

Essential Updates from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Environmental Law



In person



Live Online

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2026 | 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Location: OBA Conference Centre
20 Toronto Street, 2nd Floor, Toronto

Program Chairs: **Denisa Mertiri**, Ontario Power Generation
Paul McCulloch, Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks



Substantive Hours: This program contains up to **3 hours and 30 minutes**.

The OBA has been approved as an Accredited Provider of Professionalism Content by The Law Society of Ontario.

Join us for this unique opportunity to hear directly from our colleagues at the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on the latest developments in provincial environmental law and policy. Take away practical insights and timely perspectives on emerging issues shaping and impacting your practice.

9:00 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	10:45 am	Changes to MECP’s Compliance and Enforcement Policy
9:05 am	Keynote Address The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy , Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks		- Responding to low-risk incidents and referral to more appropriate regulatory authorities - Understanding the revised informed judgment matrix
9:30 am	The New Species Conservation Act (SCA) Explained - Key differences from the revoked <i>Endangered Species Act</i> - Registerable activities, exceptions and transitional matters regulations - Determining when permits are required under the SCA	11:15 am	Permission Modernization Updates - Environmental Activity and Sector Registry, and Permits to Take Water updates and proposed exemptions - The role of amendments to O. Reg. 179/25 under the Ontario Water Resources Act
10:00 am	Conservation Authorities Amalgamation - Rules governing the amalgamation of 36 conservation authorities into 9 regional conservation authorities and transition committees - Establishment and role of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency	11:50 am	Case Law Update Recent important prosecution, tribunal and civil decisions
10:30 am	Networking Break	12:25 pm	Concluding Remarks
		12:30 pm	Program Concludes

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Questions? pd@oba.org