



Ontario
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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FEB 28 2014

cc: Clerk's

JERRY J. OUELLETTE, M.P.P.

Oshawa

January 9, 2014

Warden Brian Milne & Council
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Dear Warden & Council,

On November 14th, the Minister of Natural Resources announced a program intended to address public safety and deal with the problem of nuisance bears in northern Ontario.

The two-year MNR pilot project would allow a spring bear hunt for Ontario resident hunters from May 1-June 15 in certain regions of northern Ontario. More specifically, the Minister announced that the spring bear hunt would take place following council approval in Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) near Timmins, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie and North Bay.

As the MNR critic for the Official Opposition, I am pleased to see the MNR move forward with this program and feel it is long overdue. In fact, I commend the government for adopting our PC caucus policy which was presented back in September at our Policy Convention. As stated, we feel that northerners and northern municipalities should have a greater say in wildlife management decisions that directly affect them.

And while we believe this strategy is a good first step, it falls short by picking and choosing certain regions and individual municipalities over others. Public safety in other smaller, outlying communities is no different than the safety of people in larger urban northern cities. With this in mind, I would like to know your Council's formal position on being excluded from this program and if you would deliberate passing a resolution to receive the same consideration as those municipalities allowed a spring bear hunt under this program.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Yours Sincerely,

Jerry J. Ouellette MPP, Oshawa

Official Opposition Critic, Ministry of Natural Resources

