

Places to Stand, Places to Grow: Measuring Membership Characteristics and Land Use/Land Cover Change in Ontario's Conservation Authorities

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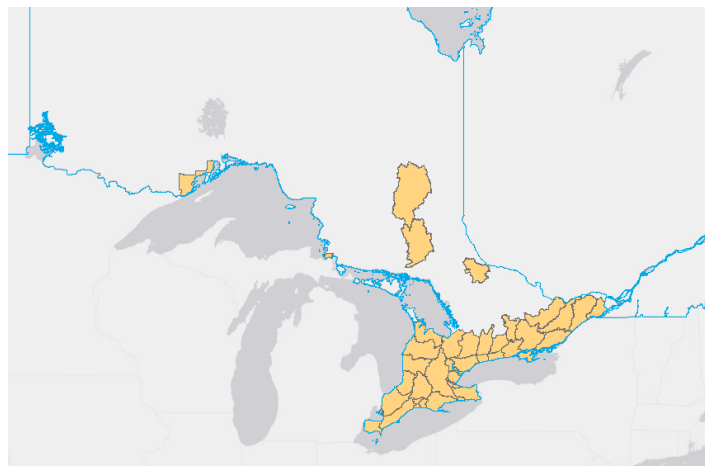
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Conservation authorities are infrequently studied intergovernmental public bodies in Ontario which are responsible for delivering a variety of resource management programs and services. One aspect that is particularly poorly understood is the role that their governing boards' differential memberships may play in the authorities' decision-making, especially surrounding development priorities. My research explores this issue by conducting a statistical analysis of the relationship between two membership demographic variables—gender and ethnicity—and indicators of land use/land cover change that proxy urban development. My results demonstrate that a significant relationship exists between the ratio of visible minority members of conservation authority boards and land use/land cover change in roads and forestry.

Keywords: Conservation authorities, special districts, participatory governance, land use/land cover change



(Source: Author)