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July 24, 2018

By email

To: The Hon. Jeff Yurek, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

And: The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Yurek,

We are writing to express great concern about a current policy decision by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) permitting construction work to continue on the Henvey Inlet Hydro Transmission line, which is intended to link the **Henvey Inlet windfarm project** to the grid at Parry Sound.

This lengthy transmission line runs through dense bush, which is currently extremely dry and under an Extreme Fire Ban. Apparently MNRF is permitting work to continue, including operations which involve the use of equipment and machinery that has the potential to start fires. There are reports that point to construction work on the wind farm, located on the Henvey Inlet First Nation Reserve lands, triggering a large fire classified as Parry Sound 33. This fire is now over 5,600 hectares in size, has destroyed an undetermined number of homes in the area, and has precipitated a large scale evacuation.

Please could you give consideration to ordering all construction work on this line that has any potential to cause a fire to cease with immediate effect and only resumed once the fire ban has been lifted. We fear that, if this is not done, additional fires will be started causing further damage to adjacent communities along the hydro line route.

Kind Regards,

Yours respectfully

Rupert Kindersley
Executive Director

The Georgian Bay Association is an umbrella organization for 19 cottage associations along the east and north shore of Georgian Bay. We have been advocating on behalf of our land-owning members for over 100 years. Our mandate is to work with our water-based communities and other stakeholders to ensure the careful stewardship of the greater Georgian Bay environment.