



ONTARIO PARKS

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October 30, 2009

Dear Sir/Madam:

Subject: Proposed Changes to Ontario Parks "Phase Out" Policy

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is seeking your input on proposed changes to the "phase out" policy.

The phase out policy was established in 1989. It includes a deadline to phase out certain activities in some provincial parks within a 21 year period (i.e. December 31, 2009). The activities are private tenure (e.g. recreation camps and agriculture), and commercial harvesting (e.g. trapping, bait harvesting, commercial fishing and wild rice harvesting).

The phase-out policy is currently undergoing a review. As a result, a change to grant a **lifetime extension** is being proposed by MNR for those private tenure and commercial harvesting permits/licences that would have expired at the end of 2009 in accordance with the current policy. The lifetime extension would apply to the holder(s) of the current permit/licence as of October 30, 2009 for as long as that person(s) is alive. Transfers would not be permitted, except that the transfer of harvesting licences to or between Aboriginal people will continue to be permitted.

However, according to this proposed change to the policy, there could be exceptions where the lifetime extension would not be granted. For instance, where there is concern for safety or park values, the Ministry would work with the existing permit/licence holder to establish conditions to mitigate negative impacts of the activity. Additionally, where an Aboriginal interest in a trapline is identified, discussions with the existing licence holder would be initiated to determine options.

Aboriginal peoples may continue to exercise Aboriginal or treaty rights and are not affected by the current policy or proposed changes.

Until the policy review is complete and decisions are made, the affected activities will not be phased out as originally scheduled by December 31, 2009.

Additional information on the policy review, including a list of parks affected by phase out where these activities occur, is available on the Ontario Parks website, http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/phase_out_policy.html. A policy proposal is also posted on the Environmental Registry, <http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/>, registry number 010-8203. Hard copies of this information are available upon request.

For more information or to submit comments, please contact:

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Comments on the Environmental Registry posting must be received by **December 14, 2009** and we are seeking your feedback by that date. Please provide your email address (if available) with any correspondence, as our preference for future correspondence will be email.

Notification of the approved policy will be sent to you and a decision notice will be posted on the Environmental Registry.

Your input on the phase out policy and proposed changes is appreciated.

Yours truly,



Barton Feilders, BES, MCIP
Manager, Planning and Research Section
Ontario Parks

The Ministry of Natural Resources is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of Ontario's *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006*. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, however, your comments will become part of the record of consultation and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by the Ministry to send you information about future park planning or policy initiatives. If you have questions about use of the personal information you provide please contact Pat Walsh, Strategic Planning Officer, Ontario Parks (tel.: 705-755-1773).