

January 17, 2005

Premier Dalton McGuinty  
Government of Ontario  
Room 281, Main Legislative Building  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
M7A 1A4



Dear Premier McGuinty:

Re: Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR)  
Registry Number PB04E6022

Although I no longer dwell in Ontario, I have not lost touch with my home and still return to visit and perform.

I have long been an advocate of protecting all animals and consequently have learned of the Ministry of Natural Resources, current wildlife proposals.

I understand, Mr. McGuinty that in spite of your written promise to address the wildlife rehabilitation crisis created by the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry has quietly posted new regulations that will, in fact, make the current crisis even worse and eliminate what little help is left for wildlife in Ontario.

Ontario must adopt the regulations governing wildlife rehabilitation care and release standards that prevail throughout North America, such as those used by the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council [IWRC] and the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association.

Releasing orphaned wildlife within one kilometer of the site they were found is virtually impossible, especially in urban situations. The standards set by IWRC and NWRA of 10 miles if the site is appropriate to the well being of the animal, is much more realistic.

Orphaned wildlife should be raised with others of their own species, to learn proper conspecific behaviours, and the group should then be released together in appropriate natural areas.

The removal of the foster parents ability of rehabilitating orphaned wildlife in their homes, under the supervision of an Authorized Wildlife Custodian, will cause a major shortage of rehabilitators which will result in the needless death of hundreds perhaps thousands of animals. This is unconscionable.

The MNR proposals will cause the too many volunteer wildlife rehabilitators in Ontario to be unable to provide their free service to the public and will leave thousands of members of the public with no avenue to turn to when faced with injured or orphaned wildlife questions or problems.

On behalf of Ontario's wildlife and their rehabilitators I ask that you change your proposals to emulate those of the IWRC and NWRA.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

Liona Boyd, CM. LLD

c.c.

David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources

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