



Quinte Field Naturalists

The Quinte Field Naturalists Association is affiliated with Ontario Nature, a non-profit organization sponsoring nature education, conservation and research.

To: **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry**
Response to: **Environmental Registry # 012-9499**

Quinte Field Naturalists have reviewed the MNRF climate adaptation strategy, **Naturally Resilient**, and are prepared to offer feedback on the document. We acknowledge that the document contains many laudable goals and intentions but we do have reservations about how they are going to be implemented.

As climate change occurs, there are ongoing real and very significant impacts on ecosystems and the plants and animals that comprise them. Eventually, entire ecosystems will be affected. The Boreal Forest zone, for example, is expected to shrink, reducing habitat for plants and animals that live there. This habitat reduction will be in addition to that already being lost to forestry, mining and infrastructure development, such as roads. Being aware of the serious consequences of inaction, the MNRF needs to have detailed plans in place to combat the effects of climate change: there need to be specific measures in the draft strategy to address the effects that climate change will have on Ontario's biodiversity.

Recognizing the need for greater specificity, Quinte Field Naturalists strongly urge the MNRF to plan for and implement the following actions:

- 1) Include specific targets, priorities and timelines to protect biodiversity: for example, develop and carry out specific plans for conservation of the Moose and Woodland Caribou.
- 2) Commit to conserve 17 per cent of Ontario's lands and waters by 2020, as outlined in the Ontario Biodiversity Strategy.
- 3) Include a commitment to address the negative impacts of both climate change and biodiversity loss due to forestry, mining and infrastructure development.
- 4) Provide adequate funding to allow the full implementation of the climate adaptation strategy.

In conclusion, the Quinte Field Naturalist Society, an organization deeply committed to caring for our environment and the future of our planet, pleads with MNRF to conserve biodiversity and mitigate the effects of climate change by including specific, positive plans and timelines in its adaptation strategy, **Naturally Resilient**. Please act while there is still time to make a difference.

Sincerely,

George W. Thomson
QFN President