

Petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario Regarding the Government's Sale of the Muskoka Regional Centre Property:

WHEREAS the Ontario Government's Muskoka Regional Centre property on Lake Muskoka in the Town of Gravenhurst is subject to development proposals; and

WHEREAS the residents, cottagers, and visitors of Muskoka deeply value the natural character, scenic beauty, and environmental health of the Muskoka lakes; and

WHEREAS the preservation of the tree line near the water— “the view from the canoe”—is central to the cultural, recreational, and environmental identity of Muskoka; and

WHEREAS provincial and municipal regulations require new development on the lakes be subject to the same standards and restrictions as any private landowner, including those governing shoreline setbacks, building size, and protection of vegetation; and

WHEREAS allowing exemptions for the developer of the Muskoka Regional Centre property sets a precedent undermining fairness and the stewardship of Muskoka's natural heritage;

We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

That the Government of Ontario ensure that any development of the Muskoka Regional Centre property is subject to and compliant with all existing regulations, including shoreline setback rules, tree line and vegetation protections, and limitations on building size and density, so that the natural beauty, environmental health, and cherished “view from the canoe” of Lake Muskoka are preserved for present and future generations.

[illegible]