

“MUNICIPAL RESOLUTIONS VERSUS PROVINCIAL INTENTIONS”

Township of Leeds and Thousand Islands

April 23, 2007

MOVED BY: Charlie Kellington (Councillor)

SECONDED BY: Geraldine Dickson (Councillor)

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario posted its framework for the development of species at risk legislation on the Environmental Bill of Rights web site on December 22, 2006, the day that most municipal offices closed until the New Year; and

WHEREAS the currently proposed language to address species at risk could impose moratoriums affecting the livelihoods of more than 1.2 million peoples and more than \$100 billion in economic activity; and

WHEREAS there are 12 Provincial and 5 Federal pieces of legislation including the Federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) and the Provincial Endangered Species Act of 1971 that currently provide protection for some species; and

WHEREAS the new proposed Ontario Species at Risk legislation as written will:

- * add a new and costly layer of bureaucracy and regulatory burden
- * create an Act that will not achieve recovery of endangered species
- * impose an Act that will not be supported by landowners, stewards, employers, unions or developers
- * create a further disincentive to invest in Ontario
- * result in a loss of jobs
- * result in a loss of economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS the currently proposed framework for a species at risk Act is wrong for Ontario and will negatively impact the farming community, the forestry and mining sectors, urban planners and homebuilders, fur managers, anglers and hunters, sand, stone and gravel industry, hydro electric developers and many, many others; and

WHEREAS public hearings by a Legislative Committee prior to Second Reading adoption by the Ontario Legislature will allow for a full and proper debate on the principle of the Bill, not just how well the clauses meet the intent of the Act:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Leeds and Thousand Islands write to the Premier of Ontario requesting that full public hearings be held into the proposed Species at Risk Act and that those hearings be held prior to Second Reading by the Ontario Legislature;

CARRIED: Frank Kinsella (Mayor)

O.P.E.R.A. Note: This Resolution is re-printed and posted to our Internet site by permission of the Township of Leeds and Thousand Islands. It was endorsed and circulated by a number of municipal councils across Ontario in April and May 2007. Nevertheless, a new provincial Species at Risk Act (Bill 184) advanced to Third Reading and legislative enactment on May 16, 2007. At this time, we don't know if the Premier ever acknowledged municipal protest letters concerning that statute and, to our knowledge, no public hearings as requested were ever convened.