



**ONTARIO  
RIVERS  
ALLIANCE**

379 Ronka Road  
Worthington, ON P0M3H0  
LindaH@OntarioRiversAlliance.ca  
OntarioRiversAlliance.ca

15 May 2018

By Email To:

The Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health

**Re: Canadian Environmental Protection Act – Review**

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Ontario Rivers Alliance (ORA) is a Not-for-Profit grassroots organization acting as a voice for several stewardships, organizations, individual and First Nation members who have come together to protect, conserve and restore healthy river ecosystems.

We at the ORA fully support strengthening the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) through the list of 87 recommendations made by The Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development in its Eighth Report, tabled on 15 June 2017. The ORA supports the right to a healthy environment. Healthy communities, a healthy economy and a healthy environment are essential to Canada's sustainability. A review of the Act presents the federal government with a golden opportunity to improve the health and well-being of all people in Canada.

Federal recognition of the right to a healthy environment, either by an amended CEPA or a stand-alone bill, would be a ground-breaking step towards recognizing environmental rights as human rights. More than 110 countries already recognize these rights in law, but Canada does not. It's time we caught up. This is why we support the David Suzuki Foundation's Blue Dot movement and encourage you to take clear and strong action on CEPA.

Please act swiftly to ensure greater protection for human health and the environment from pollution and toxic exposures by introducing a bill to strengthen CEPA. Seize this opportunity to create a healthier, stronger Canada.

Respectfully,

Linda Heron  
Chair, Ontario Rivers Alliance  
(705) 866-1677

Cc: Paul Lefebvre, Member of Parliament for Sudbury – [Paul.Lefebvre@Parl.gc.ca](mailto:Paul.Lefebvre@Parl.gc.ca)