



November 17, 2021

planningconsultation@ontario.ca

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Re: Conservation Ontario's Comments on "Proposed Additional Delegation of Planning Decisions" (ERO#019-4419)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the "Proposed Additional Delegation of Planning Decisions". Conservation Ontario is the network of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities (CAs). These comments are not intended to limit consideration of comments shared individually by CAs through this public consultation process.

Conservation authorities are involved in the land use planning in the following ways: as a regulator under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*; as a public body under the *Planning Act* and *Environmental Assessment Act*; as source protection authorities under the *Clean Water Act* supporting policy implementation; as a body with delegated authority in plan review to represent the provincial interest for natural hazards; and as the province's second largest landowners who may become involved in the planning and development process, either as an adjacent landowner or a proponent. In these roles, CAs endeavour to provide the best guidance to their municipal partners regarding how to balance multiple provincial and watershed priorities in a timely and cost-effective manner.

It is understood that the Ministry is proposing changes to the *Planning Act*, *Municipal Act* and *City of Toronto Act* to expand the matters that the council of a local municipality may delegate to a committee of council, staff, or a committee of adjustment to help streamline planning decisions. The proposed amendments would provide a new discretionary authority to municipal council to delegate decisions dealing with minor amendments to zoning by-laws. This discretionary authority would include: decisions for temporary use by-laws, the lifting of holding symbols and other minor zoning by-law amendments. The decision to delegate any or all of these minor amendments to zoning by-laws would be at the discretion of municipal council. The proposed delegation would not remove the requirement for decisions to be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement and other provincial plans nor would it remove notification requirements or appeal rights.

Overall, Conservation Ontario is supportive of the proposed amendments, as delegation of planning approvals for these minor applications will assist with streamlining the development approvals process and result in shorter timelines overall for applicants. Conservation authorities are solution-oriented agencies, who represent the provincial interest in protecting public health and safety and work closely

with their municipal partners to ensure development proposals uphold these interests. CAs continue to be committed to streamlining planning processes and to providing the best guidance to their municipal partners in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the “Proposed Additional Delegation of Planning Decisions”. Should you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me at extension 226.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie Rich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leslie Rich, RPP
Policy and Planning Liaison

c.c. all CA CAOs/GMs