



May 16, 2025

To Whom this may concern,

Re: Bill-5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economic Act, 2025

Magnetawan First Nation (MFN) is a proud Anishinabek community, with a strong connection to our Lands, Water & Wildlife. Beyond the clear intrinsic value of nature, maintaining healthy Lands and Water is integral to culture and tradition. Protecting Biodiversity and Species-at-Risk (SAR) are ongoing initiatives for Magnetawan First Nation's Department of Lands, Resources, and Environment as guided by our Community and Advisory Elders.

Indigenous Communities have been thriving on Turtle Island for millennia prior to European contact and should be at the forefront of consultation processes. Bill-5 is many steps backwards with respect to reconciliation efforts by the Governments. MFN is strongly supporting Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) in their action to stop Bill-5. Our longtime partnership with SON has been nurtured by our mutual care for Species at Risk (SAR) and their environment. SON and MFN are in unique environments that foster an abundance of SAR and Bill-5 directly poses a threat to their ecological needs. The Ontario Provincial Government is fracturing the steps taken towards reconciliation with First Nation Communities by supporting Bill-5. It directly impacts our communities and ways of life; it furthermore continues to oppress the voice of Indigenous People. As Stewards of the Lands, MFN is advocating to be a voice for the voiceless (All-Our-Relations) and remind our governments that consultation with First Nations is not an optional endeavour, but a mandatory part of moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation. It is for this reason that there is a clear need to listen to the steward of the land (Indigenous Communities) and be guided by the voices that have been caring for Turtle Island since time immemorial.

Advocating for a future of equality, where the voices of all our relations can be heard,

Nadine Perron
Environmental Management Biologist
Magnetawan First Nation

