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Policy Proposal Notice:

Title:

Conservation Authorities Act Review Consultation Document. Conserving Our Future: Proposed Priorities for Renewal.

EBR Registry

Number: 012-7583

Ministry:

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Date Proposal loaded to the Registry:

May 12, 2016

This proposal notice is a continuation of the Conservation Authorities Act Review Discussion Paper (ER Number 012-4509) posting that closed in October 2015. Written submissions to this posting may be made between May 12, 2016 and September 9, 2016.

Keyword(s): Compliance | Monitoring | Water | Conservation

Comment Period: 120 days: submissions may be made between May 12, 2016 and September 09, 2016.

Description of Policy:

The Conservation Authorities Act, administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), enables two or more municipalities in a common watershed to establish a conservation authority in conjunction with the province. The purpose of a conservation authority is to deliver a local resource management program at the watershed scale for both provincial and municipal interests. Conservation authorities have played a significant role in Ontario's natural resource management landscape for nearly 70 years.

In order to ensure that the Conservation Authorities Act is meeting the needs of Ontarians in a modern context, the MNRF is undertaking a review of the Conservation Authorities Act by seeking feedback from municipalities, Indigenous communities, conservation authorities, stakeholders and the public regarding roles, responsibilities, funding and governance of conservation authorities in resource management and environmental protection.

This posting is intended to solicit public, Indigenous and stakeholder perspectives from interested parties in relation to the five identified priority areas of improvement.

Contact:

All comments on this proposal must be directed to:

Alex McLeod
Policy Officer
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Policy Division
Natural Resources Conservation Policy Branch
Water Resources Section
300 Water Street

The five priorities for updating the Conservation Authorities Act include:

1. Stronger oversight and accountability in decision making;
2. Increased clarity and consistency in roles and responsibilities, processes and requirements;
3. Improved collaboration and engagement among all parties involved in resource management;
4. Modern funding mechanisms to support conservation authority operations; and
5. Enhanced flexibility for the Province to update Conservation Authorities Act in the future.

Peterborough
Ontario
K9J 8M5
Phone:
(705) 755-1374

**To submit a
comment online,
click the submit
button below:**

MNRFC encourages all parties to participate by reviewing and providing feedback on the document entitled Conserving Our Future: Proposed Priorities for Renewal.

Submit Comment

Purpose of Policy:

The purpose of this posting is to support the next phase of the Ministry's review of the Conservation Authorities Act. Five priorities for updating the Conservation Authorities Act have been identified from the results of the first phase of the review.

Other Information:

The Conservation Authorities Act Review Consultation Document: Conserving Our Future: Proposed Priorities for Renewal can be found at the following link:
<http://apps.mnr.gov.on.ca/public/files/er/conserving-our-future-proposed-priorities-for-renewal.pdf>

The following web links provide the supporting/additional information about this notice:

- The Conservation Authorities Act
http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90c27_e.htm
- Ontario Regulation 97/04 – Content of Conservation Authority Regulations
http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_040097_e.htm
- Ontario Regulation 139/96 – Municipal Levies
http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_960139_e.htm
- Ontario Regulation 670/00 – Conservation Authority Levies
http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_000670_e.htm
- Conservation Authorities
<https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/conservation-authorities>

Public Consultation:

This proposal has been posted for a 120 day public review and comment period starting May 12, 2016. If you have any questions, or would like to submit your comments, please do so by September 09, 2016 to the individual listed under "Contact". Additionally, you may submit your comments on-line.

All comments received prior to September 09, 2016 will be considered as part of the decision-making process by the Ministry if they are submitted in writing or electronically using the form provided in this notice and reference EBR Registry number 012-7583.

Please Note: All comments and submissions received will become part of the public record. Comments received as part of the public participation process for this proposal will be considered by the decision maker for this proposal.

Your personal information may be used in the decision making process on this proposal and it may be used to contact you if clarification of your comment is required. It may be shared (along with your comment) with other Ontario Ministries for use in the decision making process. Questions about this collection should be directed to the contact mentioned on the Proposal Notice page.

Other Public Consultation Opportunities:

Written comments and other feedback can also be sent directly to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry by email to mnrwaterpolicy@ontario.ca



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