



June 27, 2016

**The Honourable Kathryn McGarry**  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Whitney Block  
Rm 6630, 99 Wellesley St W  
Toronto ON M7A 1W3

Dear Minister McGarry,

On behalf of our Board of Directors and our members, I wanted to congratulate you and wish you well as the new Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF).

These are challenging times for rural Ontario, and the way forward will have to come through productive and open working relationships between government of all levels, industry, and non-government organizations.

There are two current unresolved MNRF policy matters causing concern with Ontario's waterfront property owners:

- 1) *The questionable new practice of requiring permits for small in-water works (docks) in Ontario. This matter was the subject of previous correspondence to Minister Mauro (letter attached) and it has not yet been responded to;*
- 2) *Outstanding reforms to the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, specifically Water Management Plans, which have been abandoned mid-way and which the Ministry has failed to address (see second attached letter).*

It is our sincere hope we can return to a productive and more open relationship with MNRF, and we are pleased to make ourselves available to re-engage in the dialogue. We believe it is important that the MNRF understands its stakeholders, including northern and rural residents, and has a commitment to take these public policy matters to heart.

Waterfront property owners represent one of the single largest rural constituencies – over 250,000 families, located in hundreds of Ontario municipalities and who collectively own and steward 15,000 kilometers of the Province's shorelines, and over 50,000 hectares of economically and environmentally important lands.

On behalf of these families, FOCA has worked on many shared and important issues with MNRF in the past: as members of the Ontario Biodiversity Council, and as the OBC Stewardship liaisons; supporting Broadscale Fisheries Monitoring alongside our work on the Lake Partner Program; as partners in FireSmart; as consultative partners on Crown land planning, permits, fisheries, forestry and water management.

I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how our organization and our membership can positively influence the future for rural and northern Ontario in the months ahead.

Please contact our offices at the earliest convenient time to make arrangements for a meeting. With your help and leadership, together we can support FOCA's mission: ***to protect thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario.***

Sincerely,



Terry Rees, Executive Director  
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, Inc.  
#201-159 King Street  
Peterborough, ON K9J 2R8

*Waterfront property owners are a major economic force rural in Ontario. Using appropriate resource planning and economic policies, and effective tools to deliver them, will help to ensure the long-term prosperity and health of the Province. Ontario's waterfront property owners contribute a conservative \$800+ million in property taxes annually, and collectively provide the financial means for a great deal of local infrastructure and administration.*

*Attached:*

*April 2016 Letter to Minister Mauro – Dock permits*

*April 2016 Letter to Minister Mauro – Water management*

Your lake. Your lifestyle. Your legacy.

**Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations**

#201 – 159 King St., Peterborough, ON K9J 2R8 705-749-3622 [info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca) [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca)