

**Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs**

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September 10, 2020

TO: Conservation Authorities as listed in the attached **Schedule "A"**

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Minister's Direction for Conservation Authorities during the COVID-19 Outbreak

On March 26, 2020, I issued a Minister's Direction ("**Direction**") pursuant to subsection 19.1 (7) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* that applied to all conservation authorities in Ontario, listed in **Schedule "A"** as attached. The Direction enabled conservation authorities to convene a meeting electronically in order to make the necessary amendments to their administrative by-laws to deal with both provincial and municipal emergencies. It identified the minimum areas where the by-laws should be amended, in the manner deemed appropriate by the CA, to make provision for emergency situations (e.g., electronic participation in meetings and hearings and achieving quorum while participating electronically). The Direction also identified that each conservation authority, depending on their individual by-laws, may identify the need to make other necessary amendments to respond to emergencies.

It has come to my attention that certain conservation authorities amended their by-laws to allow virtual meetings only during declared emergencies. Now that the provincially declared state of emergency has ended and municipally declared state of emergencies have or may end, conservation authorities may be prevented from continuing to be able to meet virtually. As such, I am amending the Direction that I issued on March 26, 2020 to remove this barrier. I am directing the conservation authorities listed in Schedule "A" to meet virtually for the purpose of reviewing and amending their by-laws, as applicable, to allow for members of a conservation authority to participate electronically in meetings when it is deemed appropriate by the conservation authority to do so. For greater certainty, the other provisions of the Direction continue to apply.

Effective Date

This amendment to the March 26, 2020 Direction is effective immediately. If it is in the public interest to do so, I will provide further direction or clarification at a later date related to the matters set out in this Direction.

If you have any questions related to this Direction, please contact:

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To learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19, please visit www.ontario.ca/coronavirus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Yurek', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jeff Yurek
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Kim Gavine, General Manager, Conservation Ontario

SCHEDULE "A" CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

Ausable Bayfield CA

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Cataraqui Region CA

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Catfish Creek CA

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Kettle Creek CA

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Raisin Region CA

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