



PEACEFUL
PARKS
COALITION

PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF ONTARIO'S PARKS AND WILD SPACES

March 19, 2010

Leith Hunter, Counsel
Legal Services Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources
Room 3420, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3

Dear Ms Hunter,

Across Ontario, individuals are organizing 'coyote killing contests'. I am writing to confirm whether these contests are legal under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, specifically section 11 (1).

Conservation Officer Tim Moody from the southeastern region confirmed that conservation officers have investigated coyote killing contests in his district and have laid no charges. Yet Conservation Officer Moody could not articulate how these contests compile with the Act or specifically how the activity compiles with section 11 (1) of the Act.

It is my understanding that these contests are being organized without the authorization of the Minister, and therefore no public monitoring or reporting.

Since these contests offer 'gain' in the form of a prize and notoriety, they appear to easily offend section 11 (1) of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, yet no charges are being laid.

Can you please explain the legality of these 'coyote killing contests'? I am assuming that the Legal Services Branch have advised enforcement officers as to whether they should be layering charges.

Thank you

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

cc: Dalton McGuinty, Premier, Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Natural Resources, Tim Moody, CO Southeastern Region