



May 16, 2019

Additional Background to our Open Letter to Our Partners and Friends

The *More Homes, More Choice 2019 Bill 108* has amendments to 13 different Acts including the *Conservation Authorities Act* as Schedule 2. Also included in the Bill are amendments to the *Endangered Species Act*, *Environmental Assessment Act* and *Planning Act*.

What stays the same in the *Conservation Authorities Act*?

The purpose of the *Conservation Authorities Act* did not change, nor the objects or powers.

Purpose:

"0.1 The purpose of this Act is to provide for the organization and delivery of programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds in Ontario;

21 (1) For the purposes of accomplishing its objects, an authority has power:

a) to study and investigate the watershed and to determine programs and services whereby the natural resources of the watershed may be conserved, restored, developed and managed, ...

What are the proposed changes in the *Conservation Authorities Act*?

Changes are proposed in Section 21.1 and include a new definition of mandatory Conservation Authority programs and services.

In the proposed Act, the Province has now defined mandatory programs and services to be:

21.1 (1) If a program or service that meets any of the following descriptions has been prescribed by the regulations, an authority shall provide the program or service within its area of jurisdiction:

- 1. Programs and services related to the risk of natural hazards.*
- 2. Programs and services related to the conservation and management of lands owned or controlled by the authority, including any interests in land registered on title.*
- 3. Programs and services related to the authority's duties, functions and responsibilities as a source protection authority under the Clean Water Act, 2006.*
- 4. Programs and services related to the authority's duties, functions and responsibilities under an Act prescribed by the regulations. [i.e. other duties as assigned]*

The proposed wording is vague as to *programs and services related to natural hazards*. This has been changed from *programs and services for the protection and management of natural hazards*.

If passed, the implications for the on-the-ground work of your local Conservation Authority are unclear. For those activities not considered “mandatory,” will Conservation Authorities have resources to deliver these programs and services in your community?

Read our [Open Letter to Friends and Partners](#).

Have your say on proposed Bill 108.

There is still time to provide your input on the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) posting until Tuesday, May 21, 11:59 p.m.