



December 8, 2025

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Re: **ERO #025-1257 - Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities**

The Greater Bob's and Crow Lakes Association (GBCLA) represents cottagers in South Frontenac Township in eastern Ontario. The protection of the lake environment is in our mission statement and remains one of our main objectives. As such, we are proud members of the Lake Partnership Program to monitor water quality. Also, we work with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to educate our landowners about shoreline protection. The Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation financially supports the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's program to naturalize the shoreline.

We are opposed to the scope and scale of the proposed boundary changes being proposed for Conservation Authorities across Ontario.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) continues to serve well the environmental needs of our constituents in their water and land management needs. We share RVCA values like conserving and protecting our natural resources through foresight, planning and action.

Since the incorporation of Conservation Authorities in 1946, much has changed in Ontario such that their impact is felt much beyond its original charter of flood and erosion control.

Conservation Authorities (CAs) are a valued local presence that provide key programs; parks, trails and educational activities, in addition to flood management and regulatory functions so essential to keeping our area safe.

A regional CA model will diminish the CA partnerships and local presence on the ground.

If, as the province asserts, this is about consistency and improved customer service across boundaries, there are many other options available that would be faster to implement and likely more cost effective, while supporting local needs. This level of disruption and distraction suggests that the province is seeking an excuse to dismantle a system that has been in place for almost 80 years rather than work with the parties affected to support their stated objective of faster housing development.

We do not think that there can be a successful amalgamation of that many conservation authorities. Some thoughtful and consultative options may benefit smaller or under resourced CAs but should be done with those CAs and their municipalities. The province should:

- Carry out intensive consultations with all parties before introducing a one-size-fits-all approach to this proposal
- Maintain a local presence
- Maintain municipal appointments to the boards based on population
- Maintain local naming of parks and facilities
- Ensure municipal funds are allocated to their local watersheds
- Increase provincial funding to CAs to ensure that they can carry out the work the province requires of them.

We believe that the environment must come first, before the economy. A vibrant, healthy and safe place to live and work will benefit society while attracting business.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



*Carol Lynn Watson
Acting President
Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association*