

## Amalgamation FAQs

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July 2026

### What's Changing?

1. Creation of new provincial agency: Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA).
2. Amalgamation and regionalization of 36 CAs down to 9 CAs.
3. New governance model for regional CAs.
4. Establishment of Watershed Advisory Councils.

#### 1. **NEW Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA)**

- To oversee amalgamation.
- To oversee regional conservation authorities.
- Power to issue orders.
- To lead/coordinate implementation of province-wide tools/policies (e.g. online permitting).
- To charge fees and collect levies from Regional CAs for the above services.

#### 2. **NEW St. Lawrence River Region Conservation Authority (SLRRCA)**

- MVCA to merge with Rideau Valley, South Nation, and Raiking Region conservation authorities.
- Statutory amalgamation targeted for February 1, 2027.
- Project Executive to be appointed by the province by the end of July to oversee transition.
- Project Executive to become CAO of amalgamated regional CA.

#### 3. **NEW Governance Model**

- Municipalities will lose direct representation and financial influence on the Board.
- Board members to be appointed by counties and single tier municipalities.
- Number of appointees from each jurisdiction tbd by the province.
- Frequency and location of meetings tbd by new Board once in place.

#### 4. **Watershed Advisory Council**

- Mandatory to have at least once within the new regional CA (i.e. while each watershed may have one, multiple councils are not mandatory.)
- Purpose to:
  - Identify and advise on local priorities.
  - Identify and raise local interests.
- Composition, terms of reference etc. tbd.

### Transition Process

- Transition Committees to meet once Project Executives appointed.
- Committees to have 2 reps from each CA.
- Committees to use "Playbook" developed by the province to plan transition activities.
- Transition Plan to be completed by fall and reviewed by OPCA with potential amendments.

