



Ministry of  
Natural  
Resources

Minister

Ministère des  
Richesses  
naturelles

Ministre

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JUN 24 2004

MNR1205MC-2004-1688

Mr. Harald Lohn  
President  
The Kenora District Camp Owners Association  
PO Box 545  
Dryden ON P8N 2Z2

Dear Mr. Lohn:

Thank you for your letter regarding non-resident deer hunting in northwestern Ontario and your suggestions on how to address it.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has been monitoring the increasing non-resident deer hunting pressure as it relates to potential impacts on hunter congestion, hunt quality and the sustainability of the deer population. The MNR has also been working with local stakeholders and a local advisory committee to develop recommendations on ways to address the increasing non-resident deer hunt in northwestern Ontario. A number of the recommendations from this advisory committee related to non-resident deer hunters camping on Crown land have already been implemented.

I agree that there is a need to further examine the non-resident deer hunting situation in northwestern Ontario. MNR staff are reviewing the current status of the hunt, the outstanding recommendations from the advisory committee, and the management options that are available to us. During the earlier review, it was pointed out that MNR does not have the option of simply requiring all non-resident deer hunters to be accommodated at a commercial tourism establishment; legal opinion has consistently indicated that this is in clear contravention of the North American Free Trade Agreement. I expect that stakeholder discussions will shortly be re-established to help explore other creative solutions. However, any recommendations developed will not be implemented in time for the 2004 hunting season. The 2004-05 *Hunting Regulations Summary* has just been published, and there will not be time to regulate and adequately communicate new changes prior to the fall 2004 hunt.

Thank you again for your interest in the non-resident deer hunt in northwestern Ontario.

Sincerely,

Hon. David Ramsay  
Minister

c: Howard Hampton, MPP, Kenora-Rainy River