

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Increased Protection for Algonquin Provincial Park**

November 3, 2009

Ottawa, Ontario: The Ottawa Valley Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) is pleased that the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources, Donna Cansfield, has accepted the joint recommendations of the Ontario Parks Board and the Algonquin Forestry Authority to “lighten the footprint of logging” in Algonquin Park (Environmental Bill of Rights registry posting #010-8247 for November 2, 2009).

Algonquin is the only park in Ontario where logging is permitted. Thousands of kilometers of logging roads lace the Algonquin interior. In contrast, logging and other industrial activities are prohibited throughout the rest of the 631 parks and protected areas in the province’s parks system.

Under the Ontario Parks Board-Algonquin Forestry Authority plan, protected zones, which currently comprise 22% of the park, will be increased in size to 35% of the park through the addition of lakes, wetlands, rock barrens, wider buffer zones along rivers, etc. The area in which logging is carried out will decrease from 55% to 51% of the park. The changes will not affect the wood supply to mills in the region.

CPAWS-Ottawa Valley believes that the planned changes (larger protected zones and a small decrease in the logged area) represent a modest, but important, first step towards a plan which would phase all logging out of Algonquin Park, while ensuring that local economies are not seriously impacted.

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