

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS



P.O. Box 2800, 1601 Guthrie Drive, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8L5
Phone: (705) 748.6324 • Fax: (705) 748.9577 • Visit: www.ofah.org • Email: ofah@ofah.org

Ontario Conservation Centre

OFAH FILE: 417/572/794
May 25, 2011

COPY

FAX # (705) 755-1900

95

Mr. Chris Heydon
Fur Program Biologist
Policy Division/Biodiversity Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources
300 Water Street, PO Box 7000
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 8M5

FAXED

Dear ~~Mr.~~ ^{Chris} Heydon,

Subject: Proposal to Create a Youth Trapping License/Fur Manager Mentor Program - Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Registry #01 1-3177

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), its 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, and 670 member clubs, fully supports this proposal to amend the regulations to enable youth 12 to 15 to harvest furbearers, under the mentorship of a qualified adult trapper.

The OFAH is a strong supporter of, and advocate for, programs and policies that provide youth with opportunities to safely participate in traditional outdoor heritage activities, such as family fishing and hunting safety apprenticeship. We do this knowing that when young people are given the opportunity to responsibly hunt and fish, they gain from their experiences an interest in natural resource conservation -- and other positive values -- that will stay with them, and serve many well, for life.

Therefore, we are most pleased to support our fellow outdoorsmen and women in the Ontario Fur Managers Federation and the Ministry of Natural Resources, in this establishment of an Ontario youth trapping license/mentor program to provide qualified youths the ability to participate in this most traditional Canadian outdoors activity. We have no doubt that it will prove to be very positive for many families and fur management, in general, in Ontario.

We also agree that what is positive for commercial fur management in Ontario is also positive for human-wildlife conflict reduction and for healthy ecosystems. We applaud the Minister of Natural Resources for making this possible for Ontario fur managers and families.

Yours in Conservation,

Ed Reid
Senior Wildlife Biologist

ER/jb

cc: Robin Horwath, Ontario Fur Managers Federation
OFAH Board of Directors
Mike Reader, OFAH Executive Director
Angelo Lombardo, OFAH Executive Manager
Dr. Terry Quinney, OFAH Provincial Manager, Fish and Wildlife Services
Greg Farrant, OFAH Manager, Government Affairs and Policy
OFAH Fish and Wildlife Staff