



May 4, 2010

The Honourable Leona Dombrowsky
Minister of Education
Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

RE: Funding for Regional Environmental Education Leads

Dear Minister Dombrowsky,

It was recently brought to our attention that Ministry of Education funding for the Regional Environmental Education Leads (REELs) will not be continued for the upcoming school year.

It is our view that in a very short time the six English language and three French language REELs have made excellent progress in supporting the implementation of a number of the items identified in the *Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow: A Policy Framework for Environmental Education*.

Through Conservation Ontario, conservation authorities have invested significant effort into working together in order to provide one portal into a wide range of opportunities for schools, school boards and the Ministry of Education to access the programs and services we provide. The creation of the REEL positions represented a positive complement to this effort and a firm recognition that in order for the value of the many providers of environmental education to be fully realized, collaboration must take place and partnerships must be developed and nurtured. In this regard it is unfortunate that funding for the REELs is not being continued – truly this effort had only just begun.

We respectfully request that the Ministry of Education reconsider this matter and restore funding to the Regional Environmental Education Leads.

Sincerely,

Dick Hibma, Chair
Conservation Ontario

c.c. All Conservation Authorities, CAOs