PETITION

TO The Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

WHEREAS black bears are the only big game species with dependent young who are hunted in the spring; and

Whereas 34% of black bears killed are female and an average of 17% of those are adult (OMNR 2009 Report), some with cubs;

Whereas orphaned spring black bear cubs die of dehydration, starvation and predation; and

Whereas baiting, which may occur for 6 months in some areas, contributes to human-bear conflicts; and

Whereas Ontario still allows the use of dogs in bear hunting; and

Whereas the dogs may attack cubs and injured adult bears or may be injured or killed themselves; and

Whereas the previous spring hunt did not reduce human bear interactions because hunts do not eliminate the primary cause of these conflicts - unsecured attractants:

We the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

That the spring black bear hunt pilot project launched by the Minister of Natural Resources be cancelled; and

That the Bear Wise Programme be re-instated to provide municipalities with effective solutions to prevent and mitigate human bear conflicts.

Name (printed)	Address (printed)	Signature