

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Regulations and Policy under the Conservation Authorities Act – Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

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**Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks**
Conservation and Source Protection
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**Ministère de l'Environnement, de la
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Good afternoon:

We are moving forward with Phase 2 regulations to improve the governance, oversight, transparency and accountability of conservation authority (CA) operations. These new regulations and provincial policy build on the [first phase of regulations](#) put in place in October 2021 and support [amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act](#) that focus CAs on their core mandate:

- Ontario Regulation 402/22: Budget and Apportionment. This regulation details CA budget and municipal apportionment methods and requirements.
- Ontario Regulation 401/22: Determination of Amounts Under Subsection 27.2 (2) of the Act. This regulation details the methods available to CAs to determine amounts owed by their specified municipalities for CA programs and services provided in respect of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and *Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008*.
- Policy: Minister's Fee Classes Policy. This policy is a published list of the classes of programs and services for which a CA may charge a fee.
- Ontario Regulation 400/22: Information Requirements. This regulation increases transparency of CA operations by requiring the public posting of prescribed information on a Governance section of a CA's website.
- Ontario Regulation 399/22: Amending the Minister's Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services Under Section 21.1.2 of the Act regulation (Ontario Regulation 687/21). This regulation increases transparency of user fees for programs and services that a CA determines is advisable to provide in its jurisdiction, where a cost apportioning agreement is in place.

The regulations and policy build on current CA budgetary practices with updates to align the levy apportionment methods and budget processes with the new funding framework and categories of programs and services established by recent amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and first phase of regulations. The changes will ensure a smooth transition by January 1, 2024 of CAs to the new funding framework and three categories of programs and services.

The regulations and policy were consulted on through the Environmental Registry of Ontario from January 26 to February 25, 2022. We held webinars on the proposals in which over 400 people attended, and we received 24 submissions from municipalities, conservation authorities, environmental non-government organizations, community groups, industry, agricultural sector, and individuals. A decision notice with links to the final regulations and policy is available on the Environmental Registry of Ontario ([notice number 019-4610](#)), which includes a summary of the feedback received and how it was considered.

Thank you again for your input. You can reach the Conservation Authority Office at ca.office@ontario.ca if you have any questions. We will have information on training webinars in the near future.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Corrigan
Director, Conservation and Source Protection Branch