



December 14, 2012

Mr. Bruce Singbush
Assistant Deputy Minister (A)
Strategic Real Estate Asset Management Division
Ministry of Infrastructure
Suite 425, 777 Bay Street, 4th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5
(forfeitedproperty@ontario.ca)

Dear Mr. Singbush;

RE: Conservation Ontario Comments on “Revitalizing Forfeited Corporate Property: Proposals for a framework for the management of forfeited corporate property” (October 2012)

Conservation Ontario, the network of Ontario’s 36 conservation authorities, is very supportive of the Ministry of Infrastructure’s initiative to improve the current legislative and management framework for forfeited property so that it provides the necessary tools to effectively manage Ontario’s risk and return properties to productive use in a timely and efficient manner. Conservation Ontario’s comments are provided with respect to Section 2.4 which specifically references conservation authorities.

The changes proposed in Section 2.4 would have a positive impact on municipalities and conservation authorities where a developer of a subdivision has gone into receivership prior to the “public” lands being transferred in accordance with the subdivision agreement.

The following amendment is suggested for clarity so that the wording is consistent with the language of the Provincial Policy Statement: “Blocks that may be undeveloped due to condition of lands such as **natural hazards** severe slopes or the presence of **natural heritage features and areas or part of a natural heritage system** environmental features and where the subdivision approval conditions required the transfer.” (p.15, Section 2.4)

The power of the Minister to effect the transfer of forfeited properties without the consent of the recipient is considered to be an efficient approach given the pre-existing subdivision approval condition requiring the transfer.

Overall, Conservation Ontario is very supportive of the Ministry of Infrastructure's initiative to improve management of forfeited corporate property. This letter was endorsed for submission to the Ministry by Conservation Ontario Council at their December 10, 2012 meeting. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Bonnie Fox, Manager of Policy and Planning at ext 223.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Pearson', written in a cursive style.

Don Pearson, General Manager

cc: All Conservation Authorities, Chief Administrative Officers
Ireen Wieditz, Senior Policy Analyst, Strategic Policy Branch, Ministry of the Environment