

## Ministers release statement on exotic animals

On August 13th, Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and David Oraziotti, Minister of Natural Resources, released the following statement:

?The recent events in New Brunswick have touched many Ontario families who need to know that the rules are in place to help avoid such tragedies in our own province.

Currently, the responsibility for dealing with exotic animals falls to individual municipalities, which each have their own approach to bylaws and enforcement.

As a result, the Ontario government will review the rules in place dealing with the possession and ownership of exotic animals in the province. Our three ministries will create a working group to examine the current structure and whether any changes need to be made. The government will also seek input from key stakeholders, including municipalities, and report back this fall with options for moving forward.

The safety and well-being of all Ontarians is of greatest importance.?