



ROMA Standing Up for Forestry

Good News on Species at Risk



ROMA

Rural Ontario
Municipal Association

&

The Alliance

Moving Forward Together on Species at Risk

ROMA Works with The Alliance to Secure Forestry's Future

- [July 2017] In response to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) drafting a species at risk (SAR) guide and planning to post a notice on the Environmental Registry, that would result in serious socio-economic impacts to communities, a group of First Nations and non-First Nations leaders in Ontario, came together to voice their concerns over a lack of meaningful consultation by the [Liberal] government.
- [August 2017] After working with affected stakeholders and rights holders, at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Meeting, Minister McGarry of Natural Resources and Forestry met with members of The Alliance to announce that the sector had a commitment from the Ontario government that SAR policy would be postponed until MNR achieved a *“better understanding of the impacts of climate change, the cumulative impacts on a broad, dynamic landscape, and a much better appreciation of the social and economic implications.”*

ROMA's Contribution to the Campaign

- [November 2017] Following a coordinated effort by anti-forestry groups, The Alliance held a Queen's Park media event, “We Are Forestry”, where Mayor Ron Holman represented ROMA and its communities. Mayor Holman provided the following points:
 - Our northern and rural communities are highly dependent on forestry jobs and depend almost solely on wood fibre from Crown land.
 - We are asking government not to fall for anti-forestry group tactics and push through policy that could negatively impact a renewable resource and share with us their socio-economic analysis completed on caribou – as Mayors, we need a clear understanding of how proposed policy may impact our communities.
 - ROMA wants protection of species and habitat, but it must be science-based, not the result of fear-mongering.
 - In Southern Ontario, where many of ROMA's members are located, we do not have caribou, but we have over 27 other species each with its own set of “rules”. The cumulative impacts of these species are more insidious.
 - Policy is restricting opportunities in our communities and that is not acceptable. We ask that ROMA's “Rural and Northern lens” be considered before establishing or changing policy.
- [February 2018] Mayor Holman, and members of The Alliance, spoke at the Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) Annual Meeting & Convention on a panel, “Moving Forward Together: The Alliance”. Mayor Holman reiterated his comments from the Queen's Park media event, highlighting the “rural and northern lens” on the impacts of species at risk policy, especially in the Ottawa Valley.

Moving Forward Together on Species at Risk

Joint Media Releases

- [July 2017 - May 2018] The Alliance sent out nine media releases, that include the ROMA logo and quotes from Mayor Holman, and were picked up by various news outlets across Ontario.
 - July 13, 2017. New Provincial Policies Creating Precarious Employment Impacting Northern and Rural Ontario Families
 - September 13, 2017. The Future of Species at Risk Policy is a Question of Credibility
 - November 20, 2017. Forestry Coalition Asks Government to Support Sector
 - January 18, 2018. Alliance Between First Nations, Municipal Leaders, and Industry Formed to Defend a Way of Life
 - February 20, 2018. Forestry as a Northern Way of Life is More Than a Stereotype, it is a Reality Lived by Many
 - March 8, 2018. “NRDC Does Not Speak for Us”
 - April 11, 2018. Ontario Government Provides Window of Opportunity to Get Species at Risk Policy Right
 - May 8, 2018. Ontario Alliance of First Nations and Non-First Nations Asks Feds to Hit the Pause Button on Species at Risk Policy
 - May 15, 2018. The Alliance Questions Who Will Stand Up for Forestry in Ontario?

The Win

- [January 2018] The [Liberal] government posted a 45-day policy proposal notice on the Environmental Registry regarding a Section 55 Rules in Regulation “exemption” for a period of two years, along with the establishment of a multi-stakeholder panel. Membership on the panel will include northern and rural communities, scientists (not ENGO activists), practitioners, and the sector.
- [April 2018] Ontario MNRF finalized a decision that they are moving forward with a two-year extension on the current regulation for forest management under the Provincial Endangered Species Act (ESA), allowing time for an independent panel, comprised of stakeholders and rights holders, to provide advice on SAR in forest management.