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December 9, 2025

The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
CollegePark, 5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Honourable Minister McCarthy,

Please be advised that the following resolution was passed by the Council of the Town of Ingersoll at its meeting held on December 8, 2025:

**Moved by Councillor Bowman
Seconded by Councillor Hutson**

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ingersoll receives the correspondence from the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority regarding Bill 68 as information;

AND WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Ingersoll established the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority with other consenting municipalities within the watershed. (initially formed in 1947)

AND WHEREAS local municipalities currently provide approximately 35% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 2% (2026 budget);

AND WHEREAS municipalities have governed and invested local rate payer funds in their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of acres of land. Many of these properties were entrusted to the

UTRCA for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment yet to be defined;

AND WHEREAS the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Town of Ingersoll calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands;

AND FURTHER THAT while the Town of Ingersoll supports provincial goals towards consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization. It does not support it through imposing a new top-down agency structure creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

AND FURTHER THAT the Town of Ingersoll supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity, and program delivery across the province, and requests that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province respect the roles that Municipalities and Conservation Authorities play in conservation and governance;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- The Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks;
- local MPPs;
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- area Indigenous communities;
- all municipalities;

- Conservation Authorities; and
- Conservation Ontario.

Kind regards,

Julie Clayton

Julie Clayton, Deputy Clerk

julie.clayton@ingersoll.ca

cc: Ernie Hardeman, Member of Provincial Parliament for Oxford
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Area Indigenous Communities
All municipalities
Conservation Authorities
Conservation Ontario

