



February 6th, 2020

Hon. John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

Hon. Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Re: Unprotected – Canada’s Largest Known Old-Growth Eastern Hemlock Forest in Ontario

The [North Pigeon Lake Association](#) (NPLA) represents members in the Municipality of Trent Lakes and the City of Kawartha Lakes. 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 also promote good government, including sound environmental stewardship.

Recently, [Ancient Forest Exploration Research](#) (AFER), [Peterborough Youth Leadership in Sustainability](#) (YLS) and the [Wilderness Committee](#) (WC) identified an unprotected stand of old-growth eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) forest (possibly the largest known old growth eastern hemlock stand in Canada) situated on crown land in Peterborough County north of Catchacoma Lake. On January 14th, 2020, the Council of the Municipality of Trent Lakes (MoTL) passed a resolution in support of placing a moratorium on logging in the area.

The NPLA has reviewed the material provided by AFER, YLS, and WC. We concur that this area should be protected intact for its natural heritage and scientific values, for its ecosystem services including carbon storage and sequestration, and habitat for species-at-risk (SAR).

For the many reasons outlined in their [letter of January 28th, 2020](#), we support the MoTL Mayor and Council’s call to put a moratorium on logging in the Catchacoma stand effective immediately, and to consider options for protection such as: designation as an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) or Nature Reserve, or annexation to Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Provincial Park.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Warren Dunlop,
President, North Pigeon Lake Association
On behalf of the NPLA Board of Directors

Cc: Mayor and Council, Municipality of Trent Lakes