

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,

Re: EBR Numbers 011-0746, 011-0741, 011-0742, 011-0743, 011-0744 and 011-0745

I am writing to you regarding the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Notices. I urge you to withdraw the six EBR proposals that will allow hunting of the Bancroft North Hastings elk population and provide elk kill permits in defense of 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.

Therefore, we urge you to adopt the following recommendations:

1. That elk management initiatives set out in EBR Registry Numbers 011-0746, 011-0741, 011-0742, 011-0744, 011-0743 and 011-0745 be withdrawn;
2. That elk be protected under Ontario's *Endangered Species Act, 2007*;
3. That any lethal or invasive intervention actions be suspended;
4. That the OMNR implement a gradual reduction and ultimate ban on feeding elk, particularly in the Bancroft, North Hastings area where the conflict is most acute;
5. That the OMNR implement a human/wildlife conflict prevention and non-lethal intervention programme for elk; and
6. That the farmers in the Bancroft-North Hastings area who are most affected by the elk, receive full compensation for crop and related losses.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name

Address

City

Province

Postal Code

Date