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Subject: Wetlands under threat; call for action
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Dear CA board member,

As you are no doubt aware, wetlands are complex integrated systems and are natural assets of very high ecological but economical value. They moderate peak flow on a large scale, thereby preventing downstream flooding; they absorb and store massive amounts of carbon and they are a natural habitat that is vital for preserving biodiversity.

Ontario's Bill 23 not only takes individual wetlands out of these systems to allow urban sprawl but also affects the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (OWES) by removing from its requirements the criterium of complexity, that of local significance as well as that of endangered species; and furthermore by removing the oversight of Conservation Authorities as well as provincial ministerial oversight, leaving essential decisions about the protection of our remaining wetlands in the hands of individual evaluating experts hired by landowners and developers.

The federal government has a key role in this, because it has the lead on climate action and COP15; because OWES had its origin in a Federal-Ontario project; fish and endangered species habitat as well as indigenous rights and reconciliation fall under federal jurisdiction and in extreme weather the federal government may have to shoulder the financial burden of flooding.

As a concerned member of the public and regular user of Conservation Authorities, I ask you to please use your knowledge and expertise to contact and influence the Federal Government to intervene where Bill 23 threatens Ontario's wetlands. Please use all means possible to quickly protect wildlife and woodlots which will be destroyed under Bill 23 and its total disregard for the value of wetlands and the Greenbelt.

Thank you for your attention.

Jan W. jansen


Sent from my iPad