CONSERVATION SUDBURY

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December 12, 2025

RE: Conservation Sudbury position regarding the regional amalgamation of Ontario's conservation authorities as proposed through Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257

The following resolution was passed at the Nickel District Conservation Authority's meeting of December 11, 2025.

Resolution no. 2025-75
Moved by: Jennifer Davidson
Seconded by: Joscelyne Landry-Altmann

WHEREAS municipalities have historically established and governed their conservation authority es under the *Conservation Authorities Act*;

AND WHEREAS municipalities provide approximately 54% of conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 5%. (2023 MECP data);

AND WHEREAS for decades Conservation Sudbury and its predecessors have established programs and services to local watershed needs, maintained accountable service standards, and ensured fair and predictable costs for ratepayers.

AND WHEREAS the Authority operates the Lake Laurentian Conservation Area providing access to all visitors at no cost, maintains and operates flood control infrastructure across Greater Sudbury including dams in Copper Cliff and New Sudbury, weirs in Coniston, berms in Dowling and Capreol, and the box culvert under downtown Sudbury;

AND WHEREAS Conservation Sudbury owns and manages extensive lands for conservation, public protection, and recreational purposes, many of which are leased to private operators and to the City of Greater Sudbury for recreational purposes, including Timberwolf Golf Course, Adanac Ski Hill, Rotary Park, Garson Park, Carmichael Park, and portions of Fielding Park;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government has proposed the consolidation of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into 7 large regional conservation authorities (RCAs) overseen by a new layer of bureaucracy named the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA), a move that would dilute local governance and put municipal cost distribution in question;

AND WHEREAS in time, the OPCA will levy participating municipalities for some of its operating costs and will collect fees from the authorities, and Conservation Sudbury, as proposed, would be merged with authorities operating from offices located in Sault Ste-Marie (SSMRCA), Timmins (MRCA), and North Bay (NBMCA);

AND WHEREAS assets of the existing authorities would be pooled under any new regional authority, that would include all lands, buildings, chattels, bank accounts and reserves as well as all loans and other liabilities;

AND WHEREAS the imposition of a new oversight agency, lacking local or public accountability, risks creating unnecessary costs for municipalities and authorities alike, adding “red tape” and unnecessary bureaucracy, and undermines an authority’s efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Ontario:

1. Maintains local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation that allow appropriate levy decisions, community-focused services, proper management of conservation lands and allocation of reserves to projects and infrastructure in the communities where the funds were raised;
2. Avoids imposing a centralized agency that will introduce additional costs, red tape, and bureaucracy, reducing efficiency and responsiveness to local needs;
3. Delays any decision to consolidate conservation authorities to allow: a) an assessment of the need for consolidation, and a complete cost analysis to the Authority and municipality, b) for meaningful engagement needed to address the concerns and risks of the proposed consolidation, c) for the review of alternative consolidation models and processes that would result in better outcomes related to Provincial priorities
4. Collaborates with municipalities and conservation authorities to improve consistency, capacity, and program delivery across Ontario without compromising local accountability;
5. Maintains existing land (property) and financial reserves to be used within, and for the benefit of, Greater Sudbury in which these originated and were improved upon.
6. Rejects the proposed “Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257.
7. Requires the Minister to directly engage affected municipalities before finalizing any consolidation boundaries or any other legislative amendments impacting their conservation authorities.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- The City of Greater Sudbury
- The Environmental Registry of Ontario Consultations prior to the deadline of December 22, 2025
- The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- MPP Peter Tabuns, Official Opposition Critic
- Frances Gélinas, MPP for Nickel Belt
- Jamie West, MPP for Sudbury
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Conservation Ontario
- All municipalities within the proposed Northeastern Regional Conservation Authority boundary that includes the Cities of Timmins, Sault Ste-Marie and North Bay, as well as Prince Township, the Municipalities of Callander, Calvin, East Ferris, Mattawan and Powassan, the Town of Mattawa and the Townships of Bonfield, Chisholm and Papineau-Cameron.