



B-2B-00009

Ms. Pamela Grow

May 25, 2015

Dear Ms. Grow,

Half of the planet's wildlife has disappeared in our lifetime. Here, in our own province, more than 200 plant and animal species are at risk of becoming extinct.

STOP!

We can do something about it. In fact, you already are. And together, we can—and must—do more. Today, I'm sharing with you an action update to show you exactly what we're doing to save wild species you love and what more needs to be done.

As you know, Ontario Nature is suing the Province of Ontario. We have argued that the Provincial government unlawfully gutted our gold-standard Endangered Species Act. Its regulatory changes, made in 2013, dramatically weakened protection for at-risk wildlife. Our lawsuit is before Ontario's Divisional Court.

2015 is also an important year for three crucial wild spaces. The Greenbelt, Oak Ridges Moraine and Niagara Escarpment conservation plans are being reviewed by the government. And as the voice for nature in Ontario, we're involved in every step of the process, ensuring government protects these critical areas in the face of enormous pressure.

NOW WHAT?

To get the policy changes we need for our endangered species, we must work within our justice and political systems. This work can be agonizingly slow, and it can be hard to see and feel immediate changes, but securing legislative protections is a critical part of our work to protect nature in Ontario.

*please
turn over...*

WHAT ABOUT IN MY BACKYARD?

It's true—while we're working on legislative changes, we're also committed to protecting the species in your backyard and across Ontario. Your gifts fund on-the-ground conservation work with immediate and tangible outcomes. For example:

- **\$56** provides plants to establish new pollinator habitat at our Cawthra Mulock Nature Reserve and supports our Youth Council in their campaign to promote pollinator-friendly practices and ban the most harmful pesticides
- **\$75** surveys 100 square kilometres of spotted salamander habitat, recording and monitoring population changes. This is vitally important because salamanders appear to be disappearing in many areas and are excellent indicators of ecological health
- **\$102** keeps us on the ground every day establishing partnerships with farmers, local nature groups and others to help expand greenway habitats for species like the rapidly declining red-headed woodpecker

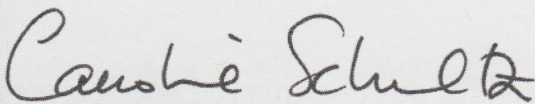
WHAT CAN I DO?

As a person who cares about nature you already do a lot. Please help us do more for nature by making a special gift today. A donation in one of the amounts listed above—or any amount you choose—provides critically-needed funds for Ontario Nature's work to save wild species and protect habitats across our province.

You can find out more on the enclosed Endangered Species Action Update. Please take a moment to read it. And then use the enclosed reply form to make your special gift to Ontario Nature.



Yours for nature,



Caroline Schultz
Executive Director

P.S. Will you help us protect the more than 200 species at risk in Ontario? Please make your special gift today!

Endangered Species ACTION UPDATE



\$56

© Christy M. Stewart



\$75

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Inspiring Action: Youth Council Responds to Pollinator Crisis

Pollinators are responsible for one in every three bites of food that we eat. They are critical to our ecosystems, ensuring the reproductive success of plants and the survival of wildlife that depend on those plants for food and shelter. The rusty-patched bumblebee was a common species in the 1970s and is now listed as endangered.

Your gift today will support the work of Ontario Nature's Youth Council. \$56 provides plants to establish new pollinator habitat at our Cawthra Mulock Nature Reserve and supports our Youth Council and their campaign to promote pollinator-friendly practices and ban the most harmful pesticides.

Citizen Science: Our Boots in the Bog

Six years ago, citizen scientists from all over Ontario began submitting their observations to our Reptile and Amphibian Atlas. Data collected by nature lovers like you show that the spotted salamander is now only found in 55% of its former range. This is particularly troubling because this species only travels one kilometre in its whole life—from wetlands to grasslands, and because salamanders are an "indicator species", which means that their well being tells us about the overall health of our ecosystem.

With your support today, Ontario Nature can encourage more citizen scientists to get involved in our Reptile and Amphibian Atlas. \$75 funds the work to survey 100 square kilometres of spotted salamander habitat, recording and monitoring population changes to inform conservation action.

\$102



Greenway Program: Protecting Habitats of Vulnerable Species

Red-headed woodpeckers were once common in southern Ontario. Scrappy, loud and bold, they live in open woodland and nest in dead trees. Their population has declined by more than 60% in the last 20 years. And the cause? Habitat loss. Here in southern Ontario, we have lost more than 70% of our wetlands, 98% of our original grasslands and 80% of our forests. Our Greenway program is a major conservation initiative to reverse this loss by protecting ecologically significant habitat cores and the corridors that connect them across southern and eastern Ontario.

Your gift today can help protect more crucial habitats. \$102 keeps us on the ground every day establishing partnerships with farmers, local nature groups and others to help expand Greenway habitats for species like the rapidly declining red-headed woodpecker.

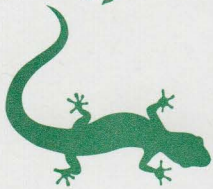
With the vital support of our members like you, Ontario Nature is a trusted voice for nature. With your support, we'll continue to be a strong voice for policies that protect at-risk species and the places they call home. Thank you for supporting our advocacy and on-the-ground conservation work. Nature depends on it.

Your gift today will also activate your Ontario Nature membership for 2015! This is your chance to make a gift to help wild species you love and wild spaces you explore. With your gift of \$50 or more you'll continue to receive all your membership benefits. Please, give today! - Caroline

Yes! I will provide critically-needed funds to protect wild species and wild spaces across our province!



☐ \$56 provides plants to establish new pollinator habitat at our Cawthra Mullock Nature Reserve and supports our Youth Council in their campaign to promote pollinator-friendly practices and ban the most harmful pesticides



☐ \$75 surveys 100 square kilometres of spotted salamander habitat, recording and monitoring populations. This is vitally important because salamanders appear to be disappearing in many areas and are excellent indicators of ecological health



☐ \$102 keeps us on the ground every day establishing partnerships with farmers, local nature groups and others to help expand greenway habitats for species like the rapidly declining red-headed woodpecker

☐ I would like to make a special gift of \$ _____

☐ I have enclosed my cheque, payable to Ontario Nature **OR**

☐ I prefer to pay by credit card. Please charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX

Cardholder's Name

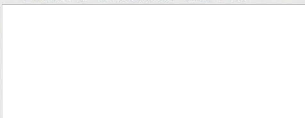
Expiry

Card Number

Signature

Thank you for your gift today!

Ms. Pamela Grow



**Ontario
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