



JUN 25 2012

Professor Jules Blais
President
Society of Canadian Limnologists
30 Marie Curie Road
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 6N5

Dear Professor Blais:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 5, 2012, concerning the Experimental Lakes Area (ELA).

I acknowledge the excellent research that has been conducted at the ELA and the unique opportunity that the facility presented for researchers.

The termination of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO's) role in the operations at the ELA is part of the Government of Canada's effort to eliminate the deficit and contribute to current and future prosperity. Through the Department's Strategic and Operating Review, DFO has reviewed operations and will be implementing measures to modernize government and refocus the cost of operations and program delivery.

As such, the Department will stop conducting experimental research that requires whole lake or whole ecosystem manipulation. DFO believes universities and non-government research facilities are better suited to conduct the type of research that has been done at the ELA, and the Department strongly favours transferring operations to an organization that is better positioned to do studies based on fundamental ecosystem manipulation.

In the coming weeks and months, DFO will be holding discussions with the Province of Ontario and other interested parties about transferring operations of the facility.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Ashfield".

Keith Ashfield