

May 28, 2010

Anna Maria Valastro
Peaceful Parks Coalition
P.O. Box 326, Station B
Toronto, Ontario M5T 2W2
www.peacefulparks.org

Dear Ms. Valastro;

Your note to our program solicitor with respect to the hunting of coyotes has been passed on to me as it is not appropriate for our legal services branch to provide legal advice to the public. I apologize for the length of time it has taken to send you a response.

The section that you have referenced, section 11 of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997, states that it is an offence to hunt for gain, or to induce another person to hunt for gain.

In accordance with the MNR's risk based enforcement strategy, enforcement efforts are focused on activities that pose the greatest risk to the most vulnerable natural resources where the likelihood of long term negative impact is high. While any unlawful activity that affects natural resources is of concern, those incidents that pose the greatest risk will receive the most intensive effort.

Conservation Officers are responsible for enforcing a wide variety of legislation across the entire landscape of Ontario. Each situation encountered by Conservation Officers has unique elements that need to be considered. MNR is aware that certain contests may be taking place and will monitor them as appropriate. Any decision to lay charges would be based on the facts and discretion of the investigating Conservation Officer as well as the MNR's enforcement priorities. For any future inquiries please contact me at the e-mail below.

Sincerely;

Deb Stetson, Manager
Wildlife Policy Section
Biodiversity Branch, MNR
deb.stetson@ontario.ca