



November 29, 2018

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of the Province of Ontario [doug.ford@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.ford@pc.ola.org)  
Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ontario

**Re: Environmental Commissioner of Ontario: Bill 57**

Dear Premier Ford:

On behalf of North Pigeon Lake Association (NPLA) members in the Municipality of Trent Lakes and the City of Kawartha Lakes, I am writing to oppose your government's proposal to eliminate the office of Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO).

NPLA supports actions that preserve and promote the welfare of the shoreline and the waters of north Pigeon Lake, its catchment area, and more broadly across Ontario. We promote good government, including environmental stewardship.

On November 15, 2018, your Government introduced Bill 57, including plans to eliminate the office of the ECO, and transfer some of the ECO's roles to the Auditor General, and the Ministry of the Environment, Parks and Conservation. This move would defeat the entire purpose of an independent, non-partisan officer in the important role of environmental oversight. The ECO is the people's environmental watchdog, appointed by the Ontario Legislature—not the government in power—specifically to attempt to shield the ECO from undue political interference.

The ECO's role supports public participation through the Environmental Registry, as well as government accountability for decisions that affect our environment. The ECO's office reviews and reports on government progress on daunting environmental issues such as invasive species, water protection, pesticide management, and climate change.

For 25 years, these rights—and the ECO's powers, duties and functions—have been enshrined in the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR).

**On behalf of our members, NPLA calls on your government to reverse the call to end the office of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario.**

Sincerely,

Warren I. Dunlop  
President, North Pigeon Lake Association  
[president.npla@gmail.com](mailto:president.npla@gmail.com)

cc: Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Official Opposition [ahorwath-qp@ndp.on.ca](mailto:ahorwath-qp@ndp.on.ca)  
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