

Bill 26 - Strong Communities Act - Conservation Ontario Consultation

The following request for input was sent out to all CA's by e-mail:

Date: January 21, 2004

Re: Bill 26 - the Strong Communities Act - Conservation Ontario Consultation

Hi folks,

I have been asked by Conservation Ontario to coordinate a consultation with Conservation Authorities on the proposed new Strong Communities (Planning Amendment) Act, 2003. The proposed legislation would make a number of changes including:

- amending the Planning Act to restore the "shall be consistent with" rather than "shall have regard for" with respect to Planning Policy Statements
- extending the time lines for reviews prior to applications being appealed to the OMB
- changing appeal rights for urban expansions

The proposed legislation was given first reading in December 2003 and has been posted on the EBR. I have attached the link to the EBR posting and a pdf of the legislation.

Conservation Ontario has asked that a report be prepared for consideration at the February Conservation Ontario meeting. The deadline to have reports submitted for posting for this meeting is February 4. To meet this deadline, I will need to receive comments from the CA offices by **February 2**. I will compile these comments and share the compilation with the members of the Conservation Ontario Planning Committee and from there, a report will be prepared.

The latest list of members of the Conservation Ontario Planning Committee that I have includes the following people:

Don MacIver, Rideau Valley
Suzanne McInnes, Niagara
Fred Natolochny, Grand River
David Burnette, Toronto Region
Rebecca Belanger, ERCA
Jeff Brick, Upper Thames (chair)
Bonnie Fox, CO

If there is anyone out there that would like to participate in the consolidation and report preparation process, please advise.

I am trying to pull together some additional background information to assist CA's with their review of Bill 26. This may include:

- GTA Task Force Report on OMB Reform
- CLOCA Report on the GTA Task Force on OMB Reform
- TRCA Report on Bill 26

I hope to forward this information in the next couple of days. If your CA has completed a review of this matter or has any additional information that would be of assistance, please advise me.

I do apologize for the short time line for this review however, on the positive side, it is a rather compact piece of legislation. Please forward this message to the appropriate person in your office and please have comments in by the end of the day on February 2, 2004.

If there are any questions, do not hesitate to contact me,

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