Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Office of the Minister

Room 6630, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto ON M7A 1W3
Tel: 416-314-2301
Fax: 416-314-2216

Ministère des Richesses naturelles et des Forêts

Bureau du ministre

Édifice Whitney, bureau 6630
99, rue Wellesley Ouest
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1W3
Tél.: 416-314-2301
Téléc.: 416-314-2216

Ontario

MNR5805MC-2015-682

APR 1 6 2015

received
April 21, 2015

Mr. Charles Hatt
Lawyer
Ms. Liat Podolsky
Staff Scientist
Ecojustice
401-550 Bayview Avenue
Toronto ON M4W 3X8

Dear Mr. Hatt and Ms. Podolsky:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Ecojustice regarding the *Endangered Species Act* and the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO).

Please be assured that COSSARO will continue in its important role of classifying species at risk in Ontario. COSSARO appointments must adhere to an established process for public agency appointments, which includes being appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council through an Order in Council.

The position for a new chair of COSSARO was publically posted on the Public Appointments Secretariat website in February with a closing date of March 4, 2015. Applications for the position of chair, as well as for other members, are now being reviewed to ensure that the candidates have relevant expertise. It is expected that a new chair will be announced soon.

My ministry is continuing its strong commitment to provide support to COSSARO. As the committee that is responsible for classifying species at risk in Ontario, it plays a critical role in the recovery and protection of species at risk.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Bill Mauro
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry