

Honourable Linda Jeffrey,
Minister of Natural Resources,
Suite 6630, 6th Floor, Whitney Block,
99 Wellesley Street West,
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3
416-314-2301(p) 416-325-5316(f) minister.mnr@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Jeffrey,

I am writing to ask you to protect Ontario elk from hunting and agricultural interests. Specifically I urge you to halt the proposed hunt of the tiny population of 467 elk in the Bancroft/North Hastings area and the proposed agricultural kill permits for elk who impact agricultural property.

The elk population is very small, numbering 467 individuals. The elk re-introduction programme appears very precarious. The Lake of the Woods population has dropped from the 104 individuals released 10 years ago to 35 and the Nipissing/French River population has dropped from 172 to 120 individuals. Both the Lake Huron North Shore and Bancroft/North Hastings populations have increased but the numbers of elk in the Lake Huron area remain small, between 110 and 130. Only the Bancroft population has increased to 467 individuals.

Under any reasonable circumstances these animals would be considered “endangered”. At the very least they should be given a special protective status.

Your staff must be directed to bring about a non-lethal resolution to the human/elk conflicts, including an active phase-out and ban on feeding and full farmer compensation for crop and other losses.

If the OMNR elk reintroduction programme is to succeed, I urge you to act now to protect the few elk who are struggling to survive in Ontario. A reply would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name

Address

City

Province

Postal Code

Date