



# Friends of the Ontario Ranger Program request for support

**Whereas:** In September 2012 the provincial government cancelled the 70-year old Ontario Ranger Program (ORP), formerly known as the Ontario Junior Ranger Program;

**And whereas:** When the government cancelled the Ontario Ranger Program it claimed the Stewardship Youth Ranger Program [SYP], an existing day program, would deliver the same experience and would offer more jobs

**And whereas:** This day program does not offer the same quality of experience youth gained under the previous ORP in respect to knowledge of resource management and without the distractions of daily life;

**And whereas:** Since 2012, 278 Ontario Ranger jobs have been eliminated;

**And whereas:** In previous years more than half of the Ontario Rangers were students from large urban centres. By contrast this year, the current day program is just not accessible to those students in those urban centres.

**And whereas:** When the government cancelled the ORP regular kids lost an opportunity for a once-in-a-life-time experience because the ORP only required enrolment in an Ontario high school and acceptance into the program was based on a postal-code lottery system;

**And whereas:** cancellation of the 70-year old ORP does a disservice to public services in Ontario to those who have come to admire and respect the natural beauty of our province;

**And whereas:** the provincial government committed \$295 million dollars in the 2013 provincial budget for youth employment.

**Therefore be it resolved** that the *(name of the municipality or organization)* supports the Friends of the Ontario Ranger Program campaign to restore the Ontario Ranger Program in the 2014 provincial budget;

**And be it further be resolved** that the *(name of the municipality or organization)* shall send a letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Minister of Natural Resources, David Oraziotti, urging their government to restore the Ontario Ranger Program for future generations of young people;

**And be it finally resolved** that the *(name of the municipality or organization)* forward this resolution for support to the Ontario Municipal Association and the communities it represents for further endorsements.

# Getting support from your municipal council

The municipal council is probably your closest elected official you have access to. The smaller the community the more influence you have as a voter.

## **Why should your local government support the Save the Rangers campaign?**

This campaign is about restoring the Ontario Ranger Program for the next generation of young people and it was accessible to all 17 year old students from Ontario wherever they lived. More than likely there are other former Rangers in the community.

## **This is a Provincial matter, so what difference does it make taking it to the municipal-level of government?**

Municipal governments have political influence on Provincial governments, who doesn't want people to like them? If more than one municipality is supporting the same campaign it adds weight to the issue.

## **How do I get my local government to support the campaign?**

1. If you know your elected official (s), it would be best to talk with him/her/them about the campaign and what you would like them to do.
2. Call or check online to find out when the council meetings are held, how do submit an application to speak to council and to submit the resolution you want passed.
3. The bigger the delegation you appear with, the more seriously it will be taken, especially as 2014 is the year for the next municipal elections. Most elected officials want to get reelected and will want to help your cause especially when it won't cost them anything.
4. Write or call the media to let them know you are to appear before council and why, local stories usually get coverage.
5. Tell your story, stay on topic, and thank them for their time.

After you have done all that, don't forget to share your story and the outcome with the Friends of the Ontario Ranger Program (FORP), we can Tweet, blog about it, and share on Facebook. You will inspire others to follow.

For any campaign materials or an electronic version of the resolution template you require or questions you might have, please email [savetherangers@gmail.com](mailto:savetherangers@gmail.com)