

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Minister Rob Flack
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Flack,

Re: OPPI Feedback on ERO 026-0301: Proposed amendments to the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025 and consequential amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002

On behalf of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI), we are pleased to provide input on your Ministry's proposed amendments to the above-mentioned acts.

OPPI is supportive of the Ministry's overarching objective to strengthen oversight and accountability in the delivery of water and wastewater services, and in principle, support the proposed amendment to the *Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025* to prohibit private equity ownership in municipal service corporations. Maintaining municipal ownership is an important safeguard that helps ensure these services remain aligned with the public interest and Ontario's established framework for protecting drinking water sources.

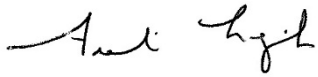
OPPI is also supportive of the proposed amendment to the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* to clarify that drinking water systems owned by Water and Wastewater Public Corporations are deemed municipal drinking water systems. This clarification will help ensure that such systems are subject to consistent public health and safety requirements, including the application of source water protection measures under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. Maintaining a consistent regulatory approach across all municipal drinking water systems is critical to safeguarding public health.

It is important to recognize that the *Clean Water Act* functions not only as a science-based framework for protecting drinking water sources, but also as an essential land use planning tool. The Act requires that official plans and decisions under the *Planning Act* conform with the significant threat policies found within Source Protection Plans. In cases of conflict, these significant threat policies prevail, ensuring that drinking water protection remains a central consideration in land use planning and development decisions. Decisions under the *Planning Act* will have regard to other policies set out in Source Protection Plans.

In this context, continued alignment across legislative frameworks is essential. Advancing the proposed amendments will help ensure that the protections embedded in the *Clean Water Act* remain fully effective. Without such alignment, there is a risk that this critical planning tool could be undermined. We therefore support the proposed direction, provided that these changes continue to uphold strong, consistent protections for Ontario's drinking water sources and public health.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on ERO 026-0301. We would be pleased to meet with you to discuss our recommendations. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting, please do not hesitate to contact us at (647) 326-2328 or by email at s.wiggins@ontarioplanners.ca.

Sincerely,



Andria Leigh, MCIP, RPP, Dipl.M.M.
Chair, OPPI



Susan Wiggins, CAE, Hon. IDC
Executive Director, OPPI