

From: [Jennifer White](#)
To: [Jennifer White](#)
Subject: FW: Update on Bill 23 Implementation - Effective January 1, 2023
Date: January 10, 2023 1:22:54 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[MNRFUpdates_December282022-FINAL.pdf](#)
[Minister Direction on Fees_December282022-FINAL.pdf](#)
Importance: High

From: Jennifer Stephens <j.stephens@svca.on.ca>
Sent: January 4, 2023 4:24 PM
To: CAOs / Clerks <caoclerks@svca.on.ca>
Subject: Update on Bill 23 Implementation - Effective January 1, 2023
Importance: High

Good Afternoon Municipal CAOs and Clerks:

Please allow me to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year!

I wanted to provide you with an important update on the Province's implementation of Bill 23 as they are moving forward with a few aspects effective January 1. I request that the following correspondence be shared with your planning staff.

On December 28, 2022, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) sent a letter to all municipalities and conservation authorities informing us that the province had passed [Ontario Regulation 596/22 \(Prescribed Acts – Subsections 21.1.1 \(1.1\) and 21.1.2 \(1.1\) of the Act](#). This regulation changes the review and commenting services that conservation authorities may provide to municipalities effective January 1, 2023.

Given that there is no transition period we are fielding questions from municipalities and applicants, and there are more questions than answers at this time. We want you to know that we are working closely with other conservation authorities, Conservation Ontario, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) to seek clarification. We are also committed to working with your team to facilitate a smooth transition and will be looking to speak with municipalities shortly about the best way to implement these changes.

To that end:

- Planning applications received on or before December 31, 2022, will continue to be processed

as normal by Saugeen Conservation; new applications received after that date will be processed in accordance with the new regulation.

- We know many of you are still on vacation this week, so we will be looking to set up meetings with municipal staff once everyone is back in the office to discuss how best to facilitate the required changes.

Continued Circulation of Planning Applications to CAs

Municipalities are still required to circulate planning applications to conservation authorities so we can review and comment on natural hazard and drinking water source protection matters per [Ontario Regulation 686/21 \(Mandatory Programs and Services\)](#) and the Provincial Policy Statement. The scope of our reviews will also continue to include aspects of wetlands and stormwater management as they relate to natural hazard management and drinking water source protection. Please ensure planning applications continue to be circulated to conservation authorities.

2023 Fee Schedules In Effect

The [2023 Fee Policy and its Schedules](#) approved by SVCA's Board of Directors on December 15, 2022, are now in effect. A Ministerial Order, also received from the MNRF on December 28, 2022, prevents any further changes to these schedules for the remainder of 2023.

Permits

SVCA will continue to provide its regular permitting services except for new provisions concerning Minister's Zoning Orders and Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator Orders (*Conservation Authorities Act*, s. 28.0.1) as amended through Bill 23. We will continue to collaborate with you on efficient delivery of such permits as they arise. The provision allowing the Minister to issue regulations to exempt certain development projects with *Planning Act* approval in certain municipalities from conservation authority permits is not currently in effect.

We appreciate that these are uncertain and somewhat complicated times, so please feel free to contact me or Erik Downing (e.downing@svca.on.ca) if you have any questions. We will also ensure that we continue open communication with all our municipalities to continue to share information with you, address any concerns you have and work closely with you and your staff on implementing changes and finding solutions.

Kind regards,

Jennifer



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