



ONTARIO FOREST INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION
Home of CLA Grading and Inspection



Growing a stronger, greener Ontario

October 16, 2014

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A1A1

RE: Permanently Protect 750,000 m³ for the 10,000 Ontarians that rely on Wood Supply from Algonquin Park for their Livelihood.

Dear Premier Wynne,

In response to *Managing New Challenges: Annual Report 2013-2014* (herein referred to as the Report), released on October 7th, 2014 by the Office of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (herein referred to as the ECO), the Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) would like to address the superficial section concerning Algonquin Park.

The ECO's recommendation to ban logging in Algonquin Park is ideological, not based on science. Thus, the OFIA urges you to permanently protect sustainable forest management in Algonquin Park at the approved planned harvest volume level of 750,000 m³ (2010-2020 FMP) providing certainty, security and room to grow for the 10,000 direct and indirect jobs that this renewable natural resource supports. "Based on a 2012-2013 harvest level of 333,576 m³, the Algonquin Park Forest contributed \$96.1 million to the Ontario economy in terms of value added." (PEFC, July 2014) In 2013- 2014, the harvest level increased to 434,132 m³. The social and economic opportunities associated with the renewable fibre from Algonquin Park cannot be ignored or replaced. And with today's recovery, using the Crown's renewable natural resource to grow opportunities for hardworking families should be our collective goal.

The forest products sector has deep roots in this region of Ontario with mills and forestry companies, predominantly family-owned, small and medium sized enterprises that have operated continuously for several generations. The Report's suggestion that forestry practices are compromising the ecological integrity of Algonquin Park is false and misleading. Forest management practices in Algonquin Park are governed by one of the most comprehensive and stringent management systems in the world. This includes a set of clear laws and policies, ample regulatory oversight and enforcement, as well as ongoing monitoring and scientific research. Management practices in the Park have been improving ever since Algonquin Park was founded as a sanitarium and strategic timber reserve in 1893.

Scientific evidence is conspicuously and entirely lacking from the Report. The section on Algonquin Park is a jumble of circular logic and preconceived notions found in long standing fundraising campaigns by Toronto special interest groups like CPAWS and Ontario Nature, not an analysis of facts about forest management in Algonquin Park. The troubling lack of evidence is accompanied by the inclusion of irrelevant and deceptive photographs. Many photographs used in the Report are not from Algonquin Park or even Ontario.

The Report overlooks the wide-ranging implications of the recommendation to end sustainable forest management in Algonquin Park. Total direct employment associated with wood harvested from Algonquin Park is 2,775 people; indirect employment is estimated at over 8,000. A recent analysis of wood supply levels in central Ontario by OMNRF and the AFA was unequivocal in its conclusion that further reductions to forestry operations would have significant socio-economic impacts. This was confirmed by KBM Resources Group during a study of the socio-economic significance of forestry in the Park.


Since 2006, the OFIA and community stakeholders has expressed concerns on numerous occasions with regard to the lack of true consultation and the lack of any credible rationale to ban sustainable forest management in the Park.

Ontario's forest products sector is experiencing a positive rebound after years of economic hardship due to the global recession. As a result, new opportunities for Ontario's green forestry economy are on the horizon. There are 14 communities in this region that receive a significant amount of their wood supply from the Park and have substantial employment related to the forest industry. After having survived the economic downturn, local rural communities should not be precluded from participating in the resurgence of existing sectors and the emergence of new bio products sectors.

We appreciated Minister Mauro's quick response on October 7, 2014, clarifying that "he won't ban commercial tree harvesting in the park."

Building on the Minister's statement, the members of the OFIA urge you to publicly support forestry in Algonquin Park and permanently protect Algonquin Park's multi-use legacy providing the 10,000 hardworking Ontarians who rely on sustainable forest management in the Park for their livelihood with certainty for their futures.

Forestry in Algonquin Park operates in a clear and transparent manner. The OFIA would love to invite you to tour the operations and facilities and learn about the forestry legacy in Algonquin Park that our members are so proud of.

All the best,


Jamie Lim
President and CEO

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cc Hon. Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Cabinet
MPPs from all parties
Municipal Stakeholders
OFIA Board of Directors