

# THE EXPLORATIONIST

*The Newsletter of the Ontario Prospectors Association*

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE STAFF AND  
DIRECTORS OF THE ONTARIO PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION!!**

FALL 2013

The OPA just completed the Ontario Exploration and Geoscience Symposium in Sudbury. There was a definite influence of the downturn of our industry. The event had approximately 30-35% less attendance than normal and there were lots of people looking for work. Though, the industry attendees, as always were optimistic and expecting a turnaround at anytime!

Even with the lower attendance, the participants had a great networking event that brought together industry explorers, contractors, suppliers and government. The presentations (29 speakers) included companies, geophysical contractors and government. There was great interest in the industry presentations this year since there was few projects being active but those that were funded were definitely successful. Booths and posters presented were the focus of many participants with excellent interaction of the attendees.

The event was held at the United Steelworkers Hall for the second year. This venue is working well and even with the drop in attendees doesn't feel like it is lacking of attendees.

The OPA would like to thank all the attendees, speakers, booth and poster presenters and the Symposium Supporters. Without you the event does not happen!

### **Symposium Supporters – Thank You!!**

<b>Awards Dinner</b>	Orbit Garant Ontario Inc.
<b>Diamond Level</b>	Overburden Drilling Management Ltd.
<b>Platinum Level</b>	Ontario Exploration Corporation
<b>Gold Level</b>	SGX Resources Inc. Temex Resources Corp.
<b>Palladium Level</b>	Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation (CEMI)
<b>Silver Level</b>	Lake Shore Gold Corp. Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC)

**The Ontario Prospectors Association Awards** were presented the Tuesday night during a great dinner at the Howard Johnson's Hotel. The OPA Awards criteria is fairly open with the determining factor being the person has completed something that has advanced prospecting, the knowledge of prospecting or geology or was successful in the field in some way. It is the "Ontario Prospectors Award" leaving this open for the right person be it industry, government or prospector.

This year the OPA selected David Christianson, Mike Tremblay, Jack Robert, David Palmer and the Probe Mines Exploration Team to receive the Award.

**Dave Christianson** holds a Permanent (Lifetime) Prospectors License in the Province of Ontario; he has held a license continuously since 1960 (53 years).

As an independent prospector he optioned numerous gold and base metal properties; he learned his craft from his father (prospector and claims inspector), veteran prospectors and colleagues, in mining districts/camps throughout Northern Ontario. This "education" from successful mine finders instilled in Dave the awareness that he too had to transfer knowledge/" give back" and share his abundant exploration abilities with younger prospectors by mentoring and also formally through the executive positions he held with the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association, all of which he did unselfishly. This education theme that Dave pursued throughout his career, also included the public, government(including ADMs and Ministers) and other industries on the land.

Dave Christianson was a seasoned exploration manager throughout his career, managing significant exploration budgets on a variety of gold and base metal projects. Mr. Christianson was President of the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association for much of the 1990s, providing leadership during a challenging time of low metal prices. Dave Christianson devoted significant time and effort as the senior Northwestern Ontario mineral industry representative, on the MNR led Lands for Life process, passionately defending such themes as: retention of high mineral potential lands for exploration as crown land, and access requirements in the industry.

Dave chaired a Forest Management Planning Committee (late 1990s early 2000s) representing NWOPA, that implemented a strategy and interface with the forestry companies of Northwestern Ontario. Dave met with key foresters and senior company officials in charge of SFLs (Sustainable Forest Licenses) to look for common ground/needs, develop relationships, and create awareness of what the exploration industry is about.

Dave was a member of the NWOPA Communication Committee. One of his key contributions was as editor and writer of the NWOPA newsletter (Bearshit and Blueberries) for a 10-12 year period. The publication provided NWOPA members and government (i.e ADM MNDM) with key industry information, insights and concerns of the day.

Dave, following his years as President, continued to give back to the organization, as a 5 year member of the Awards Committee, refining selection criteria and working with a three person panel on selections.

Dave earned the title “Director Emeritus” in 2001 from NWOPA.

He received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005 from NWOPA, at the Northwestern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium’s April meeting of that year. The symposium has grown to be a very successful technical and networking event that now hosts 600+ delegates annually, because of current and past dedication at the executive and board levels within the OPA and NWOPA, including long standing leadership from people such as Dave Christianson!

**Prospectors Jack Robert and Mike Tremblay along with David Palmer and the Probe Mines Limited Exploration Team** were nominated for the discovery of the Borden Gold Project. You are probably aware Probe Mines has recently released a mineral resource of over 4 million ounces of gold on the Borden Gold Project. This is a new and unique discovery in that it lies within the Kapuskasing Structural Zone, an area previously thought to be too high in metamorphic grade to contain any significant gold mineralization. Undaunted by dogma, Jack and Mike obtained Ontario Prospector Assistance Program (OPAP) grants way back in the old days to fund their innovative and bold prospecting initiative. That work led to the discovery of minor anomalous gold mineralization at Borden Lake, approximately 15 km east of Chapleau. Lack of interest in the area meant the project was shelved for a good many years before Mike and Jack returned to the area in 2008 and did some follow-up prospecting and acquired more encouraging results. To his credit, David Palmer, President and CEO of Probe Mines took the chance of acquiring the property in an area largely considered to be un-prospective. The first diamond drilling campaign of 8 holes, Probe Mines encountered widespread gold mineralization that has ultimately developed into the current gold deposit and turned the once shunned area into one of the hottest exploration plays in the Province. Indeed the Borden Gold Project is shaping up to be perhaps the most important new gold discoveries in Ontario since Hemlo.

The original prospectors, Mike Tremblay, Jack Robert along with David Palmer and his exploration team of Probe Mines Limited are justly deserving of the Ontario Prospectors Association Award.



Left to Right: OPA President Roger Poulin, Mike Tremblay, Jack Robert, David Palmer; President, Probe Mines Limited, Craig Yuill and Breanne Beh; Probe Mines Exploration Team and John Gammon, Director, Probe Mines Limited

After the Award presentation David Palmer (pictured below) presented the history and overview of the Borden Gold Project bringing all in attendance up to speed on this blossoming project.



**Congratulations!!!**  
OEGS Early Registration Draw Winner: David Hunt  
Lanyard Return Draw Winner: Brad McBain

Two comments received about this year's OEGS:

1. Hi Garry. Thanks again to you and Susan for taking the time to make this meeting a success. I got some very good feedback from our attendees
2. Thanks for organizing a low-volume/high quality event. I've come away with some exceptionally good meetings and contacts owing to the intimacy of the event. A nice surprise given the current market.  
I have a bunch of good notes from presentations, but would like to review them with images and more detail. Are the presentations posted for review?

**NOTE:** A CD with the speakers presentations is available by contacting the OPA office.

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### **Ontario is Reviewing its Land Use Planning and Appeal System-Regional Workshops**

Ontario is [reviewing](#) its land use planning and appeal system to make sure it is working well and is responsive to the changing needs of our communities. We want to ensure the system is predictable, transparent and cost-effective.

We are consulting with municipalities, Aboriginal groups, community groups, the building and development industry, the general public and other key stakeholders on whether changes to the [land use planning system](#) are needed.

Regional workshops on the land use planning and appeal system will be held at specific locations across Ontario. The table below provides details on locations, dates and times of these workshops. To confirm your attendance, please visit our [website](#).

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>RSVP</b>
Sault Ste. Marie	Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013	Bumbacco Room, Essar Centre, 269 Queen Street East Sault Ste. Marie	Nov. 8, 2013
Kitchener-Waterloo	Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013	Subscriber's Lounge The Aud 400 East Avenue Kitchener	Nov. 8, 2013
Ottawa	Thursday, Nov. 21, 2013	Residence Commons Conference Room, Carleton University 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa	TBD
Peel (Mississauga)	Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013	TBD	TBD
Toronto	Monday, Dec. 9, 2013	TBD	TBD

You can also visit our posting on the Environmental Bill of Rights Environmental Registry at [www.ebr.gov.on.ca](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca).

**The deadline for your input is January 10, 2014.**

We will send you updates on our progress, and thank you in advance for your support.



**ONTARIO PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION (OPA) comments on: Development of a Minister's Regulation for Proposed Provisional Protection under the Far North Act (EBR Registry Number: 011-8933).**

The Ministry of Natural Resources has provided a workbook that describes the proposed approach of Provisional Protection and potential uses. A series of Questions are posed to encourage comments on the approach.

**Question 1: Do you agree with the proposed approach, for eligible areas where ecological, cultural and/or heritage values would be considered?**

The OPA does not believe in the proposed approach of provisional protection. The protection of ecological, cultural and/or heritage values is adequately protected in the present process at the Draft Plan stage of a Land Use Plan. Also there has been recent changes to the Mining Act that allow for the removal of such sites from staking by concerned Aboriginal groups. Therefore this Regulation is not required at this time.

**Question 2: Are there any other types of values that should be considered?**

No.

**Question 3: Should provisional protection be a planning tool that is available earlier than the Draft Plan stage in the community based land use planning process?**

Provisional Protection at the Draft Plan Stage is adequate. The Draft Plan stage is the point where all the factors are taken into account for the determination of potential Land Use. Provisionally Protecting areas prior to this places the hazard of land being frozen from exploration for numerous years and mineral cycles could be missed and economic benefit potentially lost. The recent changes to the Mining Act can be employed to protect areas identified as ecological, cultural and/or

heritage values even before the Land Use plan discussions have started with MNR and the Community!

**Question 4: If yes, under what circumstances should it be considered earlier?**

N.A.

**Question 5: Are there any additional considerations?**

N.A.

**Question 6: Are there other types of information that should be considered when evaluating requests for provisional protection?**

The OPA has been a strong proponent of science based land use planning. The use of the Provincial Significant Mineral Potential (PSMP) process is obviously critical prior to Provisionally Protecting lands. The main issue with using PSMP in the Far North is the lack of geoscience information and previous exploration due to access and exposed rock. The fear is that the Provisional Protection would be placed on the land without adequate review of the geological/economic potential if completed at the Terms of Reference point of the Land Use Plan. It should be that a thorough geoscience study be completed prior to any final Land Use Plans are implemented.

**Question 7: What information related to environmental, social and economic interests/values should be considered when evaluating requests for the designation of an area of provisional protection?**

Focusing on social and economic interests/values specifically thorough geoscience information is required, as mentioned above. PSMP falls short when there has been little or no previous exploration in a region that helps highlight potential. Specifically a review of the historic claim maps to see if claims existed should be undertaken and a series of elder interview questions could be set up to determine if anyone had seen exploration activities on the land that may not have been documented with MNDM.

**Question 8: What information and methods should be used in the evaluation and consideration of these interests/values?**

Answered above

**Question 9: It is proposed that provisional protection should be reviewed after 3 years, or at the Draft Plan stage if completed before 3 years. Is the proposed timeframe reasonable?**

The time frame of 3 years is potentially longer than a mineral cycle. There should be no Provisional Protection before the Draft Plan and a Draft Plan should progress to a formal plan in less than 2 years.

**Question 10: Are there any additional considerations?**

When a Provisional Protection is granted at the Draft Plan point and a withdrawal under the Mining Act is placed on the lands an automatic opening of the Lands should be tied to the withdrawal. This timeframe of perhaps 2 years would cause the Land Use to be finalized. At acceptance of the Land Use a permanent withdrawal could occur.

The OPA would like to request to participate in committees that are proposed to review or discuss potential Regulations or Policies for the Far North Act. As expressed in the answers above the OPA believes this Regulation duplicates the Mining Act and is just more bureaucracy.



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**Sudbury, Ontario, Canada**  
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**Tel: (705) 525- 0992**  
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**November 18, 2013**

**An Open Letter to the People of Northern Ontario - For Immediate Release**

As the head of a junior exploration company exploring for gold in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, I have spent my entire career working in remote areas of the country and partnering with Aboriginal communities to develop social and economic opportunities through our exploration efforts for all to benefit from. There has never been a more exciting time to be part of Ontario's mining sector, knowing how much untapped potential exists in this Province. Yet it is increasingly frustrating to see that this potential is being put at great risk by the Ontario Government's mining policies and its unwillingness to effectively engage with Aboriginal communities.

No doubt, many of you have heard that my company, Northern Superior Resources Inc. (NSR) **filed a lawsuit against the Government of Ontario** to recover millions in damages suffered as a result of the Government's failure to consult with certain First Nations. The Government of Ontario granted NSR rights to certain mineral claims near Sachigo Lake in Northwestern Ontario in 2005, an area known by the Government to fall within First Nation territory under the James Bay Treaty. NSR's rights to these

claims were renewed by the Government of Ontario on several occasions and continue to stand today.

Under Canadian law, the Government has had for many years now a legal duty to consult with Aboriginal communities as early as possible whenever they might be impacted by the actions of Government, including, for example, where Government grants rights to a mining company to stake and to explore for minerals. Despite this duty, the Government of Ontario did not consult with any Aboriginal community in the area who might be impacted by our work and did nothing to ensure we would be able to exercise the mineral exploration rights NSR had been granted. Ontario simply sat on the sidelines.

NSR's relationships with First Nations in other areas of Ontario and Quebec have been and continue to be excellent, and we have always enjoyed building and developing these and other relationships. NSR on its own accord engaged and accommodated the local First Nation, successfully negotiating a series of exploration benefits agreements. However, sometime in 2011, at a time when other First Nations across Ontario had increasingly begun to make well publicized and significant demands on industry, the local First Nation changed its tactics culminating in NSR being evicted from the area of the claims in late 2012. Had the Government of Ontario carried out its duty to engage and consult with the local First Nation back in 2005 when it should have, and certainly before NSR was evicted, the situation NSR finds itself in today would not have come about.

This is not the first time something like this has occurred in Ontario. In fact, **this is unfortunately a growing trend that puts at risk Ontario's reputation as a safe place to invest.** In the past four years, the Government of Ontario has had to compensate two other mineral exploration companies who faced similar challenges with local First Nations to the tune of several million dollars each and has faced other similar lawsuits.

The Government of Ontario compounded our situation by arbitrarily and possibly in contravention of the Mining Act, withdrawing 23,000km<sup>2</sup> of land from future claim staking to avoid further conflict involving another First Nation community in the area, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KIFN). This Government created this "exclusion zone" without consulting either the KIFN or industry or NSR. **As a result of this action by the Government, an area approximately four times the size of Prince Edward Island cannot be explored for mineral potential or developed.** This "exclusion zone" is in the vicinity of, and in some cases directly adjacent to NSR's claims and as a result, severely restricts our ability to expand our claim base if warranted, further damaging the value of our existing claims in the area.

The Government's failures are not limited to the local First Nation that NSR did engage. More recently, both the KIFN and a and another First Nation, based in Manitoba, have begun to assert that NSR's claims also fall within their traditional territories, and they each have imposed a moratorium on all mining work. **These moratoriums and evictions have been the result of the Government of Ontario's failures.** No mining company can be expected to continue to try to work in such conditions.

NSR has been damaged by the irresponsible lack of engagement by the Ontario Government. The Liberal Government's position has been that the problem is between NSR and the local First Nation only and that it can somehow be fixed through more meetings facilitated by the Government. Like most junior mining companies we don't have either the time or the money to wait for the Government to do what it should by law have done years ago. We have repeatedly offered the Government a reasonable settlement and to give them the claims and the benefit of NSR's work over several years. The Government just says no.

NSR believed that the Province of Ontario was a safe place to invest, in part because it believed that the Government of Ontario would do what it is required by the law to do to ensure that companies like ours can actually exercise the rights granted to us. Unfortunately, NSR is not an isolated case, and **this growing trend is putting Ontario's reputation as a safe region to invest in mining at risk.** For years, companies seeking to develop the Ring of Fire have faced incredible hurdles, despite engagement through this Government's new Mining Act (too little, too late?) and large investments of tax dollars. How can Ontario possibly expect to attract mining companies to continue investment in Northern Ontario when the environment this Government has fostered is one of unnecessary risk and uncertainty?

**Every Ontarian should be concerned about the future of our natural resource economy and the Government's continued failure to meaningfully engage with Aboriginal communities and foster the conditions for mining companies who provide many benefits to local communities to continue to invest.**

Sincerely,

**Dr. Thomas F. Morris**, Ph.D., FGAC, P. Geo., ICD.D.  
President & CEO, Northern Superior Resources

For more information, or to read the details in the Statement of Claim, visit Northern Superior Resources' website: [www.nsuperior.com](http://www.nsuperior.com)

Ministry of Northern Development  
and Mines

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**OCT 31 2013**

Mr. Garry Clark  
Executive Director  
Ontario Prospectors Association  
1000 Alloy Drive  
Thunder Bay ON P7B 6A5

Dear Mr. Clark:

Thank you for your kind invitation to attend this year's Ontario Exploration and Geoscience Symposium on November 5-6, 2013 in Sudbury. As Minister of Northern Development and Mines, I commend the dedication the Ontario Prospectors Association (OPA) has towards building a successful mineral development sector and I deeply regret that I am unable to attend.

As you all well know, Ontario continues to be the leading jurisdiction for mining and mineral exploration in Canada and is a major player across the world. The exploration industry is an important contributor to our provincial economy, which is why we have invested over \$140 million in Ontario mineral sector activities to date and our investments are paying off.

I am proud that our government is committed to supporting Ontario's mineral developers for the continued successes of advancing mineral exploration projects, job creation, economic growth and prosperity for the North.

Ontario is blessed with a diverse geological endowment featuring vast regions of high mineral potential land. With mineral investment and development activities at record levels over the last several years, numerous projects are advancing to production. Certainly, I recognize and appreciate the contributions that the OPA has made over the years. I would also like to thank you for your participation on the Minister's Mining Act Advisory Committee (MMAAC) and value your continued support and contribution throughout the next Phase of the *Mining Act Modernization*.

In closing, please accept my best wishes on a successful symposium.

Sincerely,

Michael Gravelle  
Minister of Northern Development and Mines

Ministry of Natural Resources

Al Tithecott, Director  
Aviation, Forest Fire and  
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November 7, 2013

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Garry Clark  
Ontario Prospectors' Association  
1000 Alloy Drive  
Thunder Bay ON P7B 6A5

Dear Mr. Clark:

I am writing to inform you about the next steps in the Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR's) three-year transformation plan, which was announced in the 2012 Ontario Budget.

Today, MNR is moving forward with some changes to its Fire Management Program and concentrating resources at larger, more strategic bases. We will stop operating from two of our 35 facilities – in Kirkland Lake and Pembroke – at the end of 2013. We expect to create new seasonal fire management positions in other communities, so that we will maintain approximately the same level of firefighting and support staff.

I want to assure you that protecting people, property and our natural resources from forest fires remains our top priority. This decision will not affect our ability to manage fires in the Kirkland Lake or Pembroke areas. Our Fire Management Program is flexible and mobile. We routinely move staff, aircraft, and equipment quickly to respond to forest fires and changing hazard levels. In addition, all of our fire management agreements will remain in effect.

In June, the ministry posted a discussion paper on the Environmental Registry to obtain comments on updating our long-term forest fire management strategy. The strategy is intended to address the challenges facing the delivery of our Fire Management Program over the next 10 years – it is part of our work to modernize our Fire Management Program, and the operational decisions announced today support this effort.

Ontario is recognized around the world for its ability to respond strategically to forest fires and protect public safety. We continue to invest in our Fire Management Program, including significant investments recently announced at our Haliburton, Armstrong and Sudbury facilities.

If you wish to discuss these changes, please contact Brian Schulz, Response and Operations Manager, at 705-564-6030 to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,

Al Tithecott  
Director  
Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services

## **Moving Forward on the Ring of Fire**

*Ontario Leading the Creation of a Development Corporation for Ring of Fire Infrastructure*

### **NEWS**

November 8, 2013

Ontario is taking a significant step forward toward the development of the Ring of Fire. The province will lead the creation of a development corporation that would bring together private and public partners, including First Nations, mining companies, as well as the federal and provincial governments. This continues Ontario's smart, sustainable and collaborative approach to the Ring of Fire.

The corporation would develop, construct, finance, operate and maintain infrastructure supporting access to strategic resources in the Ring of Fire. The province will begin immediate work with partners, including the federal government, on the development corporation to determine its scope and a suitable governance model.

Premier Wynne has written Prime Minister Harper seeking a role for the federal government to partner with Ontario, through the development corporation, in order to develop vital infrastructure investments for the region.

Ontario continues to be committed to smart, sustainable and collaborative development in the Ring of Fire, subject to all necessary environmental assessment and regulatory processes while ensuring the Crown fulfils its duty to consult.

Investing in the development of the Ring of Fire is part of the government's economic plan to invest in people, invest in infrastructure and support a dynamic and innovative business climate.

### **QUOTES**

"Infrastructure is vital to developing the Ring of Fire. People need to get in to work and products need to get out to the global market. We need to determine what infrastructure will be most appropriate. That means that the current proposals on the table must come together while, at the same time, we must see the federal government join us in moving development forward. Through the creation of a development corporation, I am confident we will find a solution that is in the best interest for the people of Ontario."

— Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines

"There is no question that vital infrastructure is required in the region to support remote First Nations communities. Using a development corporation model to advance infrastructure development will ensure First Nations can participate in the governance and use of the transportation infrastructure. It will further support work already underway to promote meaningful participation in the Ring of Fire development. I look forward to dealing with these matters as part of regional process negotiations."

— Honourable Frank Iacobucci, Ontario Lead Negotiator for the Ring of Fire

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## QUICK FACTS

- The Ring of Fire, located 540 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay, is one of the most significant mineral regions in the province and includes the largest deposit of chromite ever discovered in North America. This is a key ingredient used to create stainless steel.
- The Ring of Fire also holds the potential for significant production of nickel, copper and platinum.
- Ontario is Canada's leading destination for mineral exploration investment and Toronto is the leading mine-financing capital of the world.
- Ontario leads all provinces and territories in mineral exploration, with 23 per cent of the country's exploration investment located within the province.
- In July 2013, Ontario appointed Honourable Frank Iacobucci as the lead negotiator on behalf of Ontario to participate in discussions with the Matawa First Nations on proposed resource development in the Ring of Fire.

## LEARN MORE

Find out how the Ring of Fire is part of the [Growth Plan for Northern Ontario](#).  
Read more about the [Ring of Fire](#).



# BACKGROUND

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

## Ring of Fire

November 8, 2013

### Development Corporation

A development corporation for the [Ring of Fire](#) would provide a business structure for the support of strategic infrastructure development. A development corporation can:

- Bring together key partners with common interests
- Determine infrastructure needs
- Secure financing
- Manage issues related to design, engineering, construction and maintenance of infrastructure.

Ontario will immediately reach out to potential partners to determine the scope and a suitable governance model of the development corporation for the Ring of Fire.

### First Nations

In July 2013, [Ontario appointed Frank Iacobucci](#) to lead discussions with the Chiefs of the Matawa Tribal Council on the proposed resource development. The Chiefs appointed Bob Rae to be their lead negotiator. These negotiations are currently underway and will address the following priorities:

- Environmental protection and monitoring
- Regional infrastructure planning and development
- Resource revenue sharing
- Social and economic supports

A number of steps have been taken to help ensure First Nations communities have the skills and training to benefit from the proposed Ring of Fire development. Ontario has already invested \$5 million to support community readiness and capacity building for the Ring of Fire communities.

In addition, nearly \$3 million has been provided to support the Matawa First Nations and Tribal Council as they build capacity to participate in Ring of Fire-related activities, including training and job opportunities. To date, these initiatives have seen great success with more than 850 First Nations members participating.

Significant work is also underway with First Nations communities to develop community-based land use plans, as supported by the [Far North Act](#). Since 2008, Ontario has provided over \$15 million to communities for land use planning in the Far North. These plans identify where land use activities would be permitted, subject to any additional planning requirements and environmental assessments. To date, 22 communities have started work to prepare community-based land use plans, including all of the Ring of Fire communities.

### Environmental Monitoring

Ontario has invested \$15 million to improve the mapping, science and knowledge of the Far North to support land use planning. This information will contribute to a long-term environmental monitoring framework to ensure sustainable development in the Ring of Fire.

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Since 2008, Ontario has also provided approximately \$8 million to environmental monitoring programs for the Far North which is critical in supporting land use planning, impact assessment, approvals and policy development. This includes an investment of \$5 million towards the monitoring in the Ring of Fire to undertake baseline studies.

### **Environmental Assessment Process**

Proposed mining and infrastructure projects in Ontario may be subject to both the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and the [Ontario Environmental Assessment Act](#). Environmental assessments at both the provincial and federal levels are rigorous processes intended to identify, predict and mitigate any potential effects a project may have on the environment.

### **Economic Development**

Through the [Northern Communities Investment Readiness Initiative](#), communities can prepare for the proposed mineral developments of the Ring of Fire with funding for:

- Transportation and freight management action plans
- Opportunities for mining companies to network with suppliers and service providers
- Studies to support the capacity of municipalities to benefit from resource development



# Species at Risk Stewardship Fund 2014/15 Guidelines

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding the Species at Risk Stewardship Fund, please contact:

**Kim Jaxa-Debicki**

**Telephone:** 705-755-5506

**Email:** [SAR.stewardship@ontario.ca](mailto:SAR.stewardship@ontario.ca)

## DEADLINE

Applications must be received electronically by midnight (EST) on **Thursday December 19, 2013**. Applications received after the deadline date or not fully completed will not be accepted.

All applicants must refer to the Legal Authorizations section of the Guidelines before submitting an application.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Species at Risk Stewardship Fund (SARSF) include:

- Improving the status of species at risk and their habitats by supporting stewardship and recovery actions;
- Encouraging stewardship and multi-partner approaches to species at risk protection and recovery; and
- Inspiring and enabling people to become involved in species at risk stewardship through outreach, youth employment opportunities and the provision of related tools and techniques.

## BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) SARSF was established in 2007 to support the protection and recovery of Species at Risk (SAR) and their habitats in Ontario by providing

funds to individuals and organizations for stewardship activities that support the implementation of Ontario's *Endangered Species Act* (ESA).

Over the last seven years funds have been invested in stewardship and recovery actions that were of direct benefit to SAR and their habitats and supported and encouraged the development of new stewardship approaches.

In 2013/2014, the SARSF received 120 project proposals, of which 75 protection, recovery and/or stewardship projects were approved to receive funding.

In 2014/15 the SARSF will continue to support stewardship initiatives that contribute to the protection and recovery of SAR in Ontario and meet any requirements under the ESA.

In Ontario, species that may be at risk are assessed by a team of experts known as the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO). For more information on COSSARO, please visit:

[http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/2ColumnSubPage/MNR\\_SAR\\_CSSR\\_MTNG\\_RSLTS\\_EN.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/2ColumnSubPage/MNR_SAR_CSSR_MTNG_RSLTS_EN.html)

Once a species is listed as endangered or threatened on the Species at Risk in Ontario List, the Ministry seeks advice on the steps that should be taken towards the species' recovery. The advice is presented in Recovery Strategies for endangered and threatened species and Management Plans for special concern species.

The Ministry responds to Recovery Strategies and Management Plans by developing Government Response Statements. These statements summarize the government's intended actions and priorities in protecting and recovering the species.

Project proposals must target species listed as extirpated, endangered, threatened, or special concern on the Species at Risk in Ontario List. The Species at Risk in Ontario List is a regulation made under the ESA (O. Reg. 230/08). The regulation (including species lists and status) is available on the Province of Ontario's E-laws website and on the MNR website at: [http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/2ColumnSubPage/MNR\\_SAR\\_CSSR\\_SARO\\_LST\\_EN.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/2ColumnSubPage/MNR_SAR_CSSR_SARO_LST_EN.html)

For 2014/15, where applicable, proposed activities should link to actions and approaches outlined in existing Government Response Statements, Recovery Strategies and Management Plans. Please refer to the 2014/15 SARSF priorities and eligible activities identified below.

## **2014/15 PRIORITIES**

Although all project proposals that target species listed on the Species at Risk in Ontario List are eligible for funding, targeted priorities have been established for the 2014/15 funding year.

Please review the following priorities in detail as they have changed considerably from previous years. Applications that fail to address any of the 2014/15 priorities will be considered for funding after applications that address any of the priorities.

The SARSF is a very competitive process. Priorities ensure that the limited funding is directed towards projects that demonstrate the highest likelihood of beneficial protection and recovery outcomes.

## 1. Species Specific Priorities

1a) Actions/activities listed as a HIGH priority in the Government Response Statements or as CRITICAL in the Recovery Strategies for the species listed below:

- Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark
- Cutlip Minnow
- Eastern Foxsnake (Carolinian Population)
- Eastern Hog-nosed Snake
- Four-leaved Milkweed
- Gray Ratsnake (Carolinian Population)
- Hines Emerald
- Hoary Mountain Mint
- Piping Plover
- Rusty-patched Bumble Bee
- SAR Freshwater Mussels (Eastern Pondmussel, Fawnsfoot, Hickorynut, Kidneyshell, Mapleleaf Mussel, Northern Riffleshell, Rainbow Mussel, Rayed Bean, Round Hickorynut, Round Pigtoe, Salamander Mussel, Snuffbox, Wavy-rayed Lampmussel)

1b) The following species-specific actions/activities:

### **American Eel**

- The design, implementation and evaluation of innovative methods to promote passage of American Eel around human-made barriers

### **Little Brown Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat**

- All relevant stewardship activities

### **Butler's Gartersnake**

- All relevant stewardship activities

### **Butternut**

- Filling knowledge gaps related to the resistance/tolerance of butternut canker (i.e., analysis of data on disease and site conditions; testing of archived trees; collection of new data on site conditions and/or; collection and archiving of new genetic material)

### **Woodland Caribou**

- Community awareness and outreach on caribou ecology and caribou/human interactions in the Continuous or Discontinuous Distribution of caribou in Ontario
- Incorporation of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) into caribou research and decision making (e.g., historical and current observations on caribou demographics, caribou ecology and habitat use)
- Incorporation of specific best practices into caribou reference materials and resources for natural resource development sector activities within the caribou range (e.g., avoidance, minimization and rehabilitation techniques and practices)

### **Chimney Swift and Barn Swallow**



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- Development, implementation and evaluation of innovative techniques to construct barn swallow and chimney swift habitat

### Fowlers Toad

- Habitat management and restoration, including monitoring the effects and impacts on the species

### Lake Sturgeon

- Habitat improvement and threat mitigation
- Filling knowledge gaps on the species' distribution and status in locations that have not been extensively monitored to date (please contact MNR SAR Aquatic Specialist at 705-755-5647 to discuss appropriate locations)

### Wolverine

- Collection, storage and management of local knowledge and ATK related to Wolverine and its habitat, and/or the incorporation of local knowledge and ATK in Wolverine recovery efforts
- Development and implementation of best practices for resource management activities for Wolverine (e.g., avoidance, minimization and rehabilitation techniques and practices)
- Community awareness and outreach on Wolverine ecology and Wolverine-human interactions

## 2. Threat Specific Priority

Projects related to road ecology and SAR, such as: the identification of road mortality hot spots; implementation and evaluation of direct mitigation measures; and, provincial strategic analysis of all previous SAR road ecology information. Education and outreach (including the installation of road signs) may be a component of the proposed project but will not qualify on its own.

## SPECIES REFERENCE LISTS

### Government Response Statements

Unless stated differently in the priorities listed above, proposed activities must align with the actions outlined in the relevant Government Response Statement.

#### Link to list of species with a final or draft Government Response Statement:

[http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/2ColumnSubPage/MNR\\_SAR\\_GVRNMT\\_RES\\_STTMNTS\\_EN](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/2ColumnSubPage/MNR_SAR_GVRNMT_RES_STTMNTS_EN)

### Provincial Recovery Strategies

Unless stated differently in the priorities listed above, proposed activities must align with the recommendations outlined in the relevant Ontario Recovery Strategy (where no Government Response Statement is available).

#### Link to list of species with final or draft Provincial Recovery Strategy:

[http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/2ColumnSubPage/MNR\\_SAR\\_SPEC\\_RCVRY\\_STRAT\\_EN.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/2ColumnSubPage/MNR_SAR_SPEC_RCVRY_STRAT_EN.html)

### Federal Recovery Strategies



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Unless stated differently in the priorities listed above, proposed activities must align with the recommendations outlined in the relevant national Recovery Strategy (where no provincial Recovery Strategy or Government Response Statement is available).

### **Link to species with a draft or final Federal Recovery Strategy:**

[http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/sar/recovery/timelines\\_e.cfm#cn-tphp](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/sar/recovery/timelines_e.cfm#cn-tphp)

### **Management Plans**

Unless stated differently in the priorities listed above, proposed activities must align with the recommendations outlined in the relevant Management Plan.

### **Link to species with an Ontario draft or final Management Plan:**

[http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/2ColumnSubPage/MNR\\_SAR\\_MGMT\\_PLANS\\_EN.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/2ColumnSubPage/MNR_SAR_MGMT_PLANS_EN.html)

### **Link to species with a federal draft or final Management Plan:**

[http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/sar/recovery/managementTimelines\\_e.cfm](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/sar/recovery/managementTimelines_e.cfm)

### **COSSARO Evaluations and COSEWIC Status Reports**

An important part of the species assessment process is the Provincial COSSARO Evaluations and Federal COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) Status Report. These technical documents contain information which may be useful when filing out your Species at Risk Stewardship Fund Application for species that do not have a Government Response Statement, Recovery Strategy or Management Plan.

### **Link to Provincial COSSARO Evaluations:**

[http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/2ColumnSubPage/MNR\\_SAR\\_CSSR\\_MTNG\\_RSLTS\\_EN.htm](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/2ColumnSubPage/MNR_SAR_CSSR_MTNG_RSLTS_EN.htm)  
|

### **Link to Federal COSEWIC Status Reports:**

[http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/search/advSearchResults\\_e.cfm?stype=doc&docID=18](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/search/advSearchResults_e.cfm?stype=doc&docID=18)

## **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS** Note: Successful applicants must be individuals or incorporated entities and will be required to provide proof of incorporation.

- Aboriginal communities/organizations
- Academic institutions
- Conservation Authorities
- Individual businesses
- Industry organizations
- Landowners and farmers
- Municipal and local governments
- Non-government organizations

### **NON-ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

- Provincial government ministries
- Federal government departments and agencies



## ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Proposed actions/activities should fit into at least one of the three following categories. Examples of eligible activities are included for each category.

### 1) Management and Planning Management to help identify threats to a SAR and to reduce, mitigate or eliminate human-related threats

- Development of best management practices to minimize impacts on SAR and their habitats during land or resource use
- Development and implementation of local or regional plans to conduct stewardship actions to protect and recover SAR and their habitats
- Filling biological knowledge gaps to inform recovery planning
- Habitat improvement, restoration or creation

### 2) Surveys, Inventories, and Monitoring

- Gathering ATK and local knowledge of SAR and their habitats
- Conducting species and/or habitat monitoring
- Conducting species inventories (e.g., presence/absence/abundance surveys) for newly listed SAR or within areas that have not been inventoried
- Assessing the effectiveness of stewardship activities

### 3) Outreach and Awareness

- Outreach activities that increase awareness and knowledge about SAR, and encourage stewardship actions to targeted audiences or areas
- Developing public and/or industry engagement plans that promote the best actions to benefit SAR
- Promoting best management practices that minimize impacts on SAR and their habitats during land or resource use
- Delivery of information sessions for targeted audiences (e.g., landowners, farmers, industries, Aboriginal communities, youth) to increase awareness and knowledge of SAR, and stewardship
- Supporting SAR internships with non-governmental organizations and industry for recent (within 5 years of graduation) post-secondary graduates
- Employing youth with stewardship organizations where students work on a variety of projects including, habitat enhancement, outreach, etc.
- Preparation of brochures, fact sheets and publications, and other communications media

**NOTE: All project proposals will require an evaluation component to measure project success and effectiveness. Please refer to the SARSF Application 2014/15 for more details. Where appropriate, outreach and awareness project proposals must have a targeted plan and a specific evaluation component to measure changes to levels of awareness, values, behaviours and/or actions. Project proposals must avoid duplication of existing products.**

## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Applicants should consult MNR staff (District and/or Regional Biologists and Ecologists), species experts and partners for advice in developing project proposals
- Projects or studies that are required by law are not eligible, including activities that are being undertaken to fulfill legal requirements/conditions identified in an ESA permit, authorization or regulation.
- Projects focusing on multi-species, ecosystems or single-species will all be considered for funding



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- While provincial and federal governments are able to support projects through in-kind and financial contributions, they are not able to receive any direct funding from an approved SARSF project
- Proponents are responsible for obtaining landowner permission to access private property to undertake proposed activities
- In the context of some projects, successful applicants are encouraged but not required, to submit species and habitat information to the Natural Heritage Information Centre
- The Crown is not bound to take action based on any recommendations that are produced during the course of a project. Any mapping products that result from a project are for the voluntary use of stewardship organizations only. The methods and results of a project will not necessarily be endorsed by MNR or the Government of Ontario for use in future SAR habitat identification or land use decisions.

### ELIGIBLE COSTS

- a. **Human Resources:** includes wages and mandatory benefits (as required by law) for human resources that will be directly involved in the implementation of the project. Project management costs are excluded from eligible Human Resources costs. \*\*Job descriptions must be submitted for all Human Resources requests.
- b. **Administrative:** includes, office supplies, phone, computer, fax and photocopy costs, as well as any project management expenses (e.g., project management, planning and logistical positions, and accounting). **Administration costs cannot exceed 10% of the total funding requested.**
- c. **Equipment:** includes the lease and/or rental of equipment required for the completion of the project. In some cases, equipment purchase may be considered with proper justification.
- d. **Materials and Supplies:** includes materials other than equipment (e.g., trees for planting).
- e. **Vehicle Rental, Travel and Fieldwork:** includes accommodations, meals, vehicle leases, operational costs (e.g., fuel, insurance) or mileage. Mileage rate cannot exceed \$0.41/km. Costs must be reasonable for activities proposed. Following the formal review and approval of applications, proponents may be asked to ensure that costs associated with rentals and leases over \$5,000 have gone through a competitive process (e.g., sought out quotes for rentals and leases).
- f. **Publication Design, Printing and Distribution:** includes print material, signs, mailing, French translation costs.

**Note: The amount of MNR's contribution includes the reimbursement for HST. MNR will not reimburse for HST beyond the approved contribution level.**

### ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- For applications to be evaluated, they must be completed in full and align with the 2014/15 SARSF Guidelines. Completed applications must:
  - demonstrate eligibility requirements
  - be consistent with eligible activities
- Value of the project to species protection and recovery
  - activities will directly benefit targeted SAR, their habitat and/or the targeted ecosystem
  - activities are relevant, fill a demonstrated need, and/or address an impending threat
  - where applicable, activities are linked to priority recommendations and actions identified in an existing Recovery Strategy or Government Response Statement
  - project is part of, links to, and/or complements a larger species recovery or habitat protection initiative
- Project design and partnerships
  - project is feasible and work plan is detailed



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- objectives, design and methodology are practical, appropriate and scientifically sound
  - numerous partners are engaged in and support the project (partnerships/collaboration are used to maximize available resources and knowledge)
  - project budget is detailed and appropriate for scope of work
  - an appropriate level of matching funds/support from other sources has been identified
- Additional project considerations
    - performance measures and evaluations are built into the project to assess the effectiveness of the activities
    - applicant has proven experience, expertise and capacity to complete the project
    - efficiencies realized through use of existing materials and established best management practices, or an innovative or creative approach
    - project will contribute to broader biodiversity health and/or landscape-level stewardship
    - likelihood for long-term benefits and continued work through established partnerships
    - for multi-year projects; do the subsequent years build on the previous

### OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS OR FUNDING

Project proposals that include matching contributions (in-kind and financial) from a variety of sources are encouraged. Matching funds can either be matching dollars, in-kind donations, or a combination. The amount of matching funds is a criterion that will be considered when applications are reviewed, whereby project proposals with matching dollars will be evaluated more favourably than those with in-kind donations. If applicants indicate in-kind contributions, they are required to describe how they are valued. For guidelines on valuing in-kind human resource contributions, consult <http://volunteercalculator.imaginecanada.ca/eng/default.asp?tabset=4>. Land values cannot be used as in-kind matching funds.

### MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS

For the 2014/15 funding year, the SARSF will consider multi-year projects for up to three years of funding. Funding for the subsequent years will be dependant on availability of funds and/or whether the necessary appropriation is provided from the Ontario Legislature. Please refer to the 2014/15 SARSF Application for further details.

### NOTIFICATION

All applicants will be notified of the funding outcome of their proposal in writing. Applicants should not proceed with a project on the expectation that it will be sponsored through the SARSF. If approved for funding, recipients will receive direction on when to proceed with the project. Successful applicants should expect to receive approval for their projects in late spring, and should plan accordingly. Following project approval, all recipients are required to enter into a standard agreement with the Province in order to be eligible to receive funds. All activities must be completed before **February 27, 2015**, unless the project is approved for multi-year funding.

### AGREEMENT AND PAYMENT

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a standard agreement which includes the terms and conditions of grant acceptance, expenditure and reporting requirements. In the case of multi-year projects, funds from one funding year cannot be transferred to another subsequent funding year.

The terms and conditions of the funding will be set out in detail in the agreement. Generally, those terms and conditions will be consistent with the following:



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- The SARSF is a reimbursement program. Payments will be made following the completion of milestones, and the submission of interim/final reports and documentation of incurred expenditures as outlined in the schedules to the agreement.
- Activities receiving funding must be completed and invoices submitted within the year of receipt of funding.
- Final payments will be made following the completion and submission of a final project report, in accordance with the terms of the agreement.
- Successful applicants will have up to 30 days of project completion to submit final reporting requirements for the fiscal year.
- The final date to submit all final reporting and financial documentation is **February 27, 2015**, unless the project is approved for multi-year funding.
- Recipients approved for multi-year funding will be required to submit year-end reports and financial documentation in accordance with their funding agreements.

### LEGAL AUTHORIZATIONS

**(All applicants must review this section before submitting an application)**

If your project involves a species listed as Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened under the ESA, please contact the Biologist at your local MNR office who can determine whether an authorization under the ESA is required. It is important to contact your local Biologist early during your project planning process, as you may be able to avoid the need for an authorization under the ESA by amending your project plan. Your local Biologist will also provide advice on which of the following applies to your project:

- (i) Notice under ESA regulation 242/08 s.23.17 will be submitted before undertaking the funded activity;
- (ii) An ESA 17(2)(b) permit is required and will be obtained before undertaking the funded activity; or,
- (iii) The proposed activity does not require an authorization under the ESA.

Your Species at Risk Stewardship Fund Application **must** identify which of the above criteria apply to your proposed activities.

All funded projects **must** minimize adverse effects to SAR and their habitat. An ESA authorization is not required for activities that do not harm or harass a SAR, or damage or destroy their habitat. For greater detail, please contact your local Biologist and refer to section 9 (species protection) and section 10 (habitat protection) of the [ESA](#).

Activities that are likely to contravene sections 9 or 10 of the ESA require authorization [e.g., registry of the activity under regulation 242/08s. 23.17 or an ESA 17(2)(b) permit]. Due to recent regulatory amendments to the ESA [Ontario Regulation 242/08 s. 23.17], the majority of activities supported by the SARSF no longer require an ESA 17(2)(b) permit. For information on the regulatory amendments please refer to the [MNR Registry website](#) under “Help protect or recover a species at risk” and consult O. Reg. 242/08(S23.17) on [e-laws](#).

Most projects that involve activities prescribed in Government Response Statements, Recovery Strategies, or address priorities outlined in these guidelines may be eligible under s. 23.17 of O. Reg. 242/08. Projects involving any of the following activities are not eligible for under O. Reg. 242/08 s. 23.17:

- Possession of a living SAR for longer than necessary (in no case longer than seven days);
- Possession of a dead SAR for longer than necessary;
- Release or introduction of a SAR outside of the area from which it was taken; or,
- Lethal sampling as described in subsection (3) of O. Reg. 242/08 s 23.17.



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If your project involves any of the above activities or fails to meet all eligibility criteria outlined in O. Reg. 242/08 s. 23.17, you require an ESA 17(2)(b) permit and you **must** contact your local Biologist.

Please refer to s. 23.17 of O. Reg. 242/08 for more detail regarding eligibility under that section.

Applicants are responsible for identifying and obtaining any permits, licenses or other approvals required for the project. **Projects cannot proceed until the required authorizations are obtained.** MNR staff can assist in determining the need for provincial authorizations including authorizations under the ESA, *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* and the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act*.

Under section 23.17 of O. Reg. 242/08 an **Animal Care Protocol** approved by the MNR Wildlife Animal Care Committee or a university is required for projects involving animals, with the exception of fish and mussels. Protocols for the detection and handling of fish and mussels that include animal care considerations have been published by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada: [detection of fish protocol](#) and the [detection and relocation of freshwater mussel protocol](#).

### RECOGNITION

If applicable, the successful applicant may be required to acknowledge the receipt of financial assistance from the Government of Ontario.

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Personal information collected on the application form will be used for the proper administration of the SARSF.

Personal information will only be used or disclosed in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have any questions about the collection of this information, contact the SAR FIPPA Coordinator at 300 Water Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor South Tower, Peterborough ON K9J 8M5, Telephone 705-755-5257.

### AUDITING

To ensure integrity in the use of funds, the Province of Ontario reserves the right to require independent verification of reported information as required in the terms of the funding agreement. Payment claim forms and invoices must be submitted in order to receive payments. The successful applicant shall provide, if requested by the Province, any necessary permissions to access the property and make available any records, documents and/or information that may be required for this purpose.

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

- This call for applications is not intended to be a formal legally-binding procurement process.
- MNR reserves the right to seek clarification and supplementary information from any applicant.
- MNR may elect not to consider an application containing misrepresentations or any inaccurate, misleading or incomplete information.
- Once a project proposal has been submitted, it cannot be substantially modified or changed.

For general information on SAR stewardship programs and the ESA please refer to the program website at <http://www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk>.