

How Does It Work?

People often use the term “C&D” to refer to both *the land* and *the Board*. To clarify, there are two distinct pieces to the process:

- a Conservation and Development Area (*the land* in a project, also known as a CDA), and
- a Conservation and Development Area Authority (*the Board* which governs the land/area.) The Board is also known as a CAA.

Formed by private landowners, a Conservation and Development Area Authority (CAA) has the legal authority of *The Conservation and Development Act*. The CAA can own, operate and maintain projects, and fund them by taxing landowners who will benefit. It can also expropriate land. Establishing a CAA can provide a means for landowners to work together in responding to drainage issues, or to resolve soil erosion. A CAA takes a minimum of three to six months to establish - this does not include the preliminary stage of defining the project that the CAA will undertake, or obtaining land control for network projects.



Steps to Form a Conservation and Development Area

1. A group interested in forming a Conservation & Development Area (CDA) contacts a Water Security Agency Regional Office for assistance in defining the area. See wsask.ca for contact information.
 - The area is a block of agricultural lands within one or more watersheds. A watershed is a basin of land that includes a waterbody and all the rivers and streams that drain into it.
2. WSA, in consultation with the local group, prepares a petition which includes:
 - A list of lands to be part of the area, and
 - Identification of landowners using Information Services Corporation's (ISC) database.
3. The local group obtains the signatures for the petition, completes the statutory declaration included with the petition, and then sends that documentation to WSA.
 - At least two-thirds of the owners of land within the proposed area must sign the petition.
 - For clarification, a parcel of land may have one or more owners and each owner must be listed on the petition to constitute a signature for that parcel.
- Regardless of the number of parcels an owner has within the area, that owner counts as one signature on the petition.
- An owner is defined as a registered owner, a purchaser of land, or a lessee of provincial land with a lease term of at least five years. Other definitions include shareholders of a corporation, representatives of a co-operative association and representatives of a religious organization as detailed in *The Conservation and Development Act*.
4. WSA reviews the petition for accuracy and ensures that two-thirds or more of the landowners are in favour of establishing a CDA.
5. Following the establishment of the CDA, the Minister appoints a returning officer for the first election of the Board (the CAA).
6. Following the election, the board conducts its first meeting, which includes hiring a Secretary-Treasurer and electing a Chair and Vice-Chair.