

## Sink, Swim or Tread Water? The role of the province in adapting stormwater infrastructure in Ontario to extreme weather events

**Presented by:** Dr. Victoria Kramkowski, Policy and Decision Analyst, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

**Date:** Tuesday September 16, 2014

**Time:** 1:00pm-2:00pm ET (*please note your time zone*)

**Cost:** Free!

### Webinar Summary

Extreme weather events and storms are becoming the new normal in Ontario. As a result, stormwater, how to manage it and how to assess and deal with associated risks, are becoming increasingly pressing issues for the province. While municipalities often build, operate and own stormwater infrastructure, several levels of government hold responsibilities for managing stormwater, including the province. Consequently, the provincial government has acknowledged that it must assist communities and conservation authorities in adapting their stormwater systems to a changing and more volatile climate, including promises to develop direction for municipalities and conservation authorities on best practices, vulnerability assessments, and updated floodplain mapping.

This presentation provides an overview of stormwater management responsibilities in Ontario, describes the province's role in assisting municipalities to adapt infrastructure to climate change, and examines the extent to which Ontario has fulfilled its various stormwater adaptation commitments. The presentation concludes with a series of observations that detail how the Ontario government can better support its communities in adapting to climate change. This presentation will be based on work taken from the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario's [2014 Greenhouse Gas Annual Report](#) and the related [booklet](#) on infrastructure adaptation.



### Dr. Victoria Kramkowski

Dr. Victoria Kramkowski has a Master of Environmental Studies and a Ph.D. from York University. Her research focused on managing uncertainty in long-range environmental planning in resource-dependent regions, as well as how to incorporate green infrastructure into urban planning. Dr. Kramkowski has taught, published and consulted on topics that include scenario planning, environmental assessment, forest management policy, water resources planning, urban planning and natural resources management. As a Policy and Decision Analyst at the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Dr. Kramkowski evaluates the provincial government's progress in mitigating and adapting to climate change, including related provincial policies.

If you would like to attend this webinar, please RSVP to Annette Morand at [amorand@mirarco.org](mailto:amorand@mirarco.org).

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