

Report To: Board of Directors

**Subject: Conservation Authorities Act Transition Quarterly Progress Report
Ontario Regulation 687/21: Transition Plan and Agreements for
Programs and Services**

Report No: FA-30-22

Date: July 15, 2022

Recommendation:

1. **THAT** Report No. FA-30-22 RE: Conservation Authorities Act Transition Quarterly Progress Report Ontario Regulation 687/21: Transition Plan and Agreements for Programs and Services **BE RECEIVED**.
2. **AND THAT** a copy of this report **BE CIRCULATED** to the NPCA's partner municipalities for information.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to update the Board of Directors on the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's (NPCA) first quarterly progress report under Ontario Regulation 687/21 submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

Background:

On October 7, 2021, Ontario Regulation 687/21: Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services Under Section 21.1.2 of the Conservation Authorities Act was passed requiring Conservation Authorities to submit quarterly progress reports to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

As required under Regulation 687/21, the NPCA Board of Directors approved and submitted to the MECP the following:

NPCA Transition Plan (Resolution No. FA-196-2021):

“THAT Report No. FA-68-2021 RE: NPCA Transition Plan in Accordance with Section 21.1.4 of the Conservation Authorities Act BE RECEIVED.

AND FURTHER THAT the NPCA Transition Plan, as appended, BE APPROVED and SUBMITTED to the Ministry of Environment and Parks (MECP) with a copy to NPCA funding municipalities and posting on the NPCA website.”

NPCA inventory of Programs and Services (Resolution No. FA-18-2022):

“THAT Report No. FA-03-22 RE: Conservation Authorities Act – Update on Inventory of Programs/Services BE RECEIVED for information.

THAT the Inventory of Programs and Services BE SUBMITTED to the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) as required under Ontario Regulation 687/21 and CIRCULATED to participating municipalities.

THAT the Inventory of Programs and Services BE SHARED with NPCA jurisdiction municipalities, as appropriate, throughout 2022-2023 to inform discussions related to NPCA services.

AND FURTHER THAT the Final Programs and Services Inventory BE SUBMITTED to MECP at the end of the Conservation Authorities Act Transition period along with a copy of Municipal Agreements.”

Another requirement of the transition regulation is quarterly progress submission to MECP. Under the regulation, the progress reports must include the following:

- a summary of any comments or feedback on your inventory that were submitted by your participating municipalities or by any others;
- a summary of any changes that were made to your inventory;
- an update on the progress towards negotiating cost apportioning agreements with your participating municipalities, including any difficulties you are experiencing that might impact the ability to conclude any cost apportioning agreements by the transition date; and
- a copy of your updated inventory, clearly indicating changes that have been made since your initial inventory was submitted in February, 2022.

Discussion:

The NPCA's quarter one progress report, attached as Appendix 1 has been submitted to MECP to meet the first quarterly report deadline outlining the consultation steps that have been undertaken to date with the NPCA's three participating municipalities, the City of Hamilton, Haldimand County and the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Six quarterly reports will be required in total with the second report required October 1 this year and four in 2023. A final Conservation Authority report will be due January 31, 2024.

Financial Implications:

Financial implications of Conservation Authorities Act changes and transition requirements are being addressed through internal efficiencies, existing staff resources, and Board approved reserve funding.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1: NPCA Quarterly Report #1, July 8, 2022 Ontario Regulation 687/21: Transition Plan and Agreements for Programs and Services. Section 21.1.2 of the Conservation Authorities Act

Authored and Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

Chandra Sharma, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer



*Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
(NPCA)*

Quarterly Progress Report 1

*As required for Conservation Authorities Act Amendments: Transition Plan and
Agreements Regulation (O.Reg. 687/21)*

Submitted To:

*Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
(MECP)*

July 8, 2022

NPCA Transition Plan Deliverables for the Period Ending June, 2022

Completion and Submission of Transition plan November 2021:

NPCA transition plan submitted to MECP, City of Hamilton, Haldimand County, and Niagara Region. Transition Plan has also been posted on NPCA website.

Completion and Submission of Inventory of Programs and Services February 2022:

NPCA Programs and Services Inventory submitted to MECP, City of Hamilton, Haldimand County, and Niagara Region.

Joint Conservation Authority / Municipality Meetings for High Level Review of Regulation and Inventories:

- On March 29, 2022, a joint meeting of all conservation Authorities was hosted with City of Hamilton senior staff and a decision was made to host follow-up meetings separately with each Conservation Authority.
- On June 13, 2022 NPCA staff met with Senior staff team from Haldimand County.
- On June 22, 2022 NPCA staff had their first meeting with Niagara Region staff.
- On June 27, 2022 NPCA staff met with Hamilton staff team.
- Meetings with NPCA lower tier municipalities are also underway to share the list of Programs and Services in anticipation of any Services Level Agreements (SLA). NPCA staff have met with the municipalities of Town of Lincoln, Town of West Lincoln, and Niagara-on-the-Lake. Meetings with the City of St. Catharines is planned for July 2022 and other municipalities will follow. NPCA has also made a presentation to join Niagara Area Planners meetings with Niagara Region.

Summary:

Initial meetings with municipal partners have been very productive. Initial discussion on cost apportionment agreements for Category 3 Services such as restoration and stewardship and Category 2 Service has also been positive. Key discussion points are:

- Development of business case for Category 3 services;
- More clarity for self-generated vs municipal levy for asset infrastructure;
- More support for monitoring for upcoming growth areas; and
- Initial discussion with Niagara Region to transition to the new budget model sooner (for 2023 budget cycle) instead of 2024. NPCA staff have been planning this and would like to execute the changes sooner than later.

Subsequent meetings will be organized to flush out any additions / changes to the Inventory in advance of any SLA initiation. At this time no changes or refinements to the inventory have been finalized for submission to MECP.