



PEACEFUL
PARKS
COALITION

For Immediate Release - Sept 28, 2004

***Protected Areas Legislation Extremely Weak
McGuinty Rushes Public Consultative Process***

We are asking the media to please assist us in notifying the public that an opportunity exists to comment on new protected areas legislation.

No sooner did Dalton McGuinty make the announcement that he intended to review the 50 year old Provincial Parks Act, that public meetings were announced. Many people are unaware that an opportunity exists to demand strong protection for the province's protected areas.

Please help us make people aware through your respective media outlets.

What Dalton McGuinty is proposing in his new "protected areas" legislation is basically the status quo with very few progressive exceptions. By avoiding all the contentious issues surrounding park protection, such as logging in Algonquin Park, development, sport hunting, commercial fur harvesting, bait collection, and excessive motorized vehicles, he can rush the process through with superficial public consultations, and declare yet another promise kept.

This is not good enough. The Province's protected areas system is too important to be rushed through quickly and without thoughtful public input. There are several ways to comment on this issue. One way, is by attending open houses. These are listed below. If people can't attend the openhouses, they can register their thoughts through the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry at www.eco.on.ca, - registry number AB04E6001, but more effectively, by sending their comments directly to Dalton McGuinty at webprem@gov.on.ca. The proposed changes to the Provincial Parks Act can be reviewed at www.ontarioparks.com

Peaceful Parks Coalition 416.537.3212

Babak Abbaszadeh, Senior Policy Advisor to Minister of Natural Resources,

David Ramsay 416.314.2301

Open House Dates

Upcoming:

4. Sault Ste. Marie

Holiday Inn
208 St. Mary's River Drive
(705) 949-0611
4:00pm - 7:00pm, Sept. 29, 2004

5. Sudbury

Ramada Inn
85 Ste. Anne Road
(705) 675-1123
4:00pm - 7:00pm, Sept. 30, 2004

press release

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Toronto, Ontario
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6. Huntsville

Holiday Inn Hidden Valley
1755 Valley Road
(705) 789-2301
4:00pm - 7:00pm, Oct. 04, 2004

7. Ottawa

Embassy West Hotel and Conference Centre
1400 Carling Avenue
(613) 729-4331
4:00pm - 7:00pm, Oct. 05, 2004

8. London

Best Western Lamplighter Inn and Conference Centre
591 Wellington Road
(519) 681-7151
4:00pm - 7:00pm, Oct. 07, 2004

9. Toronto

Ontario Heritage Centre
8 Adelaide Street East
(416) 314-3585
4:00pm - 7:00pm, Oct. 13, 2004

Already completed:

1. Timmins

Ramada Inn and Conference Centre
1800 Riverside Drive
(705) 267-6241
4:00pm - 7:00pm, Sept. 22, 2004

2. North Bay

Best Western
700 Lakeshore Drive
(705) 474-5800
4:00pm - 7:00pm, Sept. 23, 2004

3. Thunder Bay

Victoria Inn
555 West Arthur Street
(807) 577-8487
4:00pm - 7:00pm, Sept. 27, 2004

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