

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES SUPPORT
EXPERT REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

NEWMARKET, November 27, 2009. As leaders in environmental protection in Ontario, Conservation Authorities applaud a recently released report which presents 59 recommendations to help the Province, municipalities and Ontarians prepare and plan for the impact of climate change.

Adapting to Climate Change in Ontario, by the Expert Panel on Climate Change Adaptation, provides an update on projected climate change impacts expected in Ontario and urges the government to formulate and implement a climate change adaptation strategy and action plan that can be used to make a 'fast start on building a more climate-resilient province'.

"This report is a significant achievement and we're pleased that the Expert Panel recognizes the efforts of Ontario's Conservation Authorities in managing the province's water and land resources," said Don Pearson, General Manager of Conservation Ontario, the organization that represents the 36 Conservation Authorities.

"As a result of the climate change impacts we struggle with today, it's clear that a 'business as usual' approach is no longer an option. This report recommends taking a much more integrated approach – not just across Ministries -- but in partnership with other organizations. Conservation Authorities are ready to work with the Province to determine what needs to be done to integrate climate change requirements into watershed management activities."

Earlier this year, Mr. Pearson was invited by the Expert Panel to make a presentation showing how Conservation Authorities are currently addressing the increasing impacts of climate change on Ontario's water and land resources.

Some of the impacts of climate change that Conservation Authorities have identified include: threats to water quality and supply, increased flooding and erosion due to more frequent extreme weather events, increased drought, and degraded biodiversity.

Through their watershed management and monitoring programs, Conservation Authorities use a watershed-based approach that relies on science to help to build resiliency in Ontario watersheds.

Conservation Authorities develop local watershed management plans in partnership with municipalities, government and other stakeholders to ensure there is enough clean water and healthy land resources for today and into the future.

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For More Information

Link to the Report, [Adapting to Climate Change in Ontario](#)

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