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October 19, 2011

Honourable Michael Gravelle  
Minister of Natural Resources  
Office 5630, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Whitney Block  
99 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3

Dear Minister Gravelle,

On behalf of the Ottawa Valley Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Minister of Natural Resources.

Should you be unfamiliar with our organization, CPAWS Ottawa Valley was founded in 1969 and we envisage a healthy ecosphere where people experience and respect natural ecosystems. We achieve this by:

- protecting Ontario's wild ecosystems in parks, wilderness and similar natural areas, preserving the full diversity of habitats and their species
- promoting awareness and understanding of ecological principles and the inherent values of wilderness through education, appreciation and experience
- encouraging individual action to accomplish these goals; working co-operatively with government, First Nations, business, other organizations and individuals in a consensus-seeking manner, wherever possible

A few years ago, we had the pleasure of meeting with one of your predecessors at the Ministry of Natural Resources, Donna Cansfield, when she was in Ottawa on other business and we would thus like to propose a similar meeting with you should you find yourself in our region.

There are several issues of mutual interest that we would like to raise with you and your officials, namely:

- logging in Algonquin Provincial Park and the implementation of the recommendations of the Ontario Parks Board and the Algonquin Forestry Authority to reduce the footprint of logging in the park;
- Inappropriate zoning of provincial parks and the use of "Access zones" which allow motorized vehicles to penetrate deep into or across certain parks, such as Lady Evelyn Smoothwater Provincial Park;

- Protections for the Eastern wolf, a species of special concern under the Species at Risk Act;
- We are also very concerned about the rapid expansion of the province's network of hydro-electric generating stations and associated infrastructure along the province's last wild rivers, such as the Petawawa and Namakan for example.

In closing, we congratulate you on our appointment as Minister of Natural Resources and we look forward to a productive dialogue with your Ministry on these issues of importance to many Ontarians.

Sincerely,

John McDonnell,  
Executive Director