

Office of the
County Warden



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February 28, 2018

Premier Kathleen Wynne
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1
Via email: KWynne.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

The Honourable Nathalie Des Rosiers
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Suite 6630, 6th Floor, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3
Via email: NDesRosiers.mpp@liberal.ola.org

Dear Premier Wynne and Minister Des Rosiers:

On February 28, 2018 the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the County of Renfrew passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS approximately 6,900 people in Renfrew County are directly or indirectly employed by the forest sector and many of our communities are highly reliant on the local forest industry;

WHEREAS approximately 30% of the productive forest land base on Crown lands in Renfrew County has some form of species at risk restriction on regular operations;

WHEREAS Crown forests are sustainably managed according to the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* (CFSA). Species at Risk and all other forest values are protected using the best available science, and economic and social values should be weighted with equal importance;

WHEREAS it is desirable to allow forest managers and companies to continue to provide for species at risk under one Act, the CFSA, while an independent panel develops a long-term approach that protects species at risk and their habitat and minimizes impacts to the forest industry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County of Renfrew asks that the Province provides the forest sector with the certainty it needs to invest in the future, through a 5-year extension in Section 22.1 of the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* instead of the proposed 2-year extension;

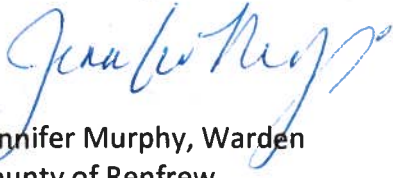
AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County of Renfrew supports the establishment of an independent panel of credible stakeholders directly affected in their day-to-day lives by the management of Crown land forests who will look at the facts of the matter to come up with a long-term solution;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT these decisions be made in a timely manner and shared before March 30, 2018;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County of Renfrew circulate this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, MPP John Yakabuski, Ontario Forestry Coalition, Ontario Forest Industries Association and all municipal councils of Ontario requesting that they endorse and support this resolution and communicate their support to the Ontario government.

The County of Renfrew recognizes that our communities, like many others in rural and northern Ontario, are dependent on the forest sector and have been impacted by the *Endangered Species Act* since its inception in 2007. We look forward to improvements to the Act that will lead to a better future for local businesses, communities and all species in the forests that surround us.

Yours sincerely,



Jennifer Murphy, Warden
County of Renfrew
warden@countyofrenfrew.on.ca

- c. MPP John Yakabuski, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
All Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Forestry Coalition
Ontario Forest Industries Association
Ottawa Valley Forest Inc.
Algonquin Forestry Authority