



September 10, 2019

Update to Members on Proposed Reforms to Ontario's Conservation Authorities

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Professional Geoscientists of Ontario (PGO), I wanted to provide an update regarding the Province's proposed changes to Ontario's Conservation Authorities (CAs).

The government began consulting on potential reforms to Ontario's Conservation Authority Act (CAA) in early 2019. As part of this process, they issued a series of proposed changes for comment that would help conservation authorities focus and deliver on their core mandate and improve governance. You can see the full proposal [here](#).

This was followed by Bill 108, the [More Homes, More Choice Act](#), which was passed on June 6th, 2019. Bill 108 codified the earlier consultation by amending the CAA to outline a specific set of programs and services, or their 'core mandates.'

In August, the Hon. Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) wrote to all 36 CAs advising them to wind-down any programs that are not core to their mandate.

PGO has been monitoring and actively engaged on this file in the context of our public protection mandate. In our [submission](#) to the MECP's public consultation in April 2019, PGO specifically recommended to government that any updates to the CAA include mandating the use of "Qualified Persons" (QPs) to fulfill requirements in the Act around application and permit approvals, reviews, or any other decisions that require geoscience expertise and which may impact the public. We followed-up on the submission by meeting with the Environment Minister's office in early summer, and again more recently as a follow-up to the June Cabinet shuffle.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions regarding this matter at 416 203 2746 ext. 22 or at ceo@pgo.ca. PGO will provide updates on developments on this important issue as they become available.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrews", is written over a horizontal line.

Tony Andrews, PhD
CEO