

ONTARIO PROPERTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS ALLIANCE

Unit A, 135 Church Street, North, Mount Forest, Ontario, N0G 1R0

Phone: 519-323-2308 / Fax: 519-323-0266 / E-Mail: opera@bmts.com / Web Page: www.bmts.com/~opera/

OUTSTANDING LOOSE ENDS

March 12, 2013

Mr. Marc Rondeau, Director, Species at Risk Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources
300 Water Street, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 8M5

Dear Mr. Rondeau:

Re: Species at Risk Information

Receipt of your March letter is acknowledged with thanks.

This detailed and forthright response to species at risk issues raised in our December 15, 2012 letter is much appreciated, a commendation that will accompany our future circulation of same. Clarification of some information so far provided is requested under the following supplementary queries:

- 1. Species at risk with designated habitat is reported to currently total 204 but “observed” species in the Natural Heritage Information Centre database are not included in that number.** Please advise approximate total of these NHIC potential species at risk.
- 2. Approximate acreage of Ontario privately owned land on which alleged species at risk are said to reside has has not been provided as requested.** Please advise total gross acreage of such lands relative to the 204 species with designated habitat as well as for “observed” species listed in the NHIC database.
- 3. The appointed “stakeholder working group” included the Ivey Foundation, an environmental activist identified as the catalyst under which a cartel of professional lobbyists had actually composed Ontario’s latest Species at Risk Act.** Please advise whether Panel attendance of that Foundation confirmed it’s collaborative association with the David Suzuki Foundation, Eco-Justice, Environmental Defense and Ontario Nature.

We note, with regret, only 10 submissions concerning “recovery strategies” were received under EBR 011-7073 and, of these, none came from private landowners without environmental, university, corporate or government affiliation. In and of itself, this bespeaks an entrenched ESA 2007 communication vacuum in Ontario.

Directed to the appropriate Internet link, we scanned the 34 page Panel Report concerning ESA 2007 regulatory amendments. While duly impressed with its intent, scope and recommendations, one wonders how many ordinary landowners directly affected by the Report will ever get to read it. To enhance its future distribution, we hope recognized landowner organizations were not among those Panel invitees who declined to attend. Meanwhile, the organizational talents of the Report’s moderator, Ms. Karen Wianecki of Planning Solutions, are equally noteworthy. However, her extensive career profile, itself 6 pages in length, reveals a previous and frequent relationship as a senior MNR associate which, in our view, can be perceived to detract from consensus impartiality of the Report.

It appears species at risk legislation and its subsidiary programs has required more than \$80,000,000.00 in public funding over the past 6 years, an amount that presumably includes the contract cost of selected consultants. Please advise, as an example, the total charge to the provincial government levied by Planning Solutions in arranging, organizing and managing the 2012 “stakeholders working group”.

Yours truly

R. A. (Bob) Fowler, Secretary
Ontario Property and Environmental Rights Alliance

c.c. OPERA Members and Supporters

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