



The Corporation of the Township of Emo

P.O. Box 520, Emo, Ontario, P0W 1E0

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August 14, 2023

Via email only

Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

Dear Honourable Doug Ford,

Re: Black Ash Tree Classification as "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of Emo, at its meeting held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 passed the following resolution.

Resolution June 14, 2023 No. 16

WHEREAS the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks listed the Black Ash Tree as endangered in the Province of Ontario as a result of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation in eastern and southern Ontario;

WHEREAS this classification was given even though the Emerald Ash Borer is not known to be widespread in Northwestern Ontario;

WHEREAS the Black Ash Tree is assumed to remain abundant on the landscape of Northwestern Ontario;

WHEREAS the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) classification of "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) prohibits killing (Harvesting), harming, harassing, possessing, transporting, trading, and selling of live or dead Black Ash, and damaging or destroying its habitat on both Crown and Private Land;



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WHEREAS the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) classification of “endangered”, for the Black Ash Tree, came into effect on January 26, 2022;

WHEREAS the Ontario Black Ash Recovery Strategy is proposed to come into enforcement in January 2024;

WHEREAS the strategy is not expected to change the 50-99% destruction of Black Ash by the Emerald Ash Borer;

WHEREAS the strategy contains 170 references to possibilities that “may” be or are “poorly understood”, including 80-year climate change models;

WHEREAS one of these unknown factors is the Rainy River forests of Northwestern Ontario;

WHEREAS the Rainy River forests, while having features of Great Lakes – St. Lawrence, also include Boreal and Prairie habitats following a continuum from northern Minnesota rather than from Southern Ontario;

WHEREAS the strategy, if applied, will certainly have severe impact on the economy, agriculture, forestry, tourism, recreation, First Nations and residential landowners of the Rainy River District;

WHEREAS it would be impossible to fully comply with the strategy and continue living in much of the Rainy River District;

WHEREAS consultation on the Black Ash and Emerald Ash Borer did not include the majority of Northwestern Ontario.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Emo urges the Provincial Government to:

- a) Rescind the Ontario Black Ash Recovery Strategy at least as it concerns the Rainy River District and Northwestern Ontario;
- b) Seek further understanding of the health of the Black Ash in the Rainy River District and Northwestern Ontario.
- c) Complete a provincial study regarding socio-economic impact on this part of Northwestern Ontario

in consultation with stakeholders BEFORE any policies are passed and enacted upon.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Regards,



Crystal Gray
CAO/Clerk-Deputy Treasurer
Acting Treasurer
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cc. Thunder Bay – Superior North MP, Marcus Powlowski
Premier Doug Ford
Kenora-Rainy River MPP, Greg Rickford
Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs
Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)
Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
The Federation of Agriculture
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Office of the Ontario Regional Chief – Chiefs of Ontario
Northwestern Ontario First Nations
Rainy River District Municipal Association (RRDMA)
Rainy River District Clerks & CAO's