



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario

August 19, 2008

The Hon. Peter Fonseca, MPP
Minister of Tourism
Hearst Block, 9th Floor, 900 Bay St
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2E1

Dear Minister:

This letter is in reference to the replacement of the Oxtongue Lake Narrows Bridge (GWP 93-89-00) and Oxtongue River Bridge (GWP 5550-04-00) in the Township of Algonquin Highlands in the County of Haliburton.

As Tourism Critic for the Official Opposition, I hope that the replacement of this bridge can be carried out with minimal or no impact on the tourism industry, and all the businesses and residents in the area.

Before construction proceeds, it is very important that a plan be in place to protect all those affected by the construction. Furthermore, the environment must be protected from the noise, dust, and objects that could jeopardize both the tourism industry and our vital natural resources. The issue is not tourist access—it is loss of tourists avoiding the peaceful environment to which they would otherwise be accustomed.

In the interests of fairness, a plan must provide compensation for loss of revenue during the construction period, and must be agreed upon by the affected communities.

Homes and livelihoods are at stake. At a time when the tourism industry is already facing challenges on so many fronts, this community can ill-afford further disruption—particularly one lasting two years or more. For this reason, a fair agreement is absolutely critical.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

Ted Arnott, MPP
Wellington-Halton Hills

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Cc: The Hon. Jim Bradley, Minister of Transportation
Ms. Laurie Scott, MPP
Mr. Gary Schultz

