



NEWS RELEASE

JERRY J. OUELLETTE
Member of Provincial Parliament
OSHAWA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ouellette Concerned Over McGuinty Government's Lack of Protecting Ontario's Wildlife

Opposition Critic Questioned Minister over MNR's lack of Action on Escaped Red Deer

(Queen's Park) – Jerry J. Ouellette, MPP Oshawa and Natural Resources critic for the Official Opposition questioned the Minister of Natural Resources in the Ontario Legislature today on the affects of the escape of game farm red deer on native wildlife in Ontario.

“These escaped deer have the potential to infect native wildlife with Chronic Wasting Disease”, stated Ouellette, “The interbreeding of red deer with native elk herds could threaten the elk gene pool and cause a great risk to the herds.”

For the past two years, the Ministry of Natural Resources has known of the escape of exotic game farmed red deer from the Sudbury-French River area, but has failed to take any action. There is evidence that these red deer are also reproducing in the wild and becoming a self-sustaining population.

“It is outrageous that the Ministry of Natural Resources has not taken the proper precautions,” said Ouellette, “I’m extremely disappointed at the Minister’s lack of knowledge and urgency towards this issue and the MNR’s failure to address this serious threat to our native wildlife.

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