

COVID 19 Act – Schedule 6

Conservation Authorities Act

WHEREAS Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act -Schedule 6 – Conservation Authorities Act introduces changes and new sections that could significantly impact conservation authorities' mandate of watershed-based natural resource management; alter good governance standards recommend by Ontario's Auditor General; and, in the case of the Region of Niagara, weaken Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's (NPCA) ability to serve its municipal partners and communities in the protection from natural hazards and conserving natural resources through its planning, permitting and enforcement activities;

WHEREAS the proposed amendments have the potential to add significant delays in the planning and permitting process, add costs for all parties involved, and ultimately have the potential for significant impacts on Province's ability to provide flooding and natural hazards management contrary to the Special Advisor's Report on Flooding and Ontario's Flooding Strategy;

WHEREAS the NPCA has already made significant investments to establish a very high standard of governance, transparency, accountability and progressive enforcement based on the Ontario Auditor General's recommendations and streamlining our permitting and land use planning reviews through Conservation Ontario's Client Service and Streamlining Initiative;

WHEREAS the NPCA and other Conservation Authorities take pride in being a science-based community-focused delivery partner to the Province and municipalities for over seven decades in supporting sustainable growth and green economy for the future of Ontario's taxpayers;

WHEREAS the NPCA passed at its Full Authority Board of November 19 2020 the motion FA-63-20 outlining the NPCA concerns.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Region of Niagara **SUPPORT** the motion from the NPCA Board of Directors and the request to the Government of Ontario to remove the proposed Schedule 6 from Bill 229 and continue to work with Conservation Authorities on regulations proposed under previous Bill 108 to achieve desired improvements in the planning process; and
2. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to send a letter to the Premier, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Finance, the Auditor General; partner municipalities, and Conservation Ontario, voicing the Region of Niagara's position.