



Declaration to Preserve Ontario's Ecological Integrity

Protecting the environment and public health is multi-faceted and involves meaningful campaigns in Ontario and across the planet to address issues from climate change and endocrine disruption to the need for increased stewardship of renewable resources such as fish and forests.

In addition to addressing these issues, we must not forget the fundamentals: protecting the health of land, water, living species, and the ecological goods and services they nurture - and upon which we depend.

WaterScape offers the following progressive yet practical framework to protect Ontario's ecological integrity: protecting our environmental, economic, and social well-being - now and for future generations.

Preserve Ontario's Biodiversity by

- ◇ Updating the Ontario Biodiversity Strategy and the Ontario action plan: *Biodiversity: It's in Our Nature*;
- ◇ Establishing natural heritage targets for all of Ontario; and,
- ◇ Requiring natural heritage system planning in municipal official plans across Ontario.

Maintain Resilient Landscapes by

- ◇ Using the watershed as the appropriate scale for planning for all uses across the province;
- ◇ Re-evaluating the implementation of the government's housing action plan; and,
- ◇ Developing a sustainability lens for land use planning and management.

Protect Healthy Waters by

- ◇ Transitioning Ontario to Integrated Watershed Management (IWM);
 - ◇ Ensuring a strong, on-going role for conservation authorities in watershed management / IWM; and,
 - ◇ Creating Regional Water Boards* to recommend ways to improve IWM and public engagement.
- ◇ *As a first step in clarifying a role for RWBs, the OHI launched Headwater Alliances in Jan 2020.

See the full recommendations at www.waterscape.ca/waterscape

By selecting the submit button on the WaterScape website, we support this declaration as a basis for further discussion; agree to receive updates and invitations to participate in those discussions; and look forward to contributing to this effort to protect Ontario's ecological integrity.

This declaration was developed by

