



# Bill 97 and Proposed Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

Tim Lanthier, CAO  
Grey Sauble Conservation Authority

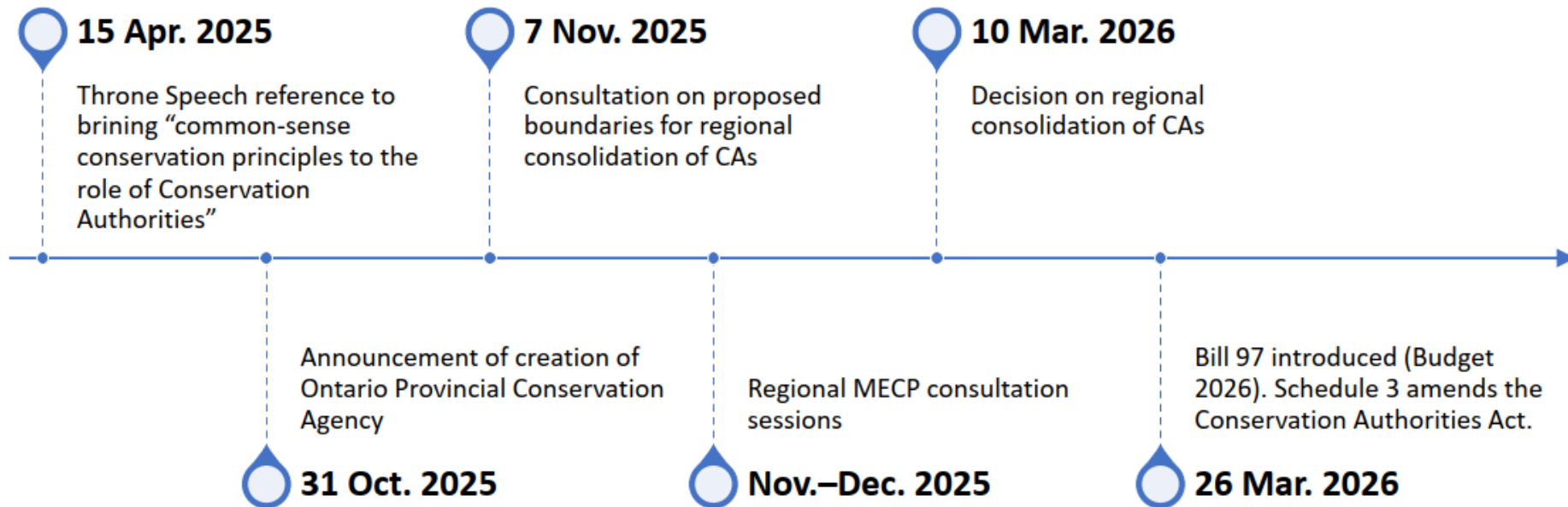


Grey Sauble  
CONSERVATION

# Bill 97 Amendments to CAA

- Introduced on March 26, 2026 – Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures)
- Schedule 3 of Bill 97 changes CAA to set out the provisions for Provincially-led consolidation to create nine regional CAs, including:
  1. Statutory amalgamation.
  2. Transition committees, project executives and transition plans.
  3. Prohibitions during the transition period.
  4. Governance of regional CAs.
  5. Other amendments.

# Timeline to Date:



# Bill 97 Amendments to CAA

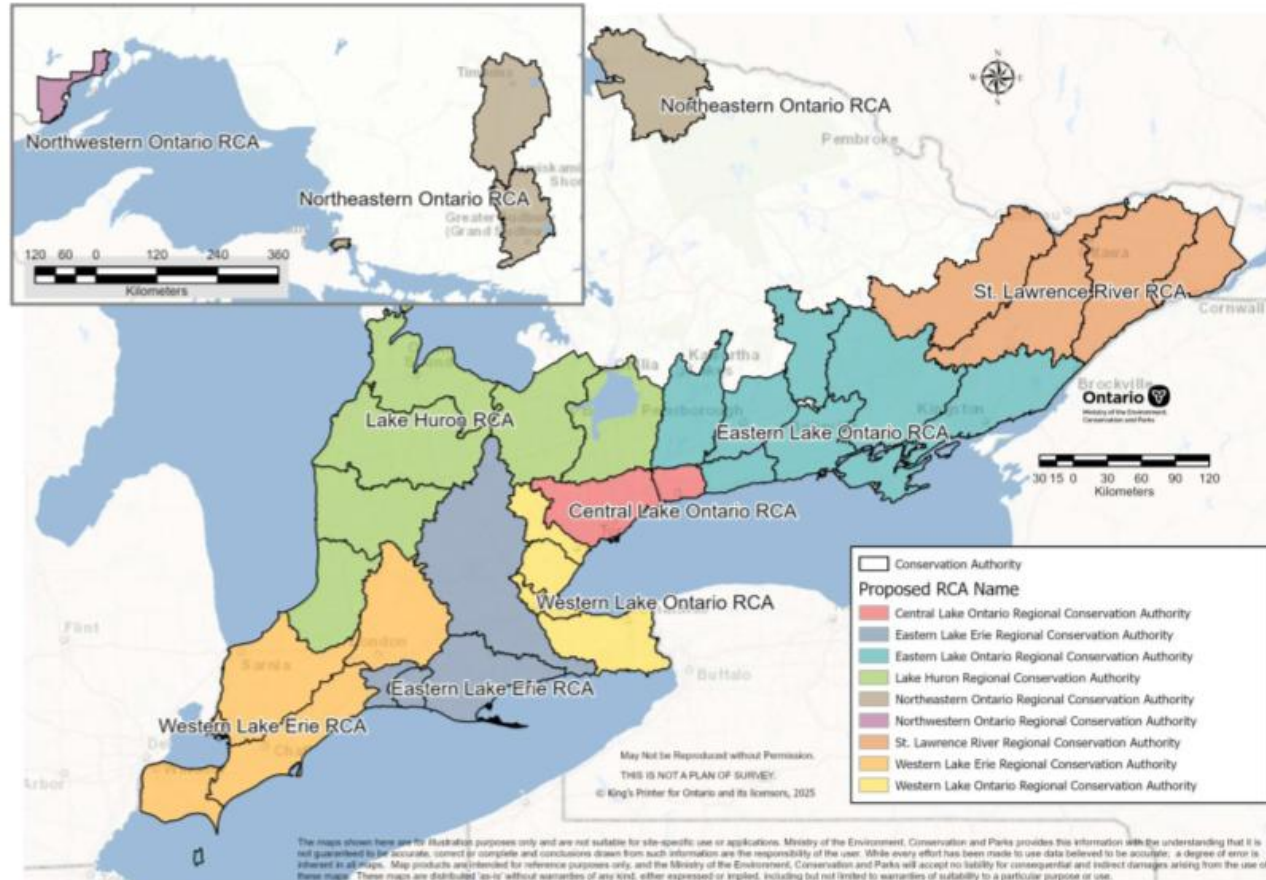
## Statutory Amalgamation

1. On the Transition Date (February 1, 2027), existing CAs will merge into regional CAs.
2. GSCA will become part of the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority with:
  - a) Grey Sauble CA
  - b) Lake Simcoe Region CA
  - c) Nottawasaga Valley CA
  - d) Saugeen Valley CA
  - e) Maitland Valley CA
  - f) Ausable Bayfield CA
3. Area extends from City of Kawartha Lakes in NE to Port Franks in SW.
4. Total size of new regional CA is approximately 22,000 km<sup>2</sup> (approximately the size of Belize or El Salvadore, or almost four times the size of PEI)

# Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities



# Proposed 9 Regional Conservation Authorities



# Rules for the Amalgamation

- All rights, obligations, assets and liabilities transfer over.
- All partnerships, agreements, MOUs, and debts due transfer over.
- Jurisdiction transfers over.
- Permit applications and hearings transfer over.
- All employees transfer over.
- Existing regulation officers become regulation officers of new RCA.

# Governance and Apportionment

- Lower tier municipalities cease to be participating municipalities.
- Upper tier and single tier municipalities become participating (Grey/Bruce).
- Governance reps will be provided from each upper or single tier municipality.
- Rep by Pop is proposed, with option for alternate agreement.
- New governance structure to take place on February 1, 2027.
- Apportionment proposed to be determined in same general way.
- Post 2027, new participating municipalities will be apportioned costs.
- In 2027, existing municipalities will be apportioned costs.

# Transition and Transformation Periods

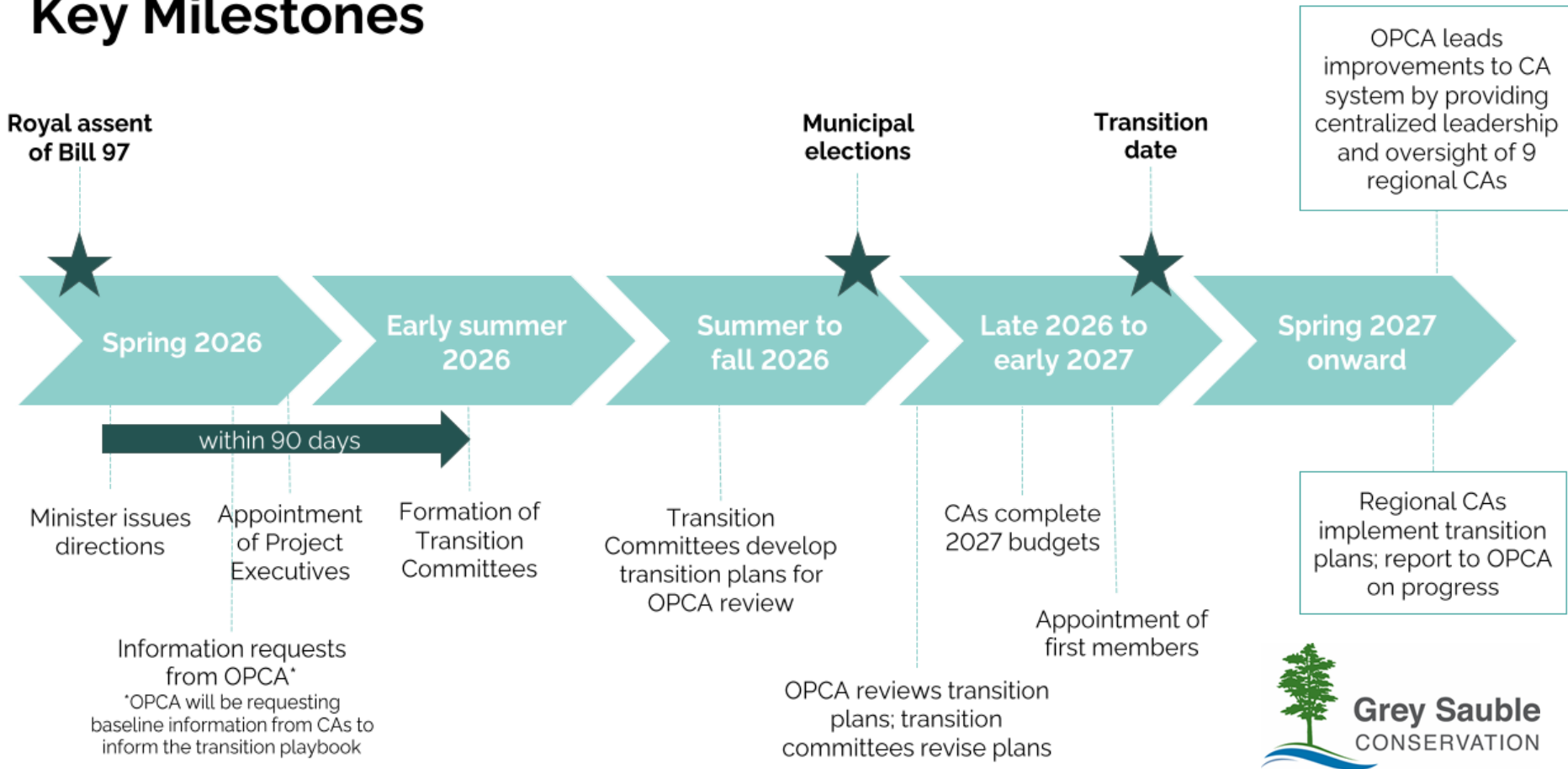
- Transition Plans to be developed by Transition Committee.
- Transition Committee to be comprised of CAO and Elected Member from each existing CA.
- Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) to appoint a Project Executive.
- Transition Plans to be prepared and approved by February 1, 2027.
- Minister expected to issue temporary directions to prohibit certain decision within the Transition Period.
- Following this, Project Executive becomes inaugural CAO of new RCA for 2-years.
- These 2-years are the Transformation Period in which all substantial change and integration occurs.

# What can we expect moving forward?

- Reduced local input.
  - Upper tier members for current GSCA area are Grey County and Bruce County.
  - New LHRCA will have 15 member municipalities.
  - Rural upper tiers expected to have one member each, with total Board of 15-20.
- Transition process and future regulations will define a lot of the details.
- No program or land ownership/management changes in the short term
  - Future RCA Board will define the future state of the organization.
- Each RCA is to establish one or more Watershed Councils.
  - When, what and how to be defined in future regulation.

# Timeline from MECP

## Key Milestones





# Questions?

