

AEL Advocacy Action Brief

Stop Ford's Wasaga Beach Proposal

 **Deadline: August 11, 2025**

This document is for your information. Please don't share it publicly.

OVERVIEW

On **June 27, 2025**, the Ontario government posted a proposal ([ERO #025-0694](#)) that threatens the ecological integrity of **Wasaga Beach Provincial Park**, a protected area that provides critical habitat for several species at risk, including the **endangered Piping Plover**.

The proposed legislative amendments would:

- **Transfer Nancy Island** from the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks** ("MECP") to the **Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming** ("MTCG")—shifting its management focus from conservation to tourism promotion.
- **Remove more than 645 acres** of protected parkland—including **Beach Areas 1, 2, New Wasaga, and Allenwood Beach**—from the **Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act** ("PPCRA") and the provincial parks system entirely.

These aren't just recreational spaces—they are ecologically critical areas that include:

- **Piping Plover nesting grounds**
- **Mature sand dunes** that protect against storms and rising lake levels
- **Provincially significant wetlands** and rare plant communities
- A designated **Area of Natural and Scientific Interest** ("ANSI")


WE NEED YOUR VOICE!

This proposal can be stopped—but only if enough Ontarians speak out.

Under Ontario's *Environmental Bill of Rights*, you have the right to participate in decisions that affect the environment. The public consultation period ends **at 11:59 PM on August 11, 2025.**

👉 **Submit a public comment through the Environmental Registry of Ontario:**

 [ERO #025-0694](#)

 Use our **key points** below or write in your own words for maximum impact.

KEY CONCERNS & TALKING POINTS

👉 **Choose the points that resonate with you and put them in your own words for maximum impact!**

1 Transferring Jurisdiction of These Areas Shifts Priorities from Conservation to Commercialization

- The MECP's mandate is rooted in conservation, biodiversity protection, and sustainability, as well as a specific priority for species at risk. The MTCG, by contrast, is focused on promoting tourism and economic development.
- This shift would replace science-based environmental governance with commercial priorities—putting vulnerable animals and ecosystems at risk.

2 Removing Key Beach Areas from the PPCRA Opens the Door to Irreversible Harm

- The 645 acres targeted for removal include **Piping Plover nesting grounds, mature sand dunes, provincially significant wetlands**, and a **designated earth science ANSI**

- The PPCRA already supports recreational uses, so long as they are ecologically sustainable and compatible with conservation goals. Stripping these areas from the park system is unnecessary and dangerous.

3 The Piping Plover Is at Risk of Local Extinction


- This endangered bird has successfully nested at Wasaga Beach for **16 consecutive years**—thanks to coordinated stewardship under the MECP and protections under the PPCRA.
- Development and increased human activity would disturb nesting areas and threaten the species' fragile recovery.

CALL TO ACTION


✓ 1. Submit a Comment by August 11, 2025

 Environmental Registry Notice: [ERO #025-0694](#)

 Read AEL Advocacy's full submission [here](#) → Feel free to use it as a reference, or simply endorse it in your own words.

 **It doesn't need to be long**—even a few sentences or a short paragraph can make a real impact.

✓ 2. Spread the Word

 Share this action brief with your networks, local environmental or community groups, and on social media. The more pressure we build, the harder it is for the government to move forward quietly.


SOCIAL MEDIA TEMPLATE

[Instagram Post](#)



[Instagram Story](#)



Sample Caption:

 **BREAKING:** The Ontario government is planning to REMOVE nearly 1/3 of Wasaga Beach Provincial Park—including endangered species habitat and ecologically vital sand dunes.

We have until August 11 to stop this.

 Submit your comment now and tell the government to withdraw this plan
 Link in bio

#WasagaBeach #ProtectOurProvincialParks #PipingPlover #StoptheSwap