

Supporters of Ontario's Renewable Forest Sector

March 11, 2013

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Re: Finalize ESA Forestry Transition Measure

Dear Premier Wynne,

We, the undersigned, are writing to request the immediate approval of the proposed regulation for the forest sector as outlined in the January 24, 2013 update to the Environment Registry posting titled *Proposed approaches to the implementation of the Endangered Species Act which could include regulatory amendments to authorize activities to occur subject to conditions set out in regulation consistent with MNR's Modernization of Approvals*.

Consistent with the numerous submissions your government has received from the forest sector, municipalities, and citizens who rely on forestry for their livelihood, we support a regulation that would:

- Require that forest operations on Crown land are approved under a Forest Management Plan developed under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA), (*See Appendix One*) and that operational prescriptions and/or management objectives for all relevant species at risk are in place or are under development;
- Provide for phase-in provisions for new policy direction;
- Create a panel, which will include elected municipal officials, to review the linkages between the ESA and the Crown Forest Sustainability Act;
- Not create any additional uncertainty for the forest sector through the inclusion of any new, previously undisclosed conditions in the regulation.

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Since it was implemented, the provincial Endangered Species Act (ESA) has been a source of concern and frustration for various economic development sectors. To be clear, this can not be attributed to 'growing pains' as some special interests would have you and others believe. Instead, it is the result of the unbalanced and subjective nature of the legislation – legislation which threatens to undermine the sustainable economic development and job creation that is so desperately needed in this province.

In a recent letter from various special interests (many from out of province) it was erroneously suggested that the provision of the transition measures, including the proposed regulation for forestry, would result in a lower standard of protection for species at risk – nothing could be further from the truth. As you are aware, the proposed regulation for the forest sector is based on the fact that the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA), the primary legislation governing forestry activities in the province, already provides for the protection of species at risk and their habitat, and as such, already meets the purposes of the provincial Endangered Species Act (ESA) – a sentiment that has been supported in writing by the Government of Ontario.

The proposed alternatives outlined in the letter from special interests, including the suggested implementation of 'full cost recovery and user-pay models', will not improve the implementation of the ESA and will only continue to unnecessarily frustrate economic development in Ontario. The suggestion of a 'user-pay model' demonstrates how out of touch such special interests are with today's investment climate and the cost of doing business.

Ontario's sustainable, renewable forest sector is a vital component of Ontario's green economy. As noted on the provincial government's Ontario Wood website (www.ontariowood.ca) Ontario's forest sector currently employs over 200,000 hardworking Ontarians in over 260 communities across the province – and there is room to grow. Ontario's forest sector is poised to rebound in 2013. With increasing demand for forest products both domestically and abroad, Ontario has an opportunity to become a world leader in the production of sustainable forest products – an opportunity that is ours to lose.

The approval of the proposed regulation for the forest sector, as outlined above, is of the utmost importance. We also feel compelled to highlight that it is entirely consistent with key objectives expressed by your government in the recent Speech from the Throne – economic growth and increased employment.

We urge your government to take swift action and finalize the regulation for the forest sector at the earliest possible opportunity.

Warmest Regards,

Charla Robinson

Charla Robinson
Executive Director



Keith P. Hobbs

Mayor Keith Hobbs



Rick Dumas

Mayor Rick Dumas



Lee Kennard

Mayor Lee Kennard



Iain Angus

Iain Angus
Executive Director

**Common Voice
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David Canfield

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Dennis Brown

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Michael Hammond

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Ron Nelson

Mayor Ron Nelson



Roy Avis

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Ed Schmidtke
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Mayor Kevin Holland



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FIRESTEEL CONTRACTORS LIMITED - *Don Messer*

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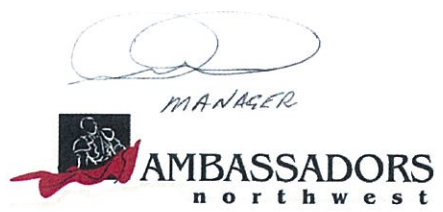
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Howard Maunula".



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul".

Paul Poschmann, R.P.F.
General Manager



**RED LAKE FOREST
Management Company Ltd.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul".

Paul Poschmann, R.P.F.
General Manager

Jamie Lim
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Highstone Logging Inc.

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Monday, March 11, 2013

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Don Huitikka Ent. Ltd.

**List of Letters of support received regarding
ESA Letter to Premier Wynne March 2013**

1. Letter from The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) - Mayor Al Spacek , President 6 March2013
2. Letter from Northeastern Ontario Municipal Association (NEOMA) - Mayor Tom Laughren, President 6 March 2013
3. Letter from the Corporation of the Township of Black River – Matheson – Mayor Mike Milinkovich 7 March 2013
4. Letter from The Corporation of the Town of Cochrane - Mayor Peter Politis 8 March 2013
5. Letter from the Corporation of the Town of Hearst - Mayor Roger Sigouin 7 March2013
6. Letter from Town of Iroquois Falls - Mayor Gilles Forget, 8 March 2013
7. Letter from the Corporation of the Town of Kapuskasing – Mayor Alan Spacek 7 March 2013
8. Letter from Leon Degagne Ltd – Leon DeGagne, President 11 March 2013
9. Letter from Manitou Forest Products – Dale Kaemingh, Co Owner and General Manager 8 March 2013
10. Letter from Canton D'Opasatika Township – Mayor Françoise Lambert 6 March 2013
11. Letter from The Corporation of the City of Timmins – Mayor Tom Laughren 6 March 2013
12. Letter from the Corporation of the Township of Val Rita – Harty – Mayor Laurier Bourgeois 6 March 2013

Appendix One

The Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA) – A Backgrounder

Forest management in Ontario is governed by one of the most stringent regulatory regimes in the world, with mandatory provisions and requirements for comprehensive forest management planning, forest renewal/regeneration, monitoring of operations, independent auditing, and public reporting. As a result, forestry is one of only a handful of activities/sectors in the province of Ontario to have a class approval under the provincial Environmental Assessment Act.

The primary legislation for forestry in Ontario is the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA) with the primary objective of managing for “long term Crown forest health”.

Under the CFSA a Forest Management Plan (FMP) must be prepared for each forest management unit. Key elements of the FMP process include:

- The development of long-term objectives – Forest Management Plans are created to ensure sustainable management over a 100-year cycle
- Preparation of renewal prescriptions to be applied to all areas that are harvested
- The management/protection of non-timber values including tourism, archeological/culturally significant sites, water quality and wildlife
- Comprehensive stakeholder engagement and consultation, including the development of a Local Citizens Committee (LCC) to ensure local input is obtained
- Comprehensive First Nations consultations
- Adherence to government guidelines and operating standards
- Management and protection of species at risk and their habitat

Management for species at risk requires that a management objective and/or operational prescription be developed for every species at risk on an FMP's associated land base/management unit. These prescriptions must be developed with the assistance of an MNR Species at Risk Biologist.

Species at risk objectives and associated operational prescriptions are based on the direction contained in various guides/guidelines, which, under forestry's Class Environmental Assessment Approval must be updated every five years to ensure that they reflect current scientific knowledge as it applies to Ontario. In addition, the content of the forest management guides/guidelines rely directly on the management direction provided by various policies developed under the ESA (e.g. Habitat Regulations, Government Response Statements).