

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Policy Division

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Crown Forests and Lands Policy Branch
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Ministère des Richesses naturelles et des Forêts
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June 23, 2023

Hello,

We are writing to let you know that amendments were made to the following two regulations under the *Public Lands Act* (amendments will come into effect on July 1st, 2023):

- [Ontario Regulation 161/17](#): Occupation of Public Lands under Section 21.1 of the Act
- [Ontario Regulation 326/94](#): Crown Land Camping Permit (this regulation is applicable to non-residents of Canada camping on provincial public land north of the French and Mattawa Rivers)

The *Public Lands Act* (PLA) and its regulations provide the framework for the management and use of public lands in Ontario, including public lands covered by water. Ontario Regulation 161/17 provides that a camping unit may be placed and used on public land without express authorization from the ministry, as long as the requirements set out in the Act and regulation are met.

Proposal notices for the amendments were posted on Ontario's Regulatory Registry and the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) ([ERO number 019-6590](#)) for a 46-day comment period between February 24, 2023 and April 11, 2023. In addition, the ministry hosted a series of online information sessions with Indigenous communities and organizations, municipalities, and stakeholders during this period.

The definitions in O. Reg. 161/17 were amended to clarify that floating accommodations cannot be placed or used for outdoor accommodation or camping purposes on public land covered by water. The same amendments were made to the definitions in O. Reg. 326/94 so the same restriction will apply to non-residents camping on public land covered by water north of the French and Mattawa Rivers.

None of the regulatory changes apply to a person exercising their rights protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* (Aboriginal or treaty rights).

The regulatory changes will not affect someone exercising their right to navigate, including reasonable moorage, which can only be regulated by the federal government (Transport Canada).

We invite you to review the details of the regulatory changes in the ERO decision notice (ERO number [019-6590](#)).

Sincerely,

Peter D. Henry, R.P.F.
Director, Crown Forests and Lands Policy Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: Pauline Desroches, Manager, Crown Lands Policy Section