

The letter below was sent by email to John Yakabuski in his role as Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), and to the constituency office email of Laurie Scott, as the local MPP, on January 22. There has been no reply to FOCA as of February 27, 2019.



Date: January 22, 2019

From: FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations)

To: minister.mnrf@ontario.ca
cc: laurie.scott@pc.ola.org

Greetings Minister Yakabuski, and by cc Minister Scott,

I am writing today to express FOCA's concerns with recent news that the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA) will no longer be receiving the field support traditionally provided by the local MNRF (Bancroft District) personnel.

Many of FOCA's member associations are located across Haliburton and are beneficiaries of (and volunteer with) this local volunteer group. A vital and threatened freshwater sportfish is maintained through this community effort. MNRF's annual contribution of a couple of days of staff time plus some equipment is already pretty underwhelming, but to replace it is a significant hurdle for this all-volunteer group.

The HHOA is a volunteer-led initiative that maintains a vital and globally rare fishery; the MNRF involvement is one modest but important part of supporting the important management activity of the HHOA. Wise investments of public resources can be measured to include the multiplying effect of volunteer input and overall impact; in the case of this hatchery, the Province commits a little but receives a lot in return.

I hope you will reconsider this decision, and agree to reinstate the Bancroft District's role in supporting the collection of Trout eggs for the Haliburton Fish Hatchery.

We look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

Terry Rees, Executive Director
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA)