WaterScape Pie Charts

Detailed Responses to the Sustainable Planning Needs Assessment Survey

WaterScape is a project of the Ontario Headwaters Institute

August, 2019
General Information

1. I am participating in this survey as an individual or representing the views of an organization
   - 128 responses

2. I / my organization participated in WaterScape in and/or endorsed the submission.
   - 128 responses

A. Land Use Planning, Climate Change, and Watershed Management

3. Do you support the identification and protection of areas of ecological and hydrological significance as a key element in a framework approach to land use planning?
   - 128 responses
4. Do you think that Ontario does enough to protect Ontario’s natural heritage, inland waters, and prime agricultural lands?
• 128 responses

5. If the framework approach mentioned above identifies habitats of ecological and hydrological significance in areas experiencing increasing development, would you support their inclusion in a Greenbelt or similar special planning area?
• 127 responses

6. Do you think the Province is doing enough to regulate and monitor the placement of fill (excess soil from excavation/construction sites) on third party lands?
• 128 responses
7. Current practices allow the application of raw sewage and biosolids on third party land, particularly agricultural lands. Do you think the Province is adequately safeguarding land and water with respect to these applications?
   • 127 responses

8. Do you agree that using the watershed as the “ecologically meaningful scale for planning”, as described in the Provincial Policy Statement, should be retained in forthcoming amendments to the Statement?
   • 127 responses

9. A recent amendment to the Conservation Authorities Act deleted their historic role for the conservation of natural resources and watershed management from their core mandate. Do agree with this revised mandate?
   • 128 responses
10. In the housing action plan, Ontario has announced that it will be developing a provincial regulation to replace certain development guidelines in each of the province’s 36 conservation authorities. Do you see a need for public participation in the granting of permits under this proposed provincial regulation?
   • 126 responses

11. For the same anticipated regulation as described above, do you see a need for provincial oversight and/or an appeal process for permits granted under this new regulation?
   • 123 responses

12. Do you agree that the potential for increased flooding as Ontario’s climate changes needs to be addressed through a sustainability lens that includes both watershed-wide forests wetlands?
   • 127 responses
13. Do you agree that Ontario should transition its existing systems-based approaches for land use planning and watershed management to embrace Integrated Watershed Management, incorporating inter-agency collaboration and cumulative monitoring while also including considerations for biodiversity, climate change, and public health?
   • 126 responses

B. Water Quality and Public Health

14. Do you perceive a need for increased provincial involvement in efforts to eliminate boil water advisories and persistent drinking water quality problems across Ontario?
   • 128 responses

15. Do you support the expansion of drinking water source protection to areas not yet implemented under the Clean Water Act, 2006?
   • 128 responses
16. Do you support the implementation of the municipal water sustainability plans, targets, and performance indicators as described but not established under the Water Opportunities Act, 2010?
• 126 responses

17. Do you support increased efforts by the Province to better protect water quality by lowering the releases of carcinogens, other toxic chemicals (persistent, bio-accumulative, and endocrine disrupting substances), excess nutrients, and the release of raw or inadequately treated sewage from industrial, agricultural, and municipal sources?
• 128 responses

18. Do you support a requirement for public notification of sewage spills, including combined sewage overflow (CSO) events, in all municipalities?
• 127 responses
C. Natural Heritage, Biodiversity, Endangered Species, Agriculture, & Aggregates

19. Do you think that Ontario should develop a provincial document similar to the federal guideline How Much Habitat is Enough in order to establish targets to protect the ecological and hydrological integrity of Ontario’s watersheds?
   • 128 responses

20. Do you think the Province is doing enough for biodiversity, such as protecting 17% of Ontario’s lands and fresh waters in accordance with Canada’s commitment under the Convention on Biological Diversity, protecting and restoring wetlands, and taking action against invasive species?
   • 128 responses

21. Do you agree with the direction of changes to the Endangered Species Act, and in particular the provision allowing development applicants to pay a fee rather than implement measures to protect an endangered species?
   • 128 responses
22. Are you concerned about the reduction of environmental permitting and oversight in the aggregate review, as well as the absence of meaningful public consultation on this file?
   • 128 responses

23. Do you support the expansion of provincial efforts to support local food initiatives, a transition toward sustainable agriculture, and an on-going role for family farms?
   • 126 responses

Note: Questions 23 and 24 were erroneously presented in duplicate in the survey. As a result, question 24 has been removed from the report and the next response is shown accurately as question 25.

E. Protecting and Expanding the Greenbelt

25. Do you support efforts to add areas to the Greenbelt based on Recommendation 71 in Planning for Health, Prosperity and Growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe: 2015-2041, including important surface water areas, key headwater areas, groundwater recharge areas, highly vulnerable aquifers, and areas where stress on groundwater is evident?
   • 127 responses
26. Do you support the designation of new greenbelt lands that are not contiguous to the existing Greenbelt?
   • 128 responses

27. Do you support the addition of the Bluebelt, as proposed by the Oak Ridges Moraine Partnership, to the Greenbelt?
   • 125 responses

28. Do you support public consultation on expanding the Greenbelt and/or extending some of its enhanced aspects of environmental protection to other areas of Ontario, such as across the Greater Golden Horseshoe and in the Ring of Fire?
   • 127 responses
• Do you have confidence in the Province’s commitment to protect the Greenbelt?
  • 127 responses

A Final Question

• The Ontario Headwaters Institute has applied for funding to build WaterScape into an on-going collaborative effort. If we obtain the funding, would you be interested in participating in such an effort?
  • 128 responses