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From: Great Lakes and Water Policy Section (MNRF) <mnrwaterpolicy@ontario.ca>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 2:47 PM
To: Great Lakes and Water Policy Section (MNRF)
Subject: Notification of Bill 139, the Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017 Receiving Royal Assent

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TO: All Stakeholders involved in the *Conservation Authorities Act* Review

RE: Notification of Bill 139, the *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act*, 2017 Receiving Royal Assent

I am pleased to inform you that Bill 139, the *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act*, 2017 that proposes amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* has been passed by the Ontario Legislature and has officially received Royal Assent. In addition to the amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the legislation also contains changes related to the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal.

The passing of this legislation highlights the completion of the multi-year review of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and is part of a comprehensive suite of proposed changes resulting from the review. The amendments modernize the Act to strengthen oversight and accountability in conservation authority decision making, increase clarity and consistency in conservation authority roles and responsibilities, improve collaboration and engagement, modernize funding mechanisms, and provide flexibility for conservation authorities to adapt to changing circumstances and challenges in the future.

The passing of this legislation is an important achievement that will provide ongoing benefits to Ontarians. While some updated provisions will come into force immediately, other provisions will be phased in over the coming years as supporting regulations and policy is developed. My ministry will continue to engage interested parties to assist in the development of these regulations, policies and guidelines.

If you have any questions regarding the legislative process or the implementation of the amendments, please contact the Water Resources Section at mnrwaterpolicy@ontario.ca.

Thank you again for your support and participation in the review.

Jennifer Keyes
Manager, Water Resources Section
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