

March 2, 2017

By email: kathryn.mcgarry@ontario.ca

Hon. Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Whitney Block, 6th Floor, Room 6630
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

Dear Minister McGarry,

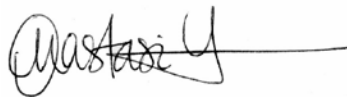
Re: Naturally Resilient: MNR's Natural Resource Climate Adaptation Strategy (2017-2021); EBR Registry Number: 012-9499

Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) is writing to ask that the public consultation be halted, the Environmental Registry notice be withdrawn, and the Ministry reconsider their approach in respect of the proposal: Naturally Resilient: MNR's Natural Resource Climate Adaptation Strategy (2017-2021).

In the above noted Environmental Registry notice (Number 012-9499), it is stated: "Naturally Resilient is focused specifically on adapting MNR's daily business of natural resource management, ...". While CELA applauds the Ministry's effort in seeking to embed climate change adaptation into their areas of operation, Naturally Resilient: MNR's Natural Resource Climate Adaptation Strategy (2017-2021), as currently drafted, does not meet that goal.

Rather than assessing current mandates for those most heavily impacted by climate change (as the Ministry suggests was the approach at p7 of Naturally Resilient), the Ministry, in collaboration with other ministries, ought to be rethinking and revising mandates through the lens of climate change impacts. CELA is disappointed that nothing in Naturally Resilient reflects the detailed recommendations of the Expert Panel on Climate Change Adaptation, particularly with respect to water resources. We are expecting a more integrated and collaborative approach that signals a shift in decision-making within the Ministry and across the Ontario government.

Sincerely,



Anastasia M. Lintner, PhD, LLB
Special Projects Counsel, Healthy Great Lakes

Cc: Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (dianne.saxe@eco.on.ca)
Nick Cheeseman, Manager (Acting), Priorities and Planning Section, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (nick.cheeseman@ontario.ca)

Canadian Environmental Law Association