

**Ministry of Natural  
Resources and Forestry**

Office of the Minister

Room 6630, Whitney Block  
99 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto ON M7A 1W3  
Tel: 416-314-2301

**Ministère des Richesses  
naturelles et des Forêts**

Bureau du ministre

Édifice Whitney, bureau 6630  
99, rue Wellesley Ouest  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1W3  
Tél.: 416-314-2301



354-2020-1111

June 10, 2020

Ms. Carol Anne Meehan  
Councillor  
Ward 22 Gloucester-South Nepean  
City of Ottawa  
[Carolanne.Meehan@ottawa.ca](mailto:Carolanne.Meehan@ottawa.ca)

Dear Councillor Meehan:

I am writing in response to your letter in regard to urban coyotes in your community. I wish to clear up any confusion on this matter up front by stating that municipalities are responsible for deciding on and taking the necessary actions when human-coyote encounters occur within City boundaries.

Ontario has worked with municipalities for many years to prevent and manage conflicts between coyotes and people. The province provides support to municipalities by providing advice and expertise on actions they can take to resolve ongoing conflict situations. Any situation that compromises public safety should be referred to the local police as they are the authority to deal with these matters.

In many cases, conflicts between coyotes and people can be prevented. Homeowners can take steps to ensure wildlife, including coyotes, are not attracted to their property and neighbourhood by properly managing garbage and by accompanying pets outside. However, we recognize that preventative measures may not always be effective in preventing conflicts with individual animals, especially when human-provided sources of food continue to be made available to coyotes.

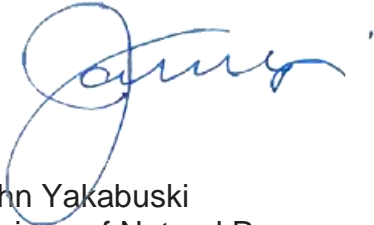
That is why the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* (FWCA) allows municipalities and property owners to protect property by harassing, capturing or dispatching a variety of wildlife species, including coyotes, or to hire an agent to do so on their behalf. No approval or authorization is required from the province in these cases. For additional information, please visit [www.ontario.ca/page/wild-animal-control-rules-municipalities](http://www.ontario.ca/page/wild-animal-control-rules-municipalities).

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) staff have been in discussion with the City of Ottawa. I understand ministry staff also joined a teleconference held by the City on June 9, 2020 where they provided technical advice and support. It is also my understanding that the City will be briefing you on the roles of the MNRF, municipality and police.

These discussions are important to ensure ongoing communication between the province and local representatives. Our government will continue to work with communities and partners to develop solutions that address local needs.

For more information about how to prevent and manage conflicts with coyotes, please visit [www.ontario.ca/page/preventing-and-managing-conflicts-coyotes-wolves-and-foxes](http://www.ontario.ca/page/preventing-and-managing-conflicts-coyotes-wolves-and-foxes).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Yakabuski', is written over a vertical grey line.

John Yakabuski  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: His Worship Jim Watson, Mayor, City of Ottawa  
Goldie Ghamari, MPP, Carleton