

22 November 1973

Dr. J.H. Day,
313 Mowat Avenue,
Kingston, Ontario.

and to:

Dr. K.J. Thompkins,
165 Plymouth Road,
Welland, Ont.

Dear Dr. Day:

I am writing to ask your support both personal and organizational (as a present representative of the Ontario Medical Association to the Conservation Council of Ontario) for a brief that our organization has recently submitted to the Ontario government and its Ministry of the Environment.

The brief was written in response to the Ministry of the Environment's "Green Paper on Environmental Assessment", released in September (enclosed).

The summary at the beginning of the brief outlines the main points which we feel are crucial if meaningful public involvement in the environmental impact assessment process on proposed future development(s) is to become a reality.

I suppose one could say that in some measure legislation in this area really carries an element of preventive medicine. Given that we are now learning about the long-term out-of-plant effects on health of, for example, the activities of industries in the Hamilton area, and more recently in Toronto re Canada Metal and lead pollution, we feel that consideration must be given to matters that we address in our brief.

We would ask that, if you agree with the positions taken in our brief, (or to the extent that you do) you indicate your support for them in your own submission, or letter to this effect, to the Minister at the following address:

Hon. J.A.C. Auld,
Minister of the Environment,
135 St. Clair Avenue West,
Toronto, Ontario.

Please mail a copy to our office, as this will be the only compilation of the submissions and letters sent to the Minister. We have asked the Ministry to prepare a summary and list of submissions and letters from all sources.

The deadline for submissions has been moved pp to January 1 (from November 1); however, the Minister will probably accept them after that date as well.

I would hope that the OMA, as a member of the Conservation Council, might be prepared to support us in some measure on this matter.

As emphasized in the brief, an adequate and effective review process, involving the public, is the most effective means to ensure that the quality of the environment will be maintained. Since Ontario's lead will, to some extent, be followed in other provinces and at the federal level, it is difficult to overstress the need to implement a satisfactory process, worthy of emulation, from the beginning.

Yours very truly,

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

J.F. Castrilli
Environmental Impact Study Group

JEC/eb