

## Petition in Support of Public Safety in Bala (front)

TO The Legislative Assembly of Ontario: -

WHEREAS to select a proponent for a hydro-electric generating station proposed at the Bala falls, the Ministry of Natural Resources (now the MNRF) released a Request for Proposals in 2005 which included the requirement that: *“For the North Bala Dam, demonstrate consideration of the extensive aesthetic, recreational, social and economic (i.e. tourism) values in the area of the proposed development.”*

AND WHEREAS through a competitive process, a proponent was selected based solely on their Proposal, which included the commitment that their proposed project would: *“not generally diminish the public’s enjoyment of the area for swimming, boating, fishing ...”*.

AND WHEREAS the tragic 2008 drowning of a 16-year-old boy at a nearby hydro-electric generating station due to the turbulent water exiting that station confirms that such generating stations can be deadly.

AND WHEREAS it would be unprecedented and dangerous to locate a hydro-electric generating station in the middle of an extremely popular in-water recreational area, and the public has not been informed how this could be done safely in Bala.

AND WHEREAS the Lifesaving Society is a national organization with expertise that includes assessing the safety of in-water recreational areas and measures.

AND WHEREAS the Township of Muskoka Lakes has declared they are an unwilling host municipality for this proposed project.

WE the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows: -

That the government of Ontario **not allow construction of the proposed Bala generating station to proceed until a *Safe Operating Plan* detailing the required safety measures** such as start-up warning and the location of fencing and the downstream safety boom, has been presented by the proponent to the public, and this plan has been found to be acceptable by the Lifesaving Society.

		Date:
Name (printed)	Address (printed)	Signature

