

## **Ministry of Natural Resources Transformation**

To enable the Ministry of Natural Resources to transform the stewardship and conservation of Ontario's natural resources in the most fiscally responsible way, the ministry is proposing to:

- transform key parts of its legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines with a view to streamlining and automating permitting processes and requirements;
- conduct resource management with a stronger regional focus and fewer field offices; and redesign its science and delivery activities to shift away from a species-by-species approach to a risk-based ecosystem/regional approach.

To support jobs in Ontario's forest industry, the government is proposing amendments to the Crown Forest Sustainability Act that would provide some flexibility in forest management planning and permit the charging of fees to reflect a shift towards more cost-recovery and user-pay models. These amendments would bring the Crown Forest Sustainability Act in line with other major natural resource management statutes.

The Province is proposing amendments to the Endangered Species Act that maintain its commitment to protecting species at risk while streamlining approvals and permitting.

To support the economic growth and future sustainability of Ontario's valued natural resources, the government is proposing amendments to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act that would allow a reduction in the number of various authorizations and licences that are currently required. Instead, the proposed amendments would allow the ministry to set standards, which individuals or organizations would need to meet.

To provide modern, streamlined services for consumers and businesses, the government is proposing amendments to the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act that would enable the Minister of Natural Resources to coordinate water-management planning with construction approval for dams and other structures on a lake or river.

The government is proposing amendments to the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act to provide the minister with the flexibility needed to conclude the work of the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Management Advisory Board.

For an integrated approach to the protection of green space in Ontario's Golden Horseshoe, the government is proposing to amend the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act. This would enable joint review and public consultation on the Greenbelt Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

To support jobs in the forest industry in northern Ontario, the government is proposing to amend the Ontario Forest Tenure Modernization Act to give the minister the authority to make loans to Ontario local forest management corporations, with the approval of the Minister of Finance.

To be more efficient and effective, the government is proposing to amend the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act to provide more flexibility in areas such as park management planning.

The government is proposing to amend the Public Lands Act to make it possible for the Minister of Natural Resources to delegate selected functions to persons outside government, for example, to allow the ministry to enter into agreements with municipalities to manage Crown land within municipal boundaries.