of government to address environmental challenges and priorities such as climate change impacts, healthy Great Lakes, urbanization and growth, healthy people and green economy.



**CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES:**

- In 2013, Ontario’s 36 Conservation Authorities delivered watershed management programs and services totaling approximately \$290 million through more than 3,600 full time and seasonal, contract, and part time staff.
- Over 90% of Ontario’s population lives in a Conservation Authority watershed
- Conservation Authorities partner with municipal, provincial and federal governments, as well as landowners and other groups, to deliver watershed-based natural resource programs
- Conservation Authorities effectively leverage resources of other partners to deliver provincial priorities more effectively.

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