

# ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS



*Ontario Conservation Centre*

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**E-MAILED**  
12/08/15

Ms. Barbara Legault, Policy Advisor  
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport  
Culture Division  
Culture and Strategic Policy Branch  
Culture Policy Unit  
401 Bay Street, Suite 1800  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 0A7

Dear Ms. Legault:

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) is Ontario's largest, non-profit conservation-based organization, representing 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, and 725 member clubs. On behalf of the OFAH, I would like to identify an important element of Ontario's heritage that has not been recognized in *Telling Our Stories, Growing Our Economy: Developing a Culture Strategy for Ontario*.

Fishing, hunting, and trapping are central to Ontario's cultural identity. These activities supported Ontario's early economies and helped to develop a strong resource-based culture that remains today. Many people in Ontario rely on fishing, hunting, and trapping to enhance their quality of life and personal well-being; whereas, many communities in Ontario rely on these activities for a much needed economic stimulus.

There are very few activities in Ontario that have the cultural significance and economic potential of fishing, hunting, and trapping. Millions of Ontarians participate in these activities each year and help to generate billions of dollars for our economies in the process.

Even if individuals do not participate directly in fishing, hunting, or trapping, all residents of Ontario benefit from these activities. Anglers, hunters, and trappers not only make significant economic contributions to local, regional, and provincial economies, but also pay for a large share (\$65 million) of fish and wildlife management in Ontario through licence fees and royalties.

Despite the immense current value of fishing, hunting, and trapping, there is still potential for sustainable growth. Realizing the full potential by enhancing the personal, community, and provincial benefits arising from these activities requires investment. This investment should focus on promoting the cultural importance of these activities to broaden the social understanding and acceptance of these activities and their value to society as a whole. The return on investment will include maintaining our cultural traditions, and further developing a significant and sustainable economic activity for our future.

In conclusion, we strongly believe that fishing, hunting, and trapping should be celebrated as an important part of our heritage, and invested in as an important part of our future. These activities are deeply woven into the cultural fabric of Ontario and its people. Fishing, hunting, and trapping are anchored in our history, continue to enrich the lives of millions of Ontarians, and offer many important benefits to society as a whole. For these reasons, fishing, hunting, and trapping must be incorporated into any culture strategy that Ontario develops.

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The OFAH appreciates the opportunity to provide input on this important topic. We would welcome an opportunity to explore this topic further with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport to help determine how fishing, hunting, and trapping can be incorporated into Ontario's first culture strategy.

Yours in Conservation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt DeMille". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt DeMille, M.Sc.  
Manager, Fish & Wildlife Services

MD/gh

cc: Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Rosalyn Lawrence, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy Division, MNRF  
Angelo Lombardo, OFAH Executive Director  
Greg Farrant, OFAH Manager, Government Affairs & Policy