

# Wetlands in the balance?

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- The Ford government has facilitated development in environmentally-sensitive lands since being elected in 2018, in part, through Ministerial Zoning Orders.
- Triple Group of Companies is proposing a 240-acre \$1.5 billion entertainment complex on Lower Duffin's Creek in Pickering. It was designated a Provincially Significant Wetland in 2005.
- Bill 229, Schedule 6 proposes modifications to the *Conservation Authorities Act*.
- Ontarians are spending more time outdoors during the pandemic. Ontario Parks reported a 7% annual increase in car camping in August 2020.
- Decreased healthcare costs from reduced anxiety, stress and depression are co-benefits of time spent outdoors.
- Investor capital for conservation is available through resilience bonds.

References: *Ottawa Citizen*, *Ontario Parks*, *Durham Post*, *Government of Ontario*, *NRU Publishing*

