



February 3, 2014

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
Via email: kwynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto ON, M7A 1A1

The Honourable David Oraziotti, Minister of Natural Resources
Via email: doraziotti.mpp@liberal.ola.org
Suite 6630 6th Floor, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON, M7A 1W3

Dear Premier Wynne and Minister Oraziotti:

Re: Reinstatement of the Ontario Ranger Program

Please be advised that at a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Board members raised their concerns regarding the discontinued Ontario Ranger Program. Many of the Board members expressed seeing firsthand not only the benefits of this program, but also the impact it has had on youths from large urban centres in its almost 70 year existence. While we recognize that cuts are being felt in all areas, we strongly urge you to consider reinstating this important youth program for the betterment of Ontario youth. The following resolution was adopted:

Whereas: in September 2012 the provincial government cancelled the 70 year old Ontario Ranger Program (ORP), formerly known as the Ontario Junior Ranger Program; and

Whereas when the government cancelled the Ontario Ranger Program, it claimed the Stewardship Youth Ranger Program (SYP), an existing day program, would deliver the same experience and would offer more jobs; and

Whereas this day program does not offer the same quality of experience youth gained under the previous ORP in respect to knowledge of resource management and without the distractions of daily life; and

Whereas since 2012, 278 Ontario Ranger jobs have been eliminated; and

Whereas in previous years, more than half of the Ontario Rangers were students from large urban centres. By contrast, this year the current day program is just not accessible to those students in those urban centres; and

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Whereas when the government cancelled the ORP, many youths lost an opportunity for a once-in-a-lifetime experience because the ORP only required enrolment in an Ontario high school and acceptance into the program was based on a postal-code lottery system; and

Whereas cancellation of the 70 year old ORP does a disservice to public services in Ontario to those who have come to admire and respect the natural beauty of our province; and

Whereas Conservation Authorities encourage students to learn about the importance of conserving our shared natural environment and what they can do to make a positive impact; and

Whereas the provincial government committed \$295 million dollars in the 2013 provincial budget for youth employment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority supports the Friends of the Ontario Ranger Program campaign to restore the Ontario Ranger Program in the 2014 provincial budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority shall send a letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Minister of Natural Resources, David Oraziotti, urging their government to restore the Ontario Ranger Program for future generations of young people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority forward this resolution for support to the other 35 conservation authorities.

Yours truly,



D. Gayle Wood
Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Conservation Ontario
Ontario's Conservation Authorities
Lake Simcoe Watershed MPPs
Lake Simcoe Watershed Municipalities
LSRCA Board of Directors