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# Schedule 3, Bill 97 (Plan to Protect Ontario Act) (Budget Measures), 2026

Preliminary Summary of Amendments

Presented to LSRCA Board of Directors

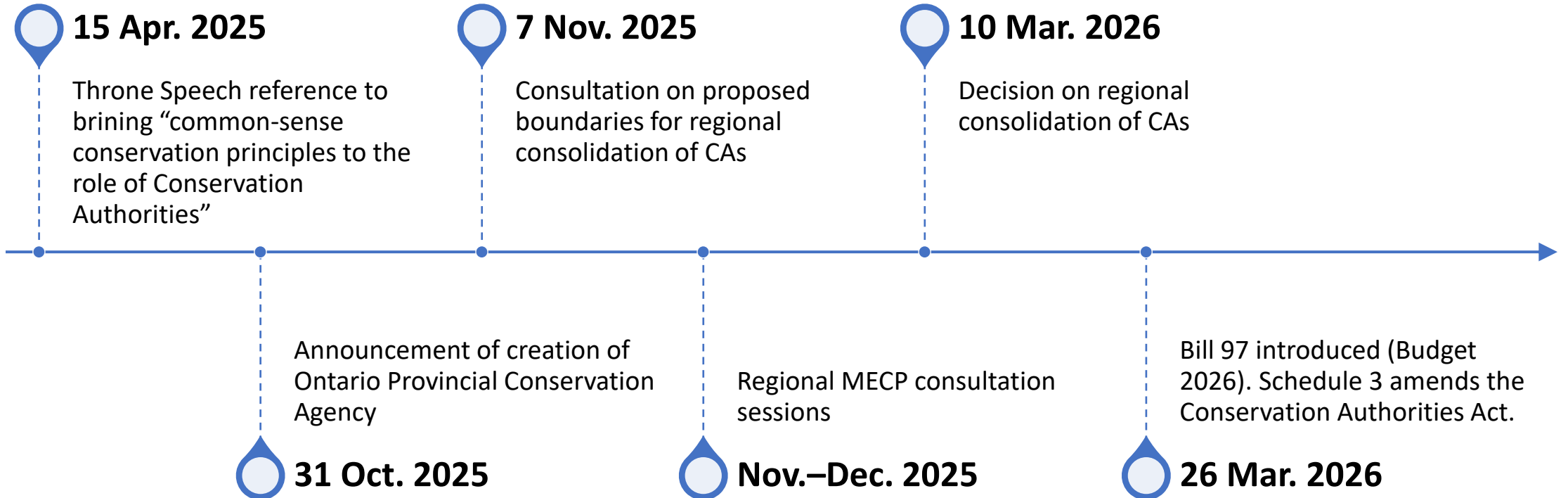
By: Rob Baldwin, CAO

April 17, 2026



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# Timeline Overview





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# Bill 97 Overview

- Introduced March 26, 2026.
- Amends 17 pieces of legislation, including the *Conservation Authorities Act*.
- No associated ERO proposals currently.
- Expected to move quickly to Royal Assent.






# Schedule 3 Overview (CA Act Amendments)


- Amendment to facilitate the amalgamation of 35 CAs into 8 new CAs, and continuation of the LRCA under new name.
- CAA amendments include:
  - **Transitional Matters** (Committees, Project Executives, Service Continuity, Transition Plans, etc.)
  - **Governance Matters** (Membership, Chair/VC, First CAO, By-Laws, Watershed Councils)
  - **New LGIC Regulation-Making Authorities**







# Schedule 3 Amendments Transitional Matters - Overview


 New Authority assumes the rights, obligations, assets and liabilities of the predecessor Authority.

 Participating municipalities are all single- and upper-tiers within the jurisdiction.

 Amalgamation does not constitute a breach or termination of contract / agreement in place.

 Agreements and MOUs continue with the new Authority substituted as a party to the agreement / MOU

 Prohibitions during transition period – requests for establishment of an authority, and meetings to enlarge, amalgamate or dissolve an authority

 Minister may issue directions (prohibiting CA decisions, governing budgetary and apportionment matters, etc.)



# Schedule 3 Amendments Transitional Matters - Overview

## **Examples of what continues under new CA:**

- Advisory boards of predecessor CA
- Employees of predecessor CA (no break in service)
- “Other” Programs and Services agreements in place between a lower-tier and CA continue between the new CA and applicable upper-tier
- Permit applications underway
- Requests for hearings
- Provincial Offences Officers appointed
- *Provincial Offences Act* proceedings commenced



# Schedule 3 Amendments

## Transitional Matters – Committees

- Committees to be established by the OPCA, to prepare for the amalgamation of predecessor Authorities.
- **Predecessor CAs must appoint two members to Committee within 90 days** of Bill 97 Royal Assent (One member that is a member of municipal council, and either the CAO/GM or other Authority officer or senior staff).
- OPCA may appoint members (if the above is not completed or as they consider advisable). Members can be replaced by their appointing body.
- OPCA may issue direction to Committee (roles, responsibilities, practices, etc.)
- Dissolution of a transition committee by OPCA not to be earlier than the transition date (i.e., February 1, 2027, or later date prescribed in regulation)



# Schedule 3 Amendments

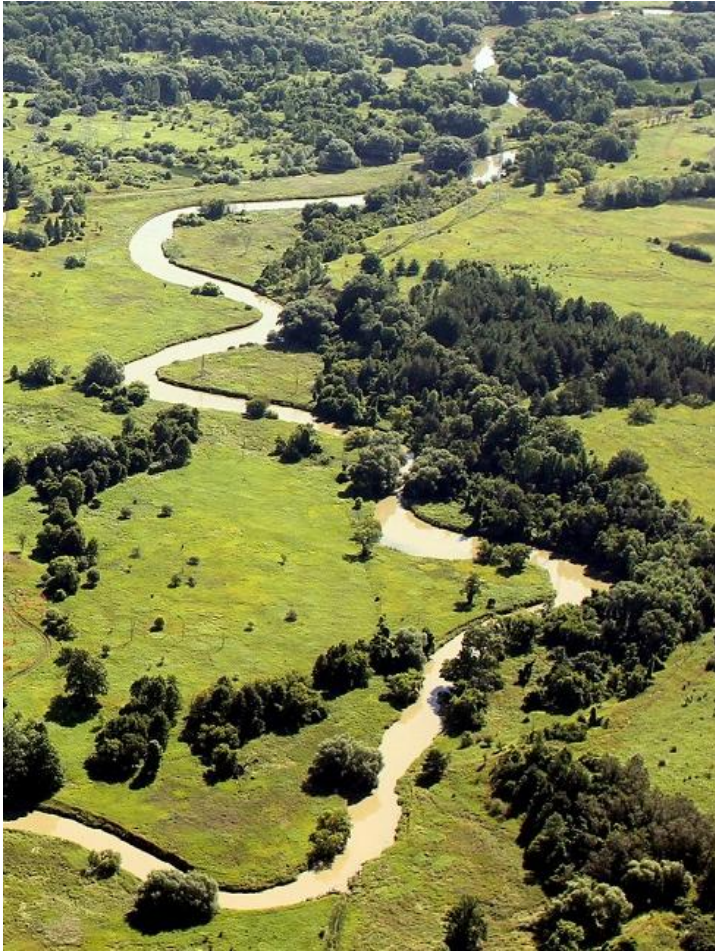
## Transitional Matters – Transition Plans

- Committees must develop a transition plan for submission and review by OPCA (date to be specified).
- OPCA will review and may provide edits / comments.
- Final copy of Plan to be provided to OPCA and predecessor CAs. Also, to members of new Authority on or after transition date.
- Summary of transition plan also provided to all current and new participating municipalities.
- New CAs will implement the transition plan and may request amendments to OPCA.
- Progress reports to OPCA required further to OPCA direction (requirements)



# Schedule 3 Amendments

## Transitional Matters – Project Executives



- Project Executives (PE) appointed by the OPCA to serve as Chair of Transition Committee
- PE not an employee of the OPCA and shall be paid compensation and expenses as agreed to with the OPCA.
- PE may request information from predecessor CAs (cooperation required).
- OPCA may replace the PE.
- On the transition date (February 1, 2027, or later date per regulation), the PE will become the new CAO of the new Authority for a term of 2-years.
- OPCA may remove and replace CAO, or, if no replacement named, new CA will appoint CAO.



# Schedule 3 Amendments

## Transitional Matters – First Members



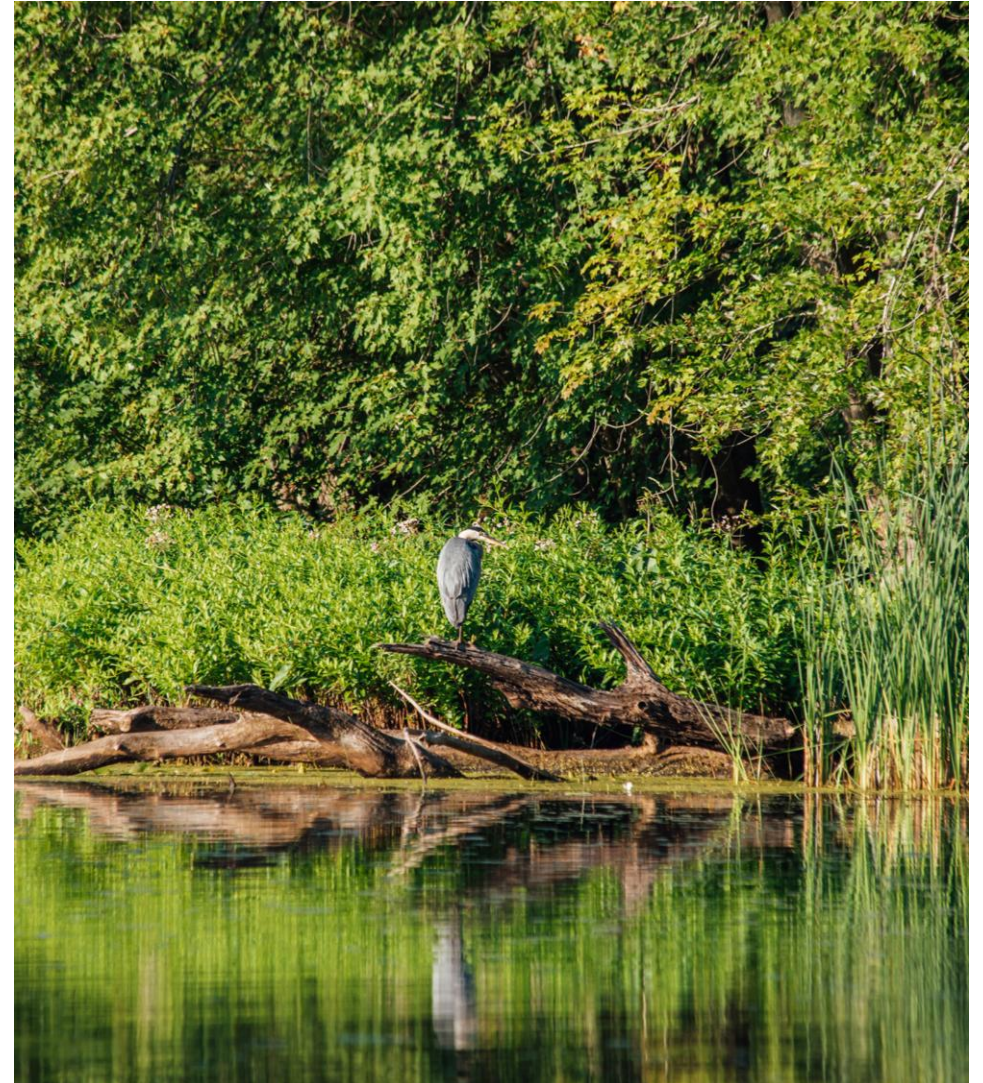
- Participating municipalities need to appoint members by the day before the transition date.
- Regulations establish a method for determining # of members, (minimum of 1 each).
- Method for determining # of members based on municipal population within area of jurisdiction (AoJ), in proportion to the total population in AoJ.
- Regulations will establish a maximum # to be appointed by a single participating municipality, as well as by all participating municipalities.
- Members appointed for term up to 4 years.
- Municipal councils need to notify the OPCA of appointments in writing.



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# Schedule 3 Amendments Governance Matters

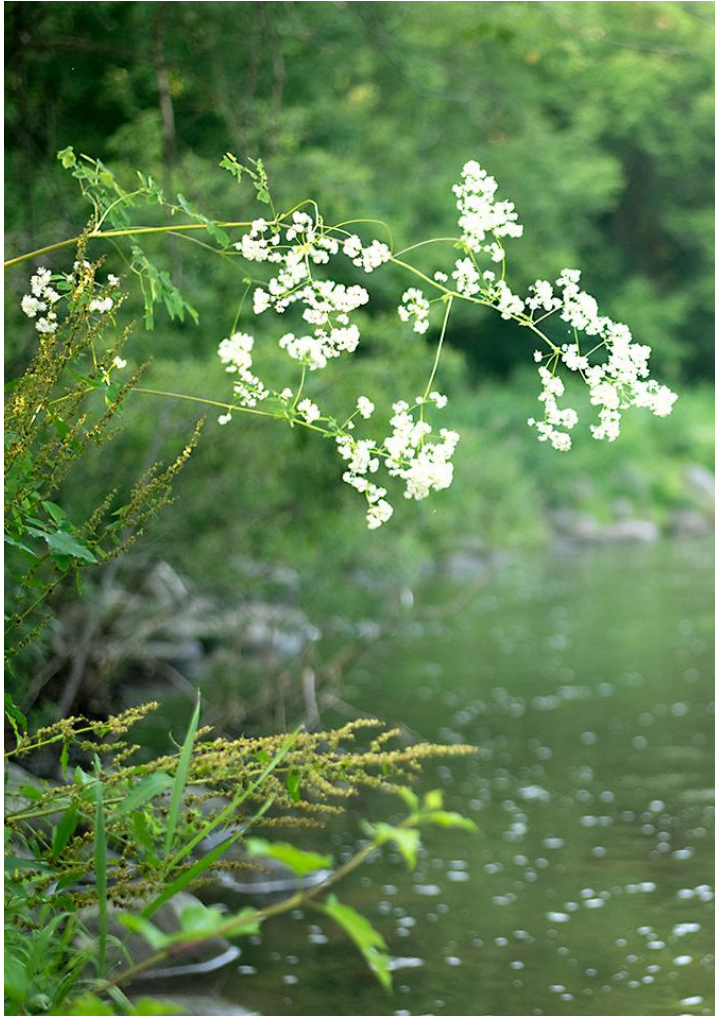
- Regulations to establish **methods for appointment of members** (number of members, minimum, maximum per municipality and maximum overall).
- Method for determining number of members **based on municipal population in proportion to the total population within CA area of jurisdiction.**
- All participating municipalities may enter into **alternative agreement** re: appointment of members. Agreement provided to Agency and on website.
- Legislation (and potentially regulations) set out **matters for municipalities to consider** when appointing member not on council.





# Schedule 3 Amendments

## Governance Matters - Continued



- **Members are appointed for a term up to four years**, and members can be replaced by their appointing council. Members are eligible for re-appointment.
- **Chairs and vice chairs may serve a term of two years, and not more than eight years total** (whether served consecutively or otherwise)
- Minister may appoint additional **agricultural sector member** with same voting limitations as in current CA Act.
- Authority **will appoint CAO** responsible for duties as provided in CA by-laws.
- Authority shall establish **one or more watershed council**.
- Authorities **shall make by-laws** necessary for proper administration.



# Schedule 3 Amendments Implementing Regulations

- Schedule 3 provides new LGIC and Minister regulation-making authorities. Upon Royal Assent (RA), the following regulations may be implemented to facilitate the transition:
  1. Prescribing a “transition date” (legislated as February 1, 2027, or later)
  2. Prescribing member details (method for determining number of members, maximum members appointed by a single participating municipality, maximum members appointed to an Authority)
  3. Prescribing criteria for consideration when appointing a member who is not a member of municipal council.
  4. Prescribing any additional “transition rules”
  5. Governing watershed councils (# that may or must be established, requirements for composition, functions, powers duties, activities and procedures)



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# Commencement

## Upon Royal Assent of Bill 97:

- Transition rules
- Transition Committees
- Project Executives
- Transition Plans
- First CAO
- New CVC provisions
- Amendments to fees paid to the Agency
- Amendments to Agency liability
- Regulation-making authorities

## On a date named by order of the LGIC:

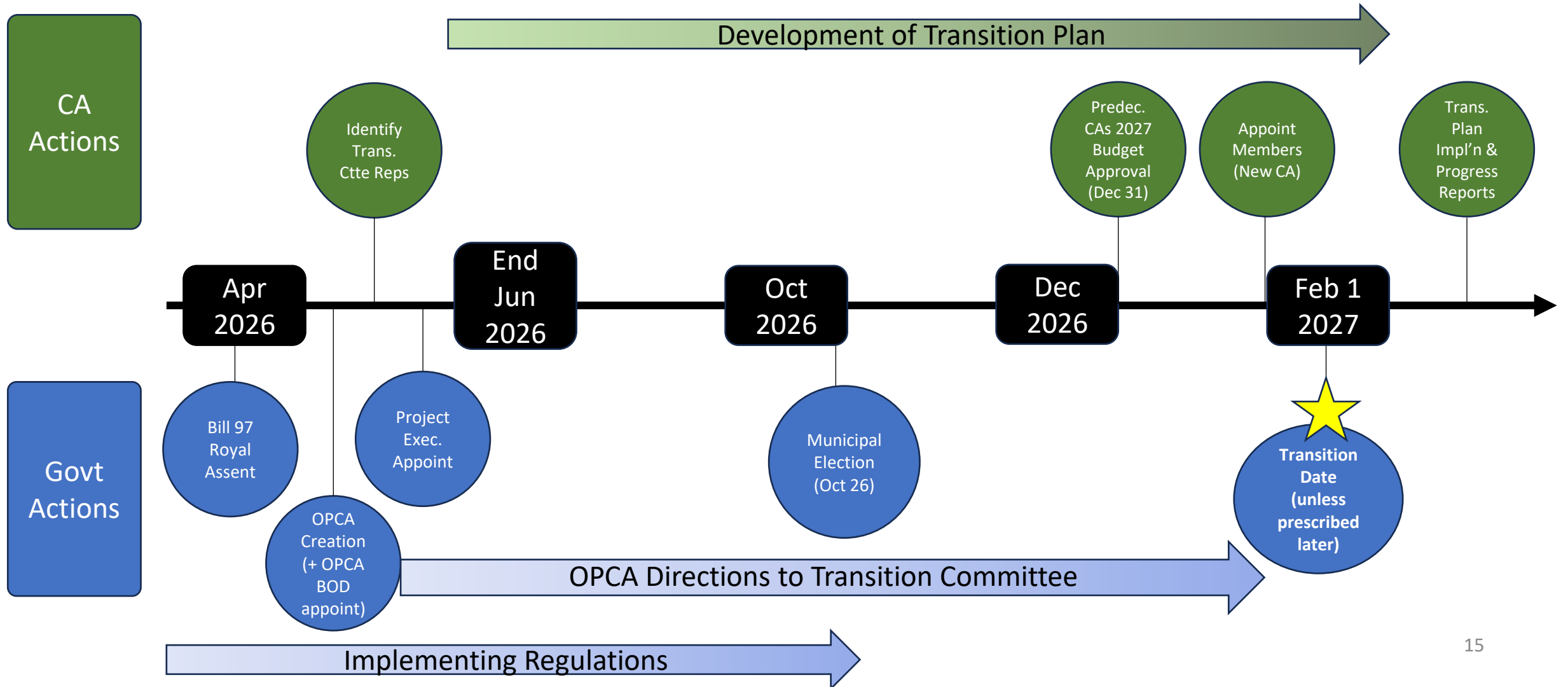
Remainder of Schedule 3, e.g.,

- First Members of New Authority
- Members of Authority, minimum number, etc. [S. 14(1)]
- CAO
- Watershed Councils



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# Interpreted Transition Timeline





# Key Notes/Messages for Board and Staff

Appointments to Transition Committees will be required within the coming months (within 90 days after Budget received RA).

New participating municipalities are upper- and single-tier municipalities.

Watershed Council(s) will be established to ensure local perspective can be considered by new CA Board.

Transition date is February 1, 2027, unless otherwise prescribed in LGIC regulation

All MOUs and agreements, including Category 2 and 3, will continue under the new CA.

All employees of current CAs continue under the new CA.

CA permits, hearings, and proceedings underway continue under new CA.



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Presentation prepared by Conservation Ontario

