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**WILDLANDS LEAGUE**   
protect the spaces you love





## We Need Your Help

Comments on Bill 191 are due August 4th.

Last summer, Premier McGuinty announced a 'new respect and working relationship with First Nations' to protect more than 22.5 million hectares in the Far North. But Bill 191 falls short

of what the Premier promised.

Bill 191 doesn't give the First Nations people control over how to plan for and protect the globally significant Boreal Forest where they live.

The Initiative is woefully underfunded. The Bill doesn't provide for establishment of a *permanent* network of interconnected protected areas. And it has some loopholes that will allow roads and transmission lines to proceed ahead of land use planning. This is not consistent with 'world-leading' legislation. Below Wildlands League describes how Bill 191 can be fixed:

- institute a new **independent board**, as both the Far North Advisory Council (of which Wildlands League was a member) and Nishnawbi Aski Nation have recommended.

Why? Because without an independent board, planning in the Far North will continue to be done as it is now with no comprehensive oversight. This 'board' would consist of provincial and First Nation appointees to oversee the implementation of the Far North planning process.

The independent board would approve local plans, coordinate the development of a regional strategy and integrate the broad scale strategy at the local level. It would aid in dispute resolution and disburse funds in an open, transparent manner.

- **adequately resource this initiative.** The Far North Advisory Council recommended a start up investment of \$100 million over 5 years.
- **close the loophole** that allows transmission lines and roads to proceed ahead of land use planning so that the conservation first principle can be articulated properly in law, and;
- make it clear that **First Nations will establish and manage a permanent network** of interconnected protected areas (areas free of industrial development) that would be consistent with the Premier's vision from July 2008.



[Click here](#) to submit comments using the EBR Registry. **Public comments are due August 4th.**

[Take a virtual tour of the Great Boreal Forest.](#)



Watch Bou the Woodland Caribou's [latest video](#), giving you the goods on *The Good, The Bad and the Ugly* in honor of Canada's Parks Day, July 18.

Thank you. More of you are giving online - and every dollar counts. Please visit [our website](#) and make your voice heard.



## Did You Know?



- Wildlands League staff, joined by Minister George Smitherman and comedian turned activist Cathy Jones, will be visiting the Hudson's Bay coast this August, in search of polar bears. Stay tuned for info and pictures on this trip.

