

October 2021

Changes to Conservation Authorities: Other CA Programs and Services (Category 3)

Context

Beyond the mandated programs and services laid out in Category 1 (Mandatory), and Category 2 (Municipal), Conservation Authorities (CAs) are also empowered to provide any other programs and services that the Conservation Authority Board determines are advisable and consistent with the purposes of Section 21.1(2) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. They are referred to as Category 3 (Other).

As outlined in O.Reg 687/21, Category 3 programs and services can be funded in a number of ways (e.g. self-generated revenue, grants and/or municipal funding).

Category 3 – Other CA Programs and Services

CAs are uniquely positioned to undertake research and fieldwork for organizations such as universities, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and various provincial ministries. These types of contracts allow the CA to retain certain types of staffing expertise that can benefit the municipal and mandatory programs and services. Generally, these types of activities do not require municipal funding.

Administrative and overhead costs are typically integrated into the various programs and services to provide the full cost of delivery. These costs are to be part of the inventory as identified throughout Categories 1, 2 and 3.

Category 3 services could include research, direct services to land owners, broader environmental monitoring, permissive activities under various legislation, and activities related to the CA-owned lands. Some of these activities would build on the mandatory requirements or those directed by municipalities.

Other types of activities include recreation and education programs. These generate funds normally at market value to offset costs. More information on the fees and charges will be discussed in the Phase II regulations of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Where CA Boards propose to offer such programs and services and use municipal funding (municipal levy or fees for service) for delivery of them, a cost apportioning agreement for these activities between the participating municipalities and CA(s) must be in place. These may be both capital costs (Section 25 of the Act) and operating expenses (Section 27 of the Act).

These agreements are required to be posted on CA websites or made available to the public through some other means as the CA considers advisable. However, it would not be appropriate to post details of agreements if the contents meet the requirements for a closed meeting under the *Municipal Act* or the *Municipal Freedom of Information Protection of Privacy Act*.

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