

February 12, 2013
Letter to editor
Via email: lettertoed@thestar.ca

Response to Editorial “Ministry wants to loosen protections for endangered species” February 9, 2013

I was disappointed to read the misinformation provided by the editorial on February 9, 2013. In the description of the proposed regulatory changes to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the author charges that the Government is “sacrificing endangered species”. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The fact is that this proposed regulation provides some much needed balance to the implementation of the ESA for Ontario’s forest industry. These changes do not give industry a free ride: rather they guarantee that the recovery of species at risk will continue, while also ensuring that economic development activities, such as forestry, will be allowed to proceed without unnecessary impacts.

The mandatory protection of species at risk and their habitat has been part of Forest Management Plans under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act for nearly 20 years and those protections will be upheld. What these proposed regulations will change is the requirement for forest companies to undertake expensive and duplicative processes that achieve the same outcome. These regulations make good environmental sense and good business sense – protecting species at risk while supporting jobs and families in communities like mine.



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