

Members Report #22-2026

TO: Members, MVCA
FROM: Phil Beard, General Manager Secretary Treasurer
DATE: April 9, 2026
SUBJECT: Bill 97 Schedule 3 A Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures)

Purpose:

To summarize the proposed changes that the Province is making to the Conservation Authorities Act.

Background:

On March 26, 2026 the Province introduced Bill 97. Schedule 3 of this Act proposes major amendment to the Conservation Authorities Act.

List of Amendments:

1. Transitional Matters:
 - a) Committees to be established by the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, to prepare for the amalgamation of predecessor Authorities.
 - b) Predecessor CAs must appoint two members to Committee within 90 days of Bill 97 Royal Assent (One conservation authority member that is a member of municipal council, and either the CAO/GM or other Authority officer or senior staff).
 - c) OPCA may appoint members (if the above is not completed or as they consider advisable). Members can be replaced by their appointing body.
 - d) OPCA may issue direction to Committee (roles, responsibilities, practices, etc.)
 - e) Dissolution of a transition committee by OPCA not to be earlier than the transition date (i.e., February 1, 2027, or later date prescribed in regulation)
 - f) Committees must develop a transition plan for submission and review by OPCA (date to be specified).
 - g) OPCA will review and may provide edits / comments.
 - h) Final copy of Plan to be provided to OPCA and predecessor CAs. Also, to members of new Authority on or after transition date.
 - i) Summary of transition plan also provided to all current and new participating municipalities.

- j) New CAs will implement the transition plan and may request amendments to OPCA.
- k) Progress reports to OPCA required further to OPCA direction (requirements)
- l) Project Executives (PE) appointed by the OPCA to serve as Chair of Transition Committee.
- m) PE not an employee of the OPCA and shall be paid compensation and expenses as agreed to with the OPCA.
- n) PE may request information from predecessor CAs (cooperation required).
- o) OPCA may replace the PE.
- p) On the transition date (February 1, 2027, or later date per regulation), the PE will become the new CAO of the new Authority for a term of 2-years.
- q) During 2-year term, OPCA may remove and replace CAO, or, if no replacement named, new CA will appoint CAO.
- r) Participating municipalities need to appoint members by the day before the transition date.
- s) Regulations establish a method for determining # of members, (minimum of 1 each).
- t) Method for determining # of members based on municipal population within area of jurisdiction (AoJ), in proportion to the total population in AoJ.
- u) Regulations will establish a maximum # to be appointed by a single participating municipality, as well as by all participating municipalities.
- v) Members appointed for term up to 4 years.
- w) Municipal councils need to notify the OPCA of appointments in writing. 10

2. Governance Matters:

- a) Regulations to establish methods for appointment of members (number of members, minimum, maximum per municipality and maximum overall).
- b) Method for determining number of members based on municipal population in proportion to the total population within CA area of jurisdiction.
- c) All participating municipalities may enter into alternative agreement re: appointment of members. Agreement provided to Agency and on website.
- d) Legislation (and potentially regulations) set out matters for municipalities to consider when appointing member not on council.
- e) Members are appointed for a term up to four years, and members can be replaced by their appointing council. Members are eligible for re-appointment.
- f) Chairs and vice chairs may serve a term of two years, and not more than eight years total (whether served consecutively or otherwise)

- g) Minister may appoint additional agricultural sector member with same voting limitations as in current CA Act.
 - h) Authority will appoint CAO responsible for duties as provided in CA by-laws.
 - i) Authority shall establish one or more watershed council.
 - j) Authorities shall make by-laws necessary for proper administration.
3. New Regulation Making Authorities:
- a) Prescribing a “transition date” (legislated as February 1, 2027, or later)
 - b) Prescribing member details (method for determining number of members, maximum members appointed by a single participating municipality, maximum members appointed to an Authority)
 - c) Prescribing criteria for consideration when appointing a member who is not a member of municipal council.
 - d) Prescribing any additional “transition rules”
 - e) Governing watershed councils (# that may or must be established, requirements for composition, functions, powers duties, activities and procedures)

Summary:

At the May Members meeting a decision will need to be made on who will represent MVCA on the Transition Committee.

A key gap that needs to be addressed is how authorities can have representation on the transition committee between November and February as the current members will no longer be members.

We also require more guidance from the Province regarding the development of a work plan and budget for 2027.