

NEW - OWA Policy Development Guidelines

The OWA supports any initiative that promotes sustainable forest management.

The OWA upholds landowners' rights, under the law, and emphasizes landowners' responsibilities.

The OWA supports the woodlot owner as steward of our most importance resource.

The OWA expresses concern about any initiative which might reduce forest cover in Ontario.

The OWA advocates on behalf of all woodlot owners in Ontario.

Any advocacy of the Ontario Woodlot Association must be:

- a. Forest-focused: The advocacy must be directed at issues or parts of issues that have a direct connection to forests and those who own them. It must not get involved in side issues that are separate from this focus.
- b. Fact-based: Any data used in presenting a position must be researched, checked and determined to be accurate. Sources must be identified when quoting such data.
- c. Well-articulated: Advocacy positions taken must be expressed clearly, precisely and logically.
- d. Respectful: When advancing a point of view, the argument can be forceful, even passionate and argumentative if deemed necessary, but while we may take issue with differing opinions, we must never lower the debate to a personal level.
- e. Defendable: Advocacy positions must go through a "devil's advocate" process where the points of view are challenged by others, to ensure they can stand the glare of scrutiny.