



LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION

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

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Registered Charitable Organization No. 107646598RR0001

October 10, 2025

NOTICE

Opportunity for Public Comment *Proposed 2026 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 Planning and Regulations fees for the year and that fee freeze continued through 2025. There is no indication 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. The Planning and Regulation fees, if passed by the Board of Directors after consultation, will not be enacted until the provincial government removes the current fee freeze.

The following changes are proposed.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO FEE SCHEDULES:

Schedule 1 – Planning and Regulations Fees

- No changes proposed

Schedule 2 – General Service Fees

- Fees for professional services were not changed for 2026.
- Addition of a fee for the use of the Great Lakes Map which is set per student with a minimum fee. The map is a new interactive teaching tool purchased this spring to enhance our youth education program. The fees reflect the desire to recoup the money spent on this investment.

Working with Local Communities to Protect our Natural Environment



Member of Conservation Ontario
Representing Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities

Schedule 3 – Stewardship Services Fees

- Fees for nursery pricing is unknown at this time. A range is given to accommodate potential increases.

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS:

Comments must be submitted in writing to the attention of Anna Morgan at 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, November 10, 2025**.