

Thank You Premier McGuinty for protecting Ontario's Boreal Forest

Dear Premier McGuinty: We thank you for your bold and visionary commitment to the world's future in your recent announcement to protect 225,000 square kilometers of Ontario's still intact Boreal Forest. As scientists who have had the opportunity to carry out research and engage with policy makers around the world, it has been rare that we have been witness to conservation actions of truly historic proportions. Canadians, and really all citizens of the world, should recognize that your pledge is such an action.

It is difficult to find political leaders who will heed the recommendations of science, especially when it is not easy to do so. We are among more than 1,500 scientists from around the world who last year sent a letter to Canadian government leaders pointing out the global importance of the Boreal as one of the last large



undeveloped and wild forest ecosystems left on earth. To maintain its abundance of caribou, wolves, bears and billions of birds, its function as a global warming buffer for the world, and its ability to sustain the many First Nations that make their lives within it, we should strive to protect at least 50% of the Boreal from habitat loss and degradation. Premier McGuinty, you were the first provincial minister in Canada to acknowledge this fact and move it from recommendation to implementation.

We hope that leaders from around the world will follow your lead in increasing the amount of protected areas in their regions. We particularly hope that other Canadian provinces will accept Ontario's challenge to raise the conservation bar. We look forward to seeing the results of this commitment in Ontario and throughout Canada over the next decade.

Sincerely,

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