

From: ca.office (MECP) <ca.office@ontario.ca>

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Subject: Regulatory and Policy Proposals under the Conservation Authorities Act – Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

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Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Conservation and Source Protection Branch 14 th Floor 40 St. Clair Ave. West Toronto ON M4V 1M2	Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs Direction de la protection de la nature et des sources 14 ^e étage 40, avenue St. Clair Ouest Toronto (Ontario) M4V 1M2	Ontario 
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Our government is committed to ensuring that conservation authorities are focused on helping protect people and property from natural hazards, the conservation and management of conservation authority-owned lands, and their roles in drinking water source protection.

To implement recent changes made to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA), three new regulations were filed on October 1, 2021 as part of the first phase of regulations. These regulations set out details of the new framework for programs and services that support the core mandate of conservation authorities and consolidated the 'conservation area' regulations.

Building on that progress and to support a smooth transition by conservation authorities to the new funding framework by January 1, 2024, the second phase of regulatory and policy proposals have been posted for consultation on the Environmental Registry of Ontario ([notice number 019-4610](#)). The government is making these proposals to improve overall governance, oversight, transparency, and accountability of conservation authority operations, and the proposals include municipal levy provisions, proposed budget process, and classes of programs and services for which conservation authorities can charge a fee.

The government is proposing regulations and a policy that would include:

- Details, through a Lieutenant Governor in Council regulation, governing the apportionment by conservation authorities of their capital costs and operating expenses to be paid by their participating municipalities through municipal levies, as well as related conservation authority budgetary matters, including requirements that conservation authorities distribute their draft and final budgets to relevant municipalities and make them publicly available – i.e. ‘Municipal Levies regulation’;
- Details, through a Minister’s regulation, governing the methods available for CAs to determine costs specified municipalities may need to contribute for the authority’s mandatory programs and services under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, and the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008* – i.e. ‘Determining Amounts Owed by Specified Municipalities regulation’;
- Classes of programs and services, through a Minister’s published list, in respect of which a conservation authority may charge a user fee – i.e. ‘Fee Classes Policy’, and
- Requirements to increase transparency of authority operations.

The ministry will be hosting a webinar focused for municipalities and municipal associations, as well as general webinars, to provide an overview of the proposals and answer any technical questions you may have about the proposals. Please distribute this email to relevant municipal staff. These webinars will take place on the dates and times listed below:

- Municipalities Focused Webinar: February 8, 2022, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Webinar Session 1: February 4, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Webinar Session 2: February 10, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

If you wish to attend a webinar, please register by emailing ca.office@ontario.ca with the subject line “CAA Phase 2 Webinars” and indicate your preferred session date. You will receive a reply to your email with information on how to join.

Thank you in advance for your input. You can reach the Conservation Authorities Office at ca.office@ontario.ca if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Corrigan
Director, Conservation and Source Protection Branch

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