



CPAWS-OV May 2025 Newsletter

Dear SNAP,

It's feeling more like summer than spring these days, and as the days continue to get longer, we find ourselves busier than ever at CPAWS-OV! With events and other programming, it is an exciting time, but first we would like to talk to you about something a little more serious.

Say no to Bill 5 - Send a letter to your MPP today!

If you live in Ontario, you may be aware of the Ontario government's proposed Bill 5, titled "**Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy.**" As a supporter of CPAWS-OV, we know you share our concerns about the serious consequences this bill would have on Ontario's environment, Indigenous rights, and species at risk.

If passed, Bill 5 would weaken environmental protections, opening ecologically sensitive areas—wetlands, old-growth forests, and species-at-risk habitats—to industrial development with minimal oversight. Instead of careful stewardship, these vital ecosystems could face unchecked

exploitation.

A major concern is the bill's redefinition of "habitat," limiting protections to an animal's immediate dwelling while disregarding essential migration, feeding, and breeding areas. This narrow definition undermines efforts to safeguard at-risk species through a whole-habitat approach.

Bill 5 also dismisses Indigenous rights by removing the requirement for Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), allowing development on Indigenous lands without proper consultation. We urge you to speak out against this bill and advocate for policies that protect Ontario's environment and uphold Indigenous rights. The bill also proposes to establish 'special economic zones' where further rollbacks of regulations, potentially even including labour standards, would take place to spur development in an un-checked fashion.

Bill 5 is open for comment until Saturday, May 17th. There is still time to let your voices be heard. Below, you will find a pre-written message that you can send to your MPP and to the Minister of Energy and Mines who is responsible for bill 5, the Honourable Stephen Lecce, to voice your concern. You will also find a link to the Ontario Legislature website where you can find the contact information for your MPP.

Minister Lecce: stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org

Find your MPP here:

<https://www.ola.org/en/members/current#views-exposed-form-current-members-current-members-grid>

Copy and paste the template below , and personalize as you wish.

Dear Minister Lecce and MPP, [MPP name],

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Ontario Bill 5, which I believe would have disastrous consequences for Ontario's wildlife, natural ecosystems, and the rights of Indigenous peoples.

This bill threatens to undermine environmental protections, allowing for unchecked development that would devastate

local habitats and biodiversity. Ontario's natural spaces are already under immense pressure, and further stripping away vital protections would accelerate habitat destruction, endangering countless species and disrupting delicate ecosystems.

Additionally, Bill 5 infringes upon the rights of Indigenous communities, disregarding their sovereignty and the duty to consult on matters affecting their lands and livelihoods. This bill would violate established legal precedents that protect Indigenous rights, setting a dangerous precedent for future legislation.

I urge you to oppose Bill 5 and use your platform to advocate for policies that prioritize environmental conservation and uphold Indigenous rights. Ontario's future depends on responsible stewardship of our natural resources and respect for the rights of all peoples.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]



GREAT GLEBE GARAGE SALE

- Chat with us
- Sign our petitions
- Buy Merch
- Donate

Come see us at
Clemow and Percy Ave

MAY 24TH 8:00AM - 2:00PM

CPAWS-OV at the Great Glebe Garage Sale - Come say hi!

CPAWS-OV will once again be hosting a booth at the Great Glebe Garage Sale on May 24th from 8:00am to 2:00pm. We will be located close to the intersection of Clemow ave and Percy ave, you can't miss our sign!

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/63hVNrHo5jLwdKT28>

We will have items and CPAWS-OV branded merchandise available, petitions for the protection of Gatineau Park and the National Capital Greenbelt, and information about our current campaigns. Drop by for a chat about conservation, grab some merch, and help us spread the word! We look forward to seeing you there!

Can't make it but still want to help us out? You can send us a one-time donation by clicking on the box below. Every dollar helps.

[Donate Today!](#)

CPAWS-OV is growing! Welcome our new intern

Guillaume Dufresne joins CPAWS-OV as an intern, contributing to the Dumoine River Aquatic Reserve and the Noire and Coulonge Rivers Biodiversity Reserve. He is developing educational signs on old-growth forests for the Dumoine River project and collaborating with our Western Quebec Conservation Coordinator, Yanny Ritchot, to formalize an ATV trail in the Noire and Coulonge Rivers reserve, balancing recreation with environmental protection.

With a background in anthropology and a master's degree in sustainable forest ecosystem management, Guillaume brings valuable expertise in social dynamics, conservation, and stakeholder collaboration. He is especially motivated by the opportunity to engage with local partners to ensure inclusive and responsible project development.

Welcome, Guillaume!

Spotlight on CPAWS-OV's growing Education Program

CPAWS-OV's [Education Program](#) is gaining momentum again, and we couldn't be more excited to engage with communities and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. One of our key initiatives, [Nature for Everyone, Everywhere](#), is connecting youth aged 18-30 to nature and conservation in meaningful ways. Through this program, participants design and implement their own community service projects, addressing conservation and nature-related needs within their local environments. By fostering environmental stewardship

and hands-on engagement, we aim to build a generation that feels deeply connected to their community and empowered to protect the natural world.

Are you or someone you know interested in joining our youth program? Click the button below to get involved!

[Get Involved in our Youth Program!](#)

We're also thrilled to expand our programming in the Outaouais region, bringing outdoor nature education to students. We strive to give students of all ages the opportunity to immerse themselves in nature through hands-on activities designed to spark curiosity and appreciation for conservation. Whether it's exploring local ecosystems or engaging in environmental learning outdoors, these experiences will help instill a lifelong love for nature. We look forward to working with schools and communities to make these educational opportunities accessible and impactful!

Are you looking to get involved with CPAWS-OV's education program? We would love to hear from you! Send us an email at ov-outreach@cpaws.org.



CPAWS-OV thanks you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

The team at CPAWS-OV



Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ottawa Valley Chapter 331, boulevard
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Gatineau (Québec) J8Y 3Z2

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