



In The News



Province to Extend Private Hunt Camp Leases in Parks Without Consulting Public

In what appears to be a duck around of the public process, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has decided to extend private leases (non-aboriginal) in Provincial Parks past their end date without public consultation. Furthermore, they are proposing that all of these leases which are currently time limited be converted to lifetime extensions.

The types of leases include:

- Private Hunt Camps
• Trap Lines
• Commercial Bait Fishing
• Private Recreational Camps
• Agricultural Leases

Where is the province when it comes to protecting the Park? If ecological integrity is the first priority in park management (under the law) how can THEY extend leases for hunt camps which are clearly NOT helping improve the ecology. Have 'socio-economic concerns' once again trumped the environment?

Time is short -- the deadline for submissions is THIS MONDAY, December 14.

EBR Registry Number: 010-8203
Changes to Ontario Parks Phase Out Policy

The province has already decided to extend leases that were due to expire on December 31, 2009 and proposes that they further be converted to lifetime extensions. Continuing to permit commercial hunting, bait fishing, trapping and private recreation camps clearly does nothing to promote ecological integrity in our parks. And yet the province feels it's necessary to continue to give these privileges to a tiny minority of Ontarians.

Click here to contact the Ontario Premier and voice your opinion.

Be sure to include the EBR Registry Number (010-8203). Here are some points you may wish to make:

- It's a flagrant abuse of process to extend commercial leases without a public process
• Provincial Parks Act puts ecological integrity first - not private leases.
• Commercial harvesting and private recreation camps are simply incompatible with the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act
• The Ministry of Natural Resources has provided no rationale for changing the phase-out policy



For further information read [Ontario Parks Background](#)



2010 is coming fast!

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Did You Know?



- More than 60 swimmers are now registered for Sunday's Polar Bear Swim at Sunnyside Beach in Toronto! We look forward to seeing you this

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