



— **OBCM** —
Ontario's Big City Mayors

Motion on the Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

Moved by Mayor Dorothy McCabe, Waterloo

Seconded by Mayor David West, Richmond Hill and Mayor Elizabeth Roy, Whitby

February 6, 2026

Whereas the Conservation Authorities Act, 1990 (the "Act"), originally enacted in 1946, was established to allow municipalities to form conservation authorities equipped to deliver local, watershed-based conservation, restoration, and natural resource management programs on behalf of both the province and municipalities;

Whereas Ontario's thirty-six (36) conservation authorities are each distinct, reflecting the unique environmental, geographic, and community needs of their respective watersheds;

Whereas municipalities have long relied on their conservation authorities to tailor programs to local watershed priorities while ensuring fair and transparent costs for ratepayers;

Whereas municipalities are best positioned to understand the needs of their local communities and environments, and the existing watershed-based structure enables effective, collaborative approaches to water conservation and management that cannot be replicated through centralized oversight;

Whereas Bill 68 (Schedule 3) and ERO Posting 025-1257 propose consolidating Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities and creating the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown agency that would assume oversight and possess the authority to levy conservation authorities for its costs;

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario's Big City Mayors requests that the province meaningfully consult with municipalities on any changes to Conservation Authorities so that we can review the full financial, reserves and operational, impacts that could affect local control and management of the floodplain areas watersheds and natural resources which Conservation Authorities were established to manage.