



## **PRESS RELEASE (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)**

### **Canadian Scientists Urge Government to Save Famed Research Station**

January 8, 2013 (Windsor) – In response to an outpouring of support from their membership at a 3-day scientific conference, The Society of Canadian Limnologists has sent an open letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Keith Ashfield, urging her to reconsider the decision to close the world-famous Experimental Lakes Area (ELA).

The statement of support, drafted at the meeting and released today as an open letter, was supported unanimously by the society membership at their annual business meeting. The business meeting is held every year during the Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research.

“The looming closure of this facility was clearly on all our minds during our annual meeting this past weekend,” says Dr. Jules Blais, Professor at Ottawa University and President of the Society. “Given the importance of this facility, and the overwhelming prominence of the Experimental Lakes Area at this year’s meeting, we felt we had to capture the support for the program among the scientific community, as well as the continued sense of outrage over the government’s decision to close it.”

This year, with more than 330 delegates attending, ELA research featured prominently in the Conference program. Dr. Ray Hesslein, Former Scientist-In-Charge and retired ELA scientist, was a keynote speaker and received the Frank Rigler Award, the highest honour bestowed by the Society of Canadian Limnologists for outstanding contributions to aquatic science in Canada. The special symposium organized to highlight past and ongoing research at ELA was often standing-room only.

“The possibility that ELA will be shut down and all of the tremendous work that they do lost is weighing heavily on the minds of scientists.” adds Jules Blais. “Canada’s Experimental Lakes Area is the most innovative water research facility in the world. If we lose it, we lose our ability to predict human impacts on water and prevent the damage. It’s our hope that this letter will help persuade the government to listen to Scientists and Canadians alike, and not give up on it’s investment in ELA.”

Canada received a huge blow in 2012 with news that the Government of Canada plans to shut down the ELA. Employees of Fisheries & Oceans Canada learned last May that research at ELA no longer fits within the government’s mandate and the world- renowned facility will be terminated in March 2013.

The Society of Canadian Limnologists is the Canadian Chapter of the International Association of Theoretical and Applied Limnology, and offers a Canadian forum to discuss limnological research and issues, to promote aquatic research in Canada, and to support the integration of young Canadian limnologists in the research community.

Society  
of Canadian  
Limnologists



Société  
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