



# LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION

714 Murray Street, R.R. 1, Trenton, Ontario K8V 0N1

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Registered Charitable Organization No. 107646598RR0001

September 20, 2023

## NOTICE

### **Opportunity for Public Comment *Proposed 2024 Fee Policy and Schedules***

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Lower Trent Conservation (LTC) charges fees to assist with covering the program costs for services and products that are not supported through provincial grant funding, assisting in reduction of the general levy. The fees take into account estimated staff time, travel, and material costs to provide the service. It is imperative to charge a fee reflective of full costs associated with the service provided.

On January 1, 2023, the *Conservation Authorities Act* was amended by repealing 21 (1) (m.1) which related to the power of CAs to charge fees for services approved by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and enacting section 21.2 (1)-(12) "Fees for Programs and Services". Subsection (1) enables the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks to determine the classes of programs and services in respect of which an authority may charge a fee and (2) requires the minister to publish a List in a policy document. The Minister published the list through the [Policy: Minister's list of classes of programs and services in respect of which conservation authorities may charge a fee](#) ("Minister's List") on April 11, 2022. Conservation authorities may only charge a fee for a program or service that it provides if it is included in this List.

Effective January 1, 2023 the Province froze conservation authority fees for the year. There is no indication at this time as to when the proposed fee schedules will be valid. Our Fee Policy indicates that the policy and fee schedules will be reviewed annually and if changes are proposed they must be made available for public consultation. **These fees, if passed by the Board of Directors after consultation, will not be enacted until the provincial government removes the current fee freeze which was effective January 1, 2023.**

The following changes are proposed.

#### **PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY:**

- None

#### **PROPOSED CHANGES TO FEE SCHEDULES:**

##### **Schedule 1 – Planning and Regulations Fees**

- Increases vary from 0 – 33% with those increases averaging 12.7% - from \$10 to \$110
- Addition of Large Fill Permit fees for loads up to 500 cubic metres and loads greater than 500 cubic metres.
- Refinement of Complex Permit fees based on the number of technical reviews required.
- Refinement of Zoning By-law Amendment fees to one charge

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Member of Conservation Ontario  
Representing Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities

### **Schedule 2 – General Service Fees**

- No change to these fees

### **Schedule 3 – Stewardship Services Fees**

- Fees for nursery pricing is unknown at this time. A range is given to accommodate potential increases.
- There is no increase to the administrative fee nor the wildflower kits. Prices will be confirmed prior to the final approval by the Board.

### **DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS:**

Comments must be submitted in writing to the attention of Anna Morgan at [information@LTC.on.ca](mailto:information@LTC.on.ca) with Fee Policy and Schedule in the Title or by mail to: Lower Trent Conservation, 714 Murray Street, R.R. 1, Trenton, ON K8V 0N1 no later than **Monday, October 23, 2023**.

