

Dear

I'm writing in support of forest protection in our Provincial Forests. Cross-Country skiing and cycling are fabulous sports that promote health and fitness. It's fun and it's good for the environment. But our forests are being lost at an alarming rate, largely because of clear-cut logging and forest fires. This natural resource is disappearing in huge chunks with mind-numbing speed. Sandilands forest fire is a perfect example - 3400 hectares in less than a day. The time to act is now.

Every year thousands of hectares of Provincial Forest are levelled in Manitoba. We need these trees for many obvious reasons - replenishing our oxygen supplies, home for wildlife, and, yes, even harvesting timber in a sustainable way. Many Manitobans use this wilderness area for recreation. This means that skiers and cyclists have to share the trails with snowmobiles, ATV's and even trucks and cars. But our government has not legislated appropriate and effective management laws. This puts the forest and skiers and cyclists at risk.

If the Province of Manitoba is committed to a greener, sustainable environment, it's critical to get motor vehicles – motorcycles, ATV's, trucks and cars off the trails in our Provincial Forests. It's time to stand up for the environment. We need:

- A policy that requires forestry companies to harvest timber in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner in all Manitoba Provincial forests
- Vehicle access to the Provincial forests to be restricted and in some areas banned
- Off-road vehicles, particularly ATV's to be limited to specific trails not shared by non-motorized traffic (i.e. cross-country skiers and cyclists)
- Provincial funding for mandatory educational programs for off-road vehicle operators regarding safe operation of said vehicle and respect for the existing motor vehicle laws, including respect for non-motorized traffic
- Provincial funding for adequate enforcement of the new traffic and logging regulations when they come into effect

Yours Sincerely,