

November 19, 2025

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Attention: Hon. Todd McCarthy, Minister
College Park, 5th Floor,
777 Bay St.,
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2J3

Sent via email todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca

**Re: Resolution of Essex County Council In Support of Member
Municipalities Vis-à-vis Bill 68**

The Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex held a meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2025. At said meeting, Council raised the matter of the proposed changes to Conservation Authorities under Bill 68, and subsequently passed the following resolution:

343-2025

Moved By Sherry Bondy

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That Essex County Council direct Administration to send a letter to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), in support of the lower-tier municipalities with jurisdiction over the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), outlining the importance of local administrative resources, board representation and maintaining existing relationships with the local conservation authority following the Minister's review under current proposed legislation; and,

That said letter include copies of the letters received from the municipalities of Essex County; and,

That the letter be forwarded to the seven lower-tier municipalities of the County of Essex, the City of Windsor, the Township of Pelee, ERCA, local MPPs, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus (WOWC).

Carried Unanimously

Resolution of Essex County Council In Support of Member Municipalities Vis-à-vis Bill 68

November 19, 2025

As such, please find attached letters from the County of Essex Member municipalities, being the Town of Amherstburg, Town of Essex, Town of Kingsville, Municipality of Lakeshore, Town of LaSalle, Municipality of Leamington and the Town of Tecumseh.

The County is committed to fostering an open and productive relationship with the Province as you navigate and work through the process of modernizing legislation and programs. If you wish to discuss the Bill 68 proposed amendments with Essex County Warden, Hilda MacDonald, or if clarification regarding this correspondence is required, please contact the undersigned.

Regards,



Katherine J. Hebert
County Clerk

CC:

- Andrew Dowie, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
andrew.dowie@pc.ola.org
- Anthony Leardi, MPP Essex, Deputy Government House Leader, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health anthony.leardi@pc.ola.org
- Hon. Trevor Jones, MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness trevor.jones@pc.ola.org
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario Robin Jones, President amopresident@amo.on.ca Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, brosborough@amo.on.ca
- Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Kate Burns Gallagher, Executive Director kate@wowc.ca Amy Martin, Chair chair@wowc.ca
- Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer, County of Essex
szwiers@countyofessex.ca
- Clerks of the Town of Amherstburg, Town of Essex, Town of Kingsville, Municipality of Lakeshore, Town of LaSalle, Municipality of Leamington, Town of Tecumseh

Resolution of Essex County Council In Support of Member Municipalities Vis-à-vis Bill 68

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- Steve Vlachodimos, City Clerk & Licence Commissioner - City of Windsor
svlachodimos@citywindsor.ca
- Jude Malott, Deputy Treasurer/Clerk - Township of Pelee
jude.malott@pelee.ca
- Tim Byrne, Essex Region Conservation Authority tbyrne@erca.org



519-776-6441 ext. 1353
TTY 1-877-624-4832



202 - 360 Fairview Ave. W.
Essex, ON N8M 1Y6



countyofessex.ca





Town of Amherstburg

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Michael Prue, Mayor

December 10, 2025

Attn: The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Essex Region Conservation Authority
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Re: Letter of Support for ERCA's Opposition to the Conservation Authority Consolidation

Dear Honourable Minister McCarthy,

On behalf of the Town of Amherstburg Council, I am writing to convey our support for the Essex Region Conservation Authority's (ERCA) position and to share our concerns regarding the Province's proposed consolidation of conservation authorities. We believe this initiative could have significant implications for local municipalities and the vital environmental services provided by conservation authorities.

Smaller municipalities typically lack the specialty staff resources to provide the expertise that local conservation authorities have provided for decades. With the proposed conservation authority consolidation, additional expenses will be incurred as part of many Planning Act applications to ensure compliance with applicable legislation. This means both the developer and the municipality will pay more to implement the proposed legislative change. The burden will particularly be felt by smaller and rural municipalities that have many natural features that require protection and also to ensure that development can safely occur for the future users of buildings in areas subject to natural hazards.

We are concerned that consolidation would eliminate the local expertise provided by ERCA. Their knowledge of the area's history, flooding patterns, and erosion issues is critical to informed decision-making. Our strong relationship with ERCA enables efficient communication and quick permit turnaround. Under consolidation, we anticipate longer wait times, reduced access to staff, and delays that could frustrate municipalities, builders, and residents. Increased uncertainty for developers may lead to disputes, further delaying permits beyond Ontario Building Code timelines.

Please be advised that Council of the Town of Amherstburg, at its meeting held on Monday, November 24, 2025, passed the following resolution:

Resolution: 20251124 – 010

Moved By: Councillor Allaire
Seconded By: Councillor Pouget



Town of Amherstburg

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Michael Prue, Mayor

That:

1. The Town of Amherstburg submit comments to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) expressing its opposition to the Province's proposed conservation authority consolidation, supporting the rationale and concerns outlined in the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) resolution, and further expressing the Town's concern that such consolidation may result in additional financial and operational burdens being downloaded onto municipalities.
2. This correspondence be sent to all neighbouring municipalities and Essex County Council.

The Mayor put the Motion.

Motion Carried

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Prue, Mayor
Town of Amherstburg

Cc: City of Windsor
County of Essex
Municipality of Lakeshore
Municipality of Leamington
Town of Essex
Town of Kingsville
Town of LaSalle
Town of Tecumseh



BY EMAIL

December 19, 2025

Essex Region Conservation Authority
360 Fairview Avenue West
Essex, ON N8M 3G4
Email: admin@erca.org

Re: Opposition to Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

At its Regular Council Meeting held on December 1, 2025, Council supported a notice of motion on the Opposition to the Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities.

R25-12-544

Moved By Councillor Matyi
Seconded By Mayor Bondy

Whereas the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) Board of Directors has adopted a formal resolution outlining significant concerns with the proposed "Lake Erie Region" boundary configuration, citing issues related to geographic coherence, local accountability, transition costs, service continuity, and the unique hydrological and environmental characteristics of the Essex Region; and

Whereas the Town of Essex places a high priority on effective watershed management, timely permitting, coordinated hazard mitigation, and the protection of local residents and property from flooding, sheet flooding, shoreline erosion, and other natural hazards; and

Whereas it is essential that municipalities understand the potential impacts of the proposed restructuring on frontline services, local permitting, environmental protection, and long-term watershed planning in our region.



Now Therefore, be it Resolved That Council direct Administration to prepare and send a letter to the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) expressing the Town of Essex's support for the ERCA Board's position regarding the proposed Conservation Authority consolidation as outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257 and that this resolution be circulated to ERCA member municipalities for their information; and

That Council direct the Town's Clerk to submit the Town's comments to the Province's consultation portal for Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257 by December 22, 2025.

Carried

We trust you will find this satisfactory. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "j. malandrucolo".

Joseph Malandrucolo
Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk
jmalandrucolo@essex.ca

Enclosure

cc:

Honourable Doug Ford
County of Essex
Municipality of Lakeshore
Municipality of Leamington
Town of Amherstburg
Town of Kingsville
Town of LaSalle
Town of Tecumseh



December 10, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Re: Opposition to Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

Council of the Town of LaSalle, at its Regular Meeting held Tuesday, December 9, 2025 passed the following resolution:

324/25

Moved by: Councillor Renaud

Seconded by: Councillor Seguin

"That the correspondence dated November 19, 2025, from the Town of Kingsville concerning its opposition to the proposed consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities be supported;

And that a letter of support be forwarded to Premier Ford."

Carried.

Please consider this letter as confirmation of the Town of LaSalle's support of the above matter.

Yours Truly,

Jennifer Astrologo
Director of Council Services/Clerk
Town of LaSalle
jastrologo@lasalle.ca

Encl. Resolution of Town of Kingsville RE: Opposition to Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

cc: (via email) County of Essex
Essex Region Conservation Authority



2021 Division Road North
Kingsville, Ontario N9Y 2Y9
Phone: (519) 733-2305
www.kingsville.ca

November 19, 2025

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Public Input Coordinator
Via Email: ca.office@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford,

Re: Opposition to Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

Please be advised that at its Regular Meeting held Monday, November 17, 2025, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kingsville passed the following resolution respecting the matter referenced in the above subject line:

195-11172025

Moved By: Councillor Neufeld

Seconded By: Councillor Patterson

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

And whereas there are thirty-six (36) conservation authorities in Ontario, each of which is distinct and reflects the unique environmental, geographic and community needs of its watershed;

And whereas on October 31, 2025, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks announced the Government's intention to introduce legislation which would amend the Act to create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven (7) regional conservation authorities.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kingsville:

- Wishes to formally state that it opposes the consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities without knowing the full financial and operational impact to municipalities and the conservation authorities; and,

- Directs the Acting Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Todd McCarthy, the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Anthony Leardi, MPP, Essex, Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor West, Andrew Dowie, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh, Trevor Jones, MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington, AMCTO, AMO and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried.

Please accept this correspondence as an official confirmation of Council's decision with respect to the same. Any questions may be directed to the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Angela Toole
Acting Manager of Municipal Governance/Clerk
519-733-2305 ext. 223
atoole@kingsville.ca

cc. Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Anthony Leardi, MPP, Essex
Lisa Gretzky, MPP, Windsor West
Andrew Dowie, MPP, Windsor-Tecumseh
Trevor Jones, MPP, Chatham-Kent-Leamington
Essex Region Conservation Authority
Conservation Ontario
AMCTO
AMO
All Ontario Municipalities



December 18, 2025

The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Essex Region Conservation Authority
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

RE: Opposition to the Proposed Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

Dear Minister McCarthy,

On behalf of the Municipality of Lakeshore, I am writing to provide formal municipal feedback and to express our opposition to the proposed regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities.

The Municipality of Lakeshore is currently a member of both the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA). While these authorities provide similar categories of services, they operate within distinct watershed systems and geographic contexts. Their localized governance and technical expertise enable timely, informed decision-making that reflects the specific environmental, land-use, and development conditions within their respective jurisdictions.

The proposed consolidation into a "Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority," encompassing more than 80 municipalities across a broad and diverse geographic area extending as far north as Dufferin County, raises significant concerns. The scale of this proposed authority is inconsistent with effective watershed-based management and risks diminishing local accountability, responsiveness, and service quality.

Lakeshore has not experienced administrative duplication or inefficiencies through its participation in both ERCA and LTVCA. To the contrary, the two authorities work collaboratively where appropriate while maintaining a clear focus on their individual watersheds. From our perspective, this model supports efficiency, strong municipal relationships, and effective service delivery. A single authority of this size would likely create service gaps, delay Planning Act responses, and challenge the ability to meet provincially mandated timelines and housing objectives.



The Municipality supports the Province's objective of ensuring consistent access to technical expertise and capacity across conservation authorities. However, we do not believe amalgamation is the appropriate mechanism to achieve this outcome.

Conservation authorities have demonstrated that shared services, inter-authority collaboration, and targeted provincial investment can address capacity challenges without compromising local governance or watershed-specific knowledge. Centralization also risks weakening the effectiveness of Source Protection Committees by distancing decision-making from the local conditions and stakeholder relationships that are essential to identifying risks and developing practical, locally informed policies.

The proposed implementation timeline further heightens these concerns. Introducing significant structural changes during a municipal election year, with no overlap for newly appointed council members, risks the loss of institutional knowledge and disruption to service continuity—particularly for smaller municipalities that rely heavily on conservation authority expertise.

In light of ongoing regulatory and policy changes affecting land use planning, environmental protection, and housing delivery, it is increasingly important that municipalities retain access to locally governed conservation authorities with deep, watershed-specific expertise. The Municipality of Lakeshore respectfully urges the Province to reconsider the proposed consolidation and to work collaboratively with municipalities and conservation authorities to pursue alternative approaches that strengthen capacity and consistency while preserving effective local governance and watershed-based management.

Thank you for your consideration of the Municipality of Lakeshore's position. We would welcome the opportunity to continue this dialogue and to work constructively with the Province toward solutions that support both environmental protection and responsible growth.

Sincerely,

Mayor Tracey Bailey
Municipality of Lakeshore



**Hilda MacDonald
Mayor**

Municipality of Leamington



519-326-5761



mayor@leamington.ca



MayorHildaMacDonald

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

December 2, 2025

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2J3

Attn: The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Dear Sir:

**Re: Opposition to Proposed Boundaries for the Regional
Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities**

Please be advised that at its meeting held on November 28, 2025,
Leamington Council passed the following resolution respecting the matter
referenced in the above subject line:

No. C-267-25

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Verbeke
Seconded by: Councillor Latam

**That Council direct the Mayor to send a letter to the Ministry of the
Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding opposition to the
proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's
Conservation authorities.**

Carried

Please accept this correspondence as an official confirmation of Council's
decision with respect to same.

Sincerely

Hilda MacDonald, Mayor



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

December 1, 2025

Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

By Email: premier@ontario.ca

Public Input Coordinator

By Email: ca.office@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford,

Re: Opposition to Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

The Council of the Town of Tecumseh, at its regular meeting held Tuesday, November 25, 2025, gave consideration to a resolution passed by the Town of Kingsville, dated November 19, 2025, on the Opposition to the Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities. The Town of Kingsville has requested support regarding their said resolution, a copy of the resolution is enclosed.

At their meeting, Tecumseh Council passed the following resolution:

“Motion: RCM - 284/25

Moved by Deputy Mayor Joe Bachetti
Seconded by Councillor Alicia Higgison

Whereas the *Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.C.27* (the “Act”), originally enacted in 1946, was established to allow municipalities to form conservation authorities that are equipped to develop and deliver local, watershed-based conservation, restoration and natural resource management programs on behalf of the province and municipalities;

And whereas there are thirty-six (36) conservation authorities in Ontario, each of which is distinct and reflects the unique environmental, geographic and community needs of its watershed;

And whereas on October 31, 2025, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks announced the Government’s intention to introduce legislation which would amend the Act to create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and consolidate Ontario’s 36 conservation authorities into seven (7) regional conservation authorities.

Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved:

That the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh wishes to formally state that it opposes the consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities without knowing the full financial and operational impact to municipalities and the conservation authorities;

And that Council directs the Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honorable Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Todd McCarthy; the Honorable Rob Flack, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Anthony Leardi, MPP; Essex, Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor West; Andrew Dowie, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh; Trevor Jones, MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington; Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried.”

Please consider this letter as an official confirmation of the Town of Tecumseh's support of the resolution. Any questions may be directed to the undersigned.

Yours very truly,



Robert Auger, LLB
Director Legislative Services & Clerk

RA/gj
Attachment

1. Town of Kingsville Resolution dated November 19, 2025
- cc. Honorable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Honorable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Anthony Leardi, MPP, Essex
Lisa Gretzky, MPP, Windsor West
Andrew Dowie, MPP, Windsor-Tecumseh
Trevor Jones, MPP, Chatham-Kent-Leamington
Essex Region Conservation Authority
Conservation Ontario
Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities