



News Release

For Immediate Release

February 1, 2021

Auditor General of Ontario Appoints Acting Commissioner of the Environment

(TORONTO) Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk is pleased to announce that Tyler Schulz, PhD, MSc, BSc, will be joining her Executive Team as Acting Assistant Auditor General, Commissioner of the Environment. Schulz will assume the position on February 1, 2021.

“Dr. Schulz has been an invaluable member of our environment team portfolio since 2019,” Lysyk said. “His experience and leadership will ensure our Office’s environmental reports continue to make evidence-based and impactful recommendations. I look forward to working with Dr. Schulz in his new position to carry out those aspects of the Auditor General’s mandate that involve reviewing the operation of the *Environmental Bill of Rights* and conducting audits of provincial programs intended to protect the environment, including reviewing progress on activities to promote energy conservation and reviewing progress on activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

Schulz joined the Office of the Auditor General as an Audit Director in the Environment Portfolio. Schulz worked for 11 years at the Office of the Environmental Commissioner. He worked as a Senior Policy Advisor, where he authored numerous reports and chapters on environmental issues and later served as Director of Operations and as Deputy Environmental Commissioner before joining the Auditor General’s Office in April 2019.

Schulz completed a BSc at the University of Guelph before obtaining an MSc and a PhD in biology from Dalhousie University, where he studied the evolution and communication of marine mammals. His PhD thesis provided insight into the vocal communication of sperm whales.

The Office of the Auditor General of Ontario has a long history of reviewing and auditing environmental programs and issues. The position of Commissioner of the Environment was established in 2019 by amendments to the *Auditor General Act* and the *Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993*. The amendments also expanded the Office’s mandate under the *Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993*. Over the years, the Office has completed more than 40 environmental reports. Recent topics have included environmental assessments (2016), the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (2018), Ontario’s greenhouse gas reduction plan (2019), protected areas (2020) and environmental monitoring (2020), in addition to yearly reviews of the operation of the *Environmental Bill of Rights* undertaken since 2019.

Lysyk and her Executive Team also express their thank you and best wishes to Jerry DeMarco, Assistant Auditor General, Commissioner of the Environment, who leaves to take on the role of the federal Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development with the Office of the Auditor General of Canada on February 1, 2021.

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