

Ministry of Natural  
Resources and Forestry

Office of the Minister

Room 6630, Whitney Block  
99 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto ON M7A 1W3  
Tel: 416-314-2301  
Fax: 416-314-2216

Ministère des Richesses  
naturelles et des Forêts

Bureau du ministre

Édifce Whitney, bureau 6630  
99, rue Wellesley Ouest  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1W3  
Tél.: 416-314-2301  
Télec.: 416-314-2216



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JUN 07 2016

Ms. Tayce Wakefield  
President  
Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association  
c/o 1975 Watts Road  
Haliburton ON K0M 1S0

Dear Ms. Wakefield:

Thank you for your letter regarding authorizations for docks and single-storey boathouses occupying shore lands. These changes are the result of an Ontario Superior Court of Justice decision.

Historically, ministry work permits were only required for docks and boathouses that rested on or were attached to more than 15 square metres of shore lands. Typically, these structures only touched shore lands in the form of cribs and footings and most would not have exceeded the 15-square metre threshold.

In its decision, the Court held that a dock or boathouse floating above shore lands is considered to be occupying the lands beneath the structure, regardless of whether it is resting on or attached to the shore lands. As a result, a person with plans to build a dock or boathouse on or above more than 15 square metres of shore lands will now require a permit under the *Public Lands Act* (PLA). This includes new, replacement or expansion of existing and seasonal docks and single-storey boathouses. At the same time, a land use permit will be issued for these structures, as the Court decision also addressed the matter of PLA occupational authority.

The ministry's district offices are processing these PLA authorizations in the most expeditious manner possible. We have developed a streamlined application process that will provide the ministry with the information necessary to process permits. There is no cost associated with these PLA authorizations and they will be valid for a period of up to five years. More information is available at [www.ontario.ca/page/crown-land-work-permits](http://www.ontario.ca/page/crown-land-work-permits).

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Mauro".

Bill Mauro  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry