



NEWS RELEASE

JERRY J. OUELLETTE
Member of Provincial Parliament
OSHAWA

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Ouellette Concerned Fishing & Hunting not a Priority for McGuinty Government

No Clarification on HST on Fishing & Hunting License Sales - MNR Opposition Critic

(Queen's Park) – Jerry Ouellette, MPP Oshawa and Official Opposition Natural Resources Critic stood up for the outdoor community and questioned the McGuinty government on their mismanagement of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

In a statement to the Ontario Legislature this afternoon, Jerry Ouellette expressed his frustration at the Acting Premier's response to his question about the elimination of the Fish & Wildlife Branch and the lack of awareness and concern from the McGuinty government.

“The management of fish and wildlife resources, including fishing, hunting and trapping, is a very important function of the provincial government”, stated Ouellette, “It's sad to see that the Ministry continues to lose the important traditional values that has long identified it with the people in the province of Ontario”.

“It was the branch that anglers and hunters most related to, and its splintering raises the possibility that outdoor issues will become marginalized”, stated Mike Reader, Executive Director (OFAH).

Ouellette also raised concern over the lack of clarification from the McGuinty government over the effect of the new HST on fishing and hunting licenses. Ontarians are still waiting on whether the price of fishing and hunting licences will go up by 8% as a result of the HST.

“Anglers and hunters need to know, if this is indeed the case – that this extra revenue must go into the Special Purpose Account – to directly benefit the fish and wildlife program and not simply be ANOTHER tax grab”, stated Ouellette.

“It is imperative that this government re-focus its attention on these important aspects and retain its core functions and responsibilities, and restore pride back into the MNR”, said Ouellette.

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