

Friends of the Ontario Ranger Program Request for Support

Whereas: In September 2012 the provincial government cancelled the 70-year old Ontario Ranger Program (ORP), formerly known as the Ontario Junior Ranger Program;

And whereas: When the government cancelled the Ontario Ranger Program it claimed the Stewardship Youth Ranger Program [SYP], an existing day program, would deliver the same experience and would offer more jobs

And whereas: This day program does not offer the same quality of experience youth gained under the previous ORP in respect to knowledge of resource management and without the distractions of daily life;

And whereas: Since 2012, 278 Ontario Ranger jobs have been eliminated;

And whereas: In previous years more than half of the Ontario Rangers were students from large urban centres. By contrast this year, the current day program is just not accessible to those students in those urban centres.

And whereas: When the government cancelled the ORP, many youths lost an opportunity for a once-in-a-life-time experience because the ORP only required enrolment in an Ontario high school and acceptance into the program was based on a postal-code lottery system;

And whereas: cancellation of the 70-year old ORP does a disservice to public services in Ontario to those who have come to admire and respect the natural beauty of our province;

And whereas: Conservation Authorities encourage students to learn about the importance of conserving our shared natural environment and what they can do to make a positive impact;

And whereas: the provincial government committed \$295 million dollars in the 2013 provincial budget for youth employment.

Therefore be it resolved that the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority supports the Friends of the Ontario Ranger Program campaign to restore the Ontario Ranger Program in the 2014 provincial budget;

And be it further be resolved that the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority shall send a letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Minister of Natural Resources, David Orazietti, urging their government to restore the Ontario Ranger Program for future generations of young people;

And be it finally resolved that the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority forward this resolution for support to the other 35 Conservation Authorities.

Please copy LSRCA on Resolutions.