



# NEWS RELEASE

**JERRY J. OUELLETTE**  
**Member of Provincial Parliament**  
**OSHAWA**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## OUELLETTE REMARKS ON APPOINTMENT OF NEW MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

*Opposition Critic calls on new minister to uphold core functions and responsibilities of MNR*

**Queen's Park** – Jerry Ouellette, MPP Oshawa and Official Opposition Natural Resources Critic, commented on the appointment of Linda Jeffrey MPP Brampton-Springdale as Ontario's new Minister of Natural Resources.

"The recent complete organizational re-structuring within the MNR, along with the appointment of Linda Jeffrey as the new minister constitutes a major upheaval of this important government agency," stated Jerry Ouellette.

Former MNR minister Donna Cansfield was dropped from Cabinet altogether after losing the forestry file and implementing sweeping changes turning the MNR into a ministry of biodiversity and environmentalism. In fact, the new internal structure of the MNR no longer includes a Fish & Wildlife Branch – instead responsibilities will be shared between the new Policy Division/Biodiversity section and the new Provincial Services Division.

"I am deeply concerned that this transformation will further erode MNR's core functions and traditional values of fish and wildlife management," asserted Ouellette.

It will also be a rigorous transitioning time for the new minister as well as many senior staff, directors and managers. "While I have served with Ms. Jeffrey on legislative committees, I cannot say whether she has an outdoor background or any experience in MNR-related activities", acknowledged Ouellette.

"With these significant organizational changes, I urge the new minister to re-focus MNR's resources and efforts on its core functions and responsibilities – managing our important natural assets while upholding the principles of conservation and traditional outdoor values," adds Ouellette.

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