April 5, 2022

To the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks,


Collisions with glass windows on buildings represent a leading cause of mortality for migratory birds in Ontario, including bird Species at Risk that are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada maintains a database of birds killed or injured by collisions with building windows in the Greater Toronto Area and Ottawa region which includes **records of 24 bird Species at Risk**.

Bird friendly building design can be implemented in new building construction to reduce the risk of bird-window collisions and to protect bird Species at Risk in Ontario. In 2019, the Ontario government sponsored the development of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) A460 Bird Friendly Building Design standard. However, there is presently no requirement for developers to implement the standard in Ontario. New building construction continues to expand the risk of birds colliding with glass windows.

On October 7, 2021, MPP Chris Glover (Spadina-Fort York) introduced a [Private Member’s Bill in the Provincial legislature](#) urging the government to incorporate parts of the CSA A460 Bird Friendly Building Design standard into the Ontario Building Code. The proposed updates to the Code, if adopted, would introduce a legal requirement for bird friendly design to be included in all new building construction across the Province of Ontario.

While the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks does not typically work on matters related to the Ontario Building Code, protecting Ontario’s environment by enforcing Ontario’s environmental laws including the Endangered Species Act falls under the Ministry’s purview. The Ministry has also committed to protecting bird Species at Risk through public education about reducing the risk of window collisions.

**Therefore, we, the 29 undersigned Members of Provincial Parliament along with FLAP Canada, request a response from Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to the following questions:**

1. Do collisions with building windows, including windows on newly constructed buildings, pose a threat to bird Species at Risk in Ontario which are protected under the Endangered Species Act?
2. To what extent does the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks enforce the Endangered Species Act in cases where there is evidence of Species at Risk being harmed by collisions with windows on particular buildings?
3. Is the proposed update to the Ontario Building Code, to introduce requirements for bird friendly building design in new building construction, consistent with the Ontario government’s objective to conserve bird Species at Risk?

We look forward to coordination between Ministries of the Ontario Provincial Government to achieve meaningful changes in support of conserving Ontario’s bird populations and environment for future generations.
MPP Bhutila Karpoche
Parkdale–High Park
MPP Chris Glover
Spadina–Fort York
MPP Doly Begum
Scarborough Southwest
MPP Faisal Hassan
York South–Weston
MPP Gilles Bisson
Timmins
MPP Jamie West
Sudbury
MPP Jeff Burch
Niagara Centre
MPP Jennie Stevens
St. Catharines
MPP Jennifer French
Oshawa
MPP Jessica Bell
University–Rosedale
MPP Jill Andrew
Toronto–St. Paul's
MPP Joel Harden
Ottawa Centre
MPP John Vanthof
Timiskaming–Cochrane
MPP Judith Monteith Farrell
Thunder Bay–Atikokan
MPP Kevin Yarde
Brampton North
MPP Lisa Gretzky
Windsor West
MPP Marit Stiles
Davenport
MPP Michael Mantha
Algoma–Manitoulin
MPP Monique Taylor
Hamilton Mountain
MPP Peggy Sattler
London West
MPP Percy Hatfield
Windsor–Tecumseh
MPP Peter Tabuns
Toronto–Danforth
MPP Rima Berns Mcgown
Beaches–East York
MPP Sandy Shaw
Hamilton
West–Ancaster–Dundas
MPP Suze Morrison
Toronto Centre
MPP Taras Natyshak
Essex
MPP Terence Kernaghan
London North Centre
MPP Tom Rakocevic
Humber River—Black Creek
MPP Wayne Gates
Niagara Falls,
Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie
April 21, 2022

Mr. Brendon Samuels  
Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada  
Email: brendon@flap.org

Dear Mr. Samuels and Members of Provincial Parliament:

Thank you for your letter and interest in species at risk. I am pleased to respond and would like to assure you that this government is committed to conserving Ontario’s rich biodiversity by protecting species at risk and their habitats.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is responsible for the Endangered Species Act, 2007, a piece of legislation that promotes the recovery of species at risk and their habitat, and provides protections to species listed as endangered and threatened on O. Reg. 230/08 (Species at Risk in Ontario List) and their habitats.

My ministry continues to work to improve the effectiveness of the species at risk program and will consider your letter as we move forward.

Thank you again for your commitment to supporting Ontario’s species at risk.

Sincerely,

David Piccini  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks