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In The News



Revised Mining Act charts new course

CPAWS Wildlands League has been calling for *Mining Act* reforms since 2006 and worked with First Nations, human rights, faith-based, legal, student, citizens, environmental and other groups to

draw attention to the problems of the *Act*. [Read more](#)

The *Mining Act*, originally passed in 1873, has been the source of many land use conflicts in the province. It was one of the biggest impediments to conservation-land use planning and a new relationship with Aboriginal peoples.

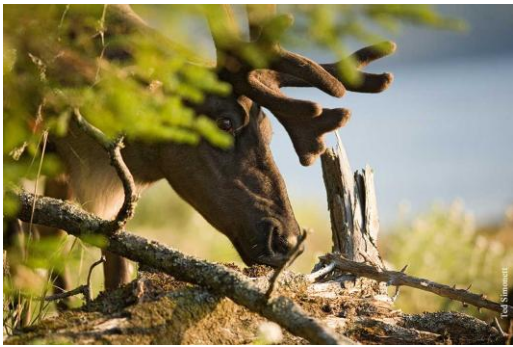
Last week, CPAWS Wildlands League welcomed several changes to Ontario's *Mining Act* tabled in the legislature by Minister Gravelle. In particular, if passed, the province will implement a new dispute resolution process for Aboriginal-related issues to mining, withdrawal of areas that are culturally significant and an increased regulatory system for exploration.

We hope these changes will ultimately lead to certainty, increased protection for the environment and respect for Aboriginal peoples.

The tabled *Mining Act* now proceeds to second reading in the house with debate, then presumably to committee for discussion and some broader consultation and finally reappears in the house for third reading and passage. We will be posting analysis throughout this process.

And of course, still to come is legislation for planning in the Far North and how that will interact with the possible new *Mining Act*.

Read the full release [here](#).



Caribou plan fails to stop extinction clock

Groups urge Premier McGuinty to act before June deadline

Ontario passed new Endangered Species legislation almost two years ago and listed Woodland Caribou as a priority species for protection. In the

intervening time the province has failed to provide adequate regulations to protect this species. CPAWS Wildlands League, along with our partners at Save Ontario's Species (SOS) were waiting for details in the much anticipated Caribou Conservation Plan, posted just last week.

The plan as posted, however, does not do this. For example, the plan recognizes that caribou do not come back to logged areas, yet in the same document states forestry is compatible with caribou. Much depends now on addressing this conflict and the definition of habitat in the Caribou Habitat regulation expected shortly.

The draft Caribou Conservation Plan can be found at [here](#).

Read the full release from Save our Species [here](#).

We will be providing our comment on the EBR posting shortly.



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