



NEWS RELEASE

JERRY J. OUELLETTE
Member of Provincial Parliament
OSHAWA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ouellette Concerned Over McGuinty Government's Indifference Towards Potential CWD Threat

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 potential problem of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in white-tailed deer, elk and moose in Ontario.

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.

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

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is transmitted by direct contact with body fluids and by indirect contact with a contaminated environment that can remain active for years. Deer, which escape from game farms can carry CWD and can pass it along to many native cervids.

“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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For more information contact:
Jerry Ouellette MPP, Oshawa
416-325-2147
jerry.ouellette@pc.ola.org