

**Ministry of Natural
Resources**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère des Richesses
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MNR3006MC-2008-1975

SEP 10 2008

Chief Wabiska Mukwa
Algonquin Woodland Métis Aboriginal Tribe
PO Box 496
Minden ON K0M 2K0

Dear Chief Mukwa:

Thank you for your letter regarding Ontario's forestry sector and Aboriginal rights. I appreciate the time you have taken to share your concerns, and I am pleased to respond.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is committed to managing the province's natural resources in the interests of conservation, economic growth and public health and safety. In doing so, MNR also has a legal obligation to respect and accommodate, where appropriate, the Aboriginal and treaty rights recognized and protected by the *Constitution Act, 1982*. Ontario has made a number of policy commitments to improve relationships with Aboriginal peoples, increase Aboriginal participation in government decision-making and increase Aboriginal participation in the benefits of resource development.

I have asked that David MacDonald, Manager of my ministry's Aboriginal Relations Branch, follow up with you to discuss the broad range of issues raised in your letter. If you wish to contact him, he can be reached at (705) 755-1923 or david.macdonald@ontario.ca.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Cansfield".

Donna Cansfield
Minister of Natural Resources

c: The Honourable Michael Bryant, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
The Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines
David MacDonald, Manager, Aboriginal Relations Branch