



Israel Oceanographic & Limnological Research Ltd

חקר ימים ואגמים לישראל בע"מ

Yigal Allon Kinneret Limnological Laboratory

המעבדה לחקר הכנרת ע"ש יגאל אלון

P.O.Box 447, Migdal 14950, Israel

ת.ד. 447, מיגדל 14950

Tel: 972 4 6721444; Fax: 972 4 6724627; [www.ocean.org.il](http://www.ocean.org.il)

e-mail: [kll@ocean.org.il](mailto:kll@ocean.org.il)

Canada Ambassador to Israel

Mr. Paul Hunt

3/5 Nirim Street

Tel Aviv, 67060

Israel

Email: [taviv@international.gc.ca](mailto:taviv@international.gc.ca)

May 30, 2012

Dear Ambassador,

We, scientists employed by Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research (IOLR), and engaged in research of Lake Kinneret, the only freshwater lake serving as a major source of drinking water in Israel, heard with great concern that the Government of Canada intends to shut down Canada's Experimental Lakes Area (ELA) - a world-famous Centre for Excellence in aquatic research. While this decision is surely based on governmental priorities, we are terribly worried and concerned about the doom of this Canadian renowned focus of leadership in lake and freshwater sciences that has been developed and maintained by the ELA scientific community, for more than 4 decades.

Canada's Experimental Lakes Area is a unique facility for aquatic research – there is no other comparable facility in the world. ELA whole lake experimental approach has shown time after time that only large scale studies can provide a reliable basis for environmental policy. Furthermore only the ELA experimental approach provides opportunities to explore key ecological processes with response time of years. The scientific activities at ELA have influenced water management policies and had had an impact on key environmental issues such as nutrient management, algal blooms, acid rain, climate change, mercury pollution, greenhouse gas production, hydroelectric reservoir development and endocrine-disrupting substances.

As a small scientific community that studies Lake Kinneret, (Israel), we appreciate the contribution of ELA scientists and research to our knowledge. Together with many scientists in worldwide, we have gained from the unique experimental approach and the advanced scientific knowledge established at ELA. This knowledge is frequently applied for the benefit of diverse freshwater ecosystems. The needs and shortage of freshwater sources and desertification processes, all over the globe, point to and indicate the necessity of continuing research of freshwater natural ecosystems as done at ELA. By shutting down the ELA facility, the Government of Canada is stamping out the ability of the world scientific community to conduct the research required to formulate sound environmental policies.

We send our petition to the Government of Canada to reconsider its decision and allow the scientific activity at ELA to continue for the benefit of Canada's environment and freshwater ecosystems worldwide.

Cordially yours

Prof A. Sukenik

on behalf of scientists of The Kinneret Limnological Laboratory (Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research): A. Nishri, I. Ostrovsky, T. Berman, W. Eckert, A. Parparov, Y.Z. Yacobi, G. Gal, T. Zohary