



CATFISH CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

8079 Springwater Road, RR# 5, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R4

PHONE: (519) 773-9037 • FAX: 519-765-1489

e-mail: admin@catfishcreek.ca • www.catfishcreek.ca

November 13, 2025

Dear Members,

We are writing to provide an update regarding the recent provincial legislative initiatives under Bill 68, Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures) 2025, and the potential implications for conservation authorities, including our own. One of the key measures included in this legislation is the province's initiative to consolidate conservation authorities into larger regional watershed-based entities. The goal of these changes is to enhance efficiency, reduce administrative duplication, and align conservation services and program delivery with natural watershed boundaries.

We recognize that any consolidation or restructuring of conservation authorities can raise important questions and concerns for our member municipalities. Potential impacts may include:

Governance and representation: Board structures and municipal representation could be modified to reflect watershed-based groupings.

Service delivery: Standardization of programs, permitting processes, and fees may affect local service priorities and the way residents and developers interact with the authority.

Financial considerations: Levy collection and funding models may be adjusted to align with regional frameworks, which could impact municipal contributions and budgeting.

Operational transitions: Staff, administrative systems, and program delivery methods may be realigned to support the consolidated structure.

While all of this is evolving, conservation authorities are committed to ensuring that any transition is transparent, collaborative, and considers the unique needs of each of our member municipalities. We are actively monitoring provincial directives, engaging with other conservation authorities, and assessing the potential operational, financial, and governance implications of consolidation. We aim to advocate for a model that preserves local knowledge and responsiveness while meeting the province's objectives of efficiency and watershed-based planning.

Our commitment remains steadfast, to protect and manage our watersheds, deliver essential natural hazard and environmental programs, and serve the needs of our communities. We believe that by working collaboratively with our member municipalities, we can assist the province to navigate any potential consolidation in a way that strengthens watershed management while maintaining strong local engagement and municipal input.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Sincerely,



Morgaine Griffin
Chairperson
Catfish Creek Conservation Authority



Dusty Underhill
General Manager/ Secretary Treasurer
Catfish Creek Conservation Authority

*Mission Statement: "To communicate and deliver resource management services and programs
In order to achieve social and ecological harmony for the watershed"*

