

## **Public Input from Blue Ribbon Panel Property Rights (BRPPR) Open House in Eganville on April 28, 2017.**

John Yakabuski, Progressive Conservative MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, hosted the meeting

### **Input from the audience covered the following topics:**

Improve communications with respect to consultation meetings and subjects that impact on Property Rights. Details of implications and impact should be included in the notices to the public

- People are often not aware that a designation (wetland, aggregate, or moraine etc.) has been placed on their property, until they go to sell it and find that the value is much less than they expected. Many farmers rely on severing some lots for their retirement fund
- There have been many cases where a wetland designation, for instance, has been placed on properties, reducing their value, and then sold “dirt-cheap”. The Municipality then digs ditches, drains the wetland, and sells lots for building houses
- People in the Ottawa area who went to public meetings for the Land Evaluation Review had their designations changed on their property at the meeting. If a person tried to have the designation changed later, after the meeting, it could cost up to \$20,000. The city assumes implied consent if people do not show up at public meetings.
- Newspapers are not sufficient public notice of meetings.
- Notices could be mailed to landowners with tax bills
- It would help if zoning changes used civic addresses, example 100 Main Street, rather than lot and concession numbers in towns. The public would better understand the location of the zoning change, and if it impacted their property.

Crown forest access for logging costs too much

- One of the people present in the audience has reduced his cutting of trees in Algonquin Park from 90% to 40% of his business over the years. There are too many regulations in the park—from shorter cutting seasons, half load restrictions and higher stumpage fees, which have caused the cost of doing business there to skyrocket.
- Only 13% of Ontario is private property. Have to provide businessmen rights to work on Crown Land

“Species at risk” increases cost of doing business beyond sustainability

- There was a case where 50 people, plus contractors, lost their logging jobs for two months because a turtle was seen on a logging road in Algonquin Park. This sighting was not in “turtle season”

### Less government (GO, NGO) intervention

- Less intervention as in the “turtle in the park” case above. Economic benefits should outweigh the value of one turtle, especially when it was in not in the vulnerable breeding season

### Need common sense

- MOE and MNR employees hassle private industry in order to keep their jobs
- The logger tries to do his job in an environmentally friendly way—he doesn’t dump oil in the river. Government assumes he is doing something wrong
- Tales of Government inspectors having competitions to levy the most fines and get higher up the ladder

### Deregulation

#### Why do we need an Official Plan?

- Official Plans provide order for expansion of Municipal services
- Common sense to make reasonable plans is not always evident

### Increased Housing Costs

- There is a proposed requirement for Home Energy audits on houses before they are sold. The seller would have to have an audit done, including an estimate of the cost to bring the home up to standard. The seller would not have to do the upgrades.