

The Premier
of Ontario

Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Le Premier ministre
de l'Ontario

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative
Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1A1



October 27, 2005

Ms. Janet Sumner
Executive Director
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society- Wildlands League
380-401 Richmond Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 3A8

Mr. Justin Duncan
Staff Lawyer
Sierra Legal Defence Fund
900-30 St. Patrick Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5T 3A3

Dear Ms. Sumner and Mr. Duncan:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Sierra Legal Defence Fund and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society(CPAWS)- Wildlands League regarding the recent Application for Review of land-use planning for Ontario's boreal forest and preservation of wildlife. I value your views and am grateful to you for sharing them with me.

The past two decades have been a time of great change in the management of natural resources in Ontario, as it has been in many other provinces and countries. Ontario's forest policy has shifted to a more balanced ecological approach. Forests are now viewed as part of a larger ecosystem, which is managed to protect and conserve a whole range of values and uses. My colleagues and I understand that preserving Ontario's boreal forest is vital for present and future generations.

I am aware that the Ministries of Natural Resources, Northern Development and Mines, Environment, and Energy have each received the Application for Review regarding the need for land-use planning in Ontario's northern boreal under section 61 of the *Environmental Bill of Rights*. Each ministry has implemented its own procedures for processing applications for review. Once a decision is reached, they will advise all applicants and the Environmental Commissioner's Office.

... 2

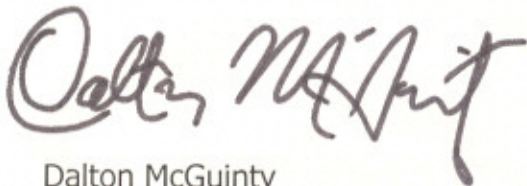


I note that you have sent copies of your correspondence to the respective ministries and am confident that they will give the applications their full consideration.

Ms. Sumner and Mr. Duncan, thank you again for sharing your views on this important topic. Our government looks forward to continuing to work with both of your organizations and your fellow Ontarians to meet your priorities and deliver the results you deserve.

Please accept my best wishes.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dalton McGuinty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dalton" being particularly prominent.

Dalton McGuinty
Premier

- c: The Honourable David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources
 The Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister of the Environment
 The Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Energy
 The Honourable Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Northern Development and Mines