

November 30, 2020

## **AMO Policy Update – Bill 229, Schedule 6 (CA Act) Proposed Amendments**

### ***Conservation Authorities Act Proposed Amendments – Schedule 6, Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020***

AMO President, Graydon Smith, wrote to the [Premier](#) last week, and today has made a [submission](#) to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs asking that Schedule 6 of Bill 229 be withdrawn so that matters of concern can be resolved.

The changes proposed in Schedule 6 are raising alarm for many municipal leaders, and others, about how the proposed amendments can be implemented and how these changes would improve conservation authority effectiveness and efficiencies.

Of significant concern is the creation of an apparent conflict between the fiduciary duty of Conservation Authority Board members and the proposed amendment requiring board members to act on behalf of their respective municipal councils.

The submission also seems to provide the potential to bypass the local development approval process, resulting in the loss of local scientific analysis. Other amendments open the door to possible reductions in user fees (which are designed to recoup costs). It also addresses the removal of the (un-proclaimed) section giving conservation authorities the power to issue stop work orders. The power for conservation authorities to issue stop work orders is needed to harmonize municipal and conservation authority enforcement actions on illegal dumping.

Tremendous effort has been put forward by municipal governments to find a collective path forward that addresses certain issues and bolsters the ability to protect the environment in a meaningful way. Municipal leaders were looking for needed *Conservation Authorities Act* refinements, not this proposed wholesale change.