



2022 PROVINCIAL ELECTION  
**PRIORITIES**







# INVESTMENT IN A GREEN ECONOMY

Fishing and hunting contribute to a triple bottom line with enormous economic, environmental, and social benefits to the people of Ontario. Modest investments through post-pandemic recovery plans can leverage massive returns. **We want to see the next government invest in:**

**TO READ OUR 2022  
PROVINCIAL PRE-BUDGET  
SUBMISSION [CLICK HERE](#)**

## **THE FISH & WILDLIFE SPECIAL PURPOSE ACCOUNT (SPA)**

*by contributing more general revenue and taking steps to ensure accountability to support fish and wildlife conservation and management*

## **PROMOTION OF FISHING AND HUNTING**

*by actively encouraging participation to harness its domestic tourism potential*

## **THE FOREST ACCESS ROADS PROGRAM**

*by increasing funding to [unlock Crown land for many different users](#) to experience the outdoors*

## **OFAH-NDMNRF PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS**

*by restoring the full funding to the Invading Species Awareness Program, and enhancing support for the Community Hatchery Program and Ontario Family Fishing Events*

## **INFRASTRUCTURE TO ACCESS THE OUTDOORS**

*by supporting municipalities, conservation authorities, and other public land managers to build and maintain public access points like boat launches*

## **OTHER GREEN INVESTMENT PRIORITIES:**

**INVASIVE SPECIES** by injecting new general revenue (not at the expense of other NDMNRF programs or the SPA) to support management and control policies

**THE GREEN SHOVELS COALITION** by offering funding and other support to this [multi-stakeholder collaborative of NGOs](#) working on invasive species in Ontario

**THE GREAT LAKES** by way of the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health

**COMMUNITY CONSERVATION** by establishing funds that can be accessed by clubs and groups working on conservation projects in their communities

**LYME DISEASE** by supporting prevention efforts, treatment, and research of the disease and candidate vaccines to keep people in the outdoors





# PRIORITIES FOR WILDLIFE

Ontario's wildlife and associated sustainable use activities like hunting and trapping are culturally, socially, environmentally, and economically important in Ontario. To maintain healthy wildlife populations, it requires evidence-based and adaptable management. **We want to see the next government focus on:**

## MOOSE

*by conducting the three-year review of the changes to moose hunting as part of the [Moose Management Review](#)*

## COYOTES AND WOLVES

*by 1) [removing the game seal requirement in northern Ontario](#) and managing the harvest of gray wolves and eastern coyotes separately, and 2) removing hunting and trapping restrictions related to the Eastern Wolf*

## SNOWSHOE HARE

*by extending the hunting season in northern Ontario*

## CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD)

*by 1) banning the import of bait from jurisdictions with CWD, and 2) expanding the provincial CWD monitoring program to sample more zones annually, and 3) phasing out cervid farms in Ontario*

## BLACK BEARS

*by 1) [expanding WMUs that allow bear hunting](#), 2) taking action to ensure the sustainability of the Bruce Peninsula population, and 3) removing baiting restrictions*

## TRAINING & TRIALING AREAS FOR DOGS

*by permitting the transfer of existing facilities, and establishment of new ones*

## ELK

*by 1) re-engaging in active management of all elk herds, and 2) taking management action on escaped farmed cervids and elk-red deer hybrids*

## DEER

*by 1) [updating non-resident guide requirements](#), and 2) conducting a review of controlled deer hunts to make sure we are optimizing safety, sustainability, and quality of hunting opportunities*

## HUNTING IN PROVINCIAL PARKS

*by increasing opportunities for hunters in Ontario's protected areas*

## MUNICIPAL FIREARM RESTRICTIONS

*by permitting Sunday Gun Hunting province-wide, and creating guidelines for municipal authority to restrict firearms*

## WILD TURKEY

*by reviewing and updating the Ontario Wild Turkey Management Plan*

## OTHER WILDLIFE PRIORITIES:

**FORESTRY & WILDLIFE** *by reviewing the relationship between forestry practices and wildlife management*

**CARIBOU** *by recognizing government's responsibility to manage both caribou and moose in areas where they overlap and directing management actions to areas where caribou have a reasonable chance of thriving*

**CORMORANTS** *by actively controlling populations where they are overabundant and developing a provincial management plan*



# PRIORITIES FOR FISHERIES

Ontario is home to the largest freshwater fisheries in the world, including a quarter of Canada's freshwater, the Canadian portion of the Great Lakes, 250,000 lakes, and countless rivers and streams. Fishing is a safe outdoor activity enjoyed by millions of people every year and supports a multi-billion-dollar economic impact and tens of thousands of jobs. **With great resources comes great responsibilities, so we want to see the next government focus on:**

## FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ZONE (FMZ) COUNCILS

*by reviewing and revitalizing the failing FMZ stakeholder consultation process, including 1) reviewing and reporting on councils and their statuses, 2) creating and investing in best management practices for NDMNRF staff leads, and 3) creating expectations for meeting frequency and common terms of reference. Further, it is essential the next government get the advisory council for FMZ 16, one of the largest in the province by population, underway*

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

*by establishing a broadscale monitoring program for flowing waters*

## BAIT

*by [rescinding elements of the Provincial Bait Management Strategy](#) that unnecessarily restrict angler harvest and movement when using bait*

## MODERNIZING REGULATIONS

*by updating Section 12 of the Ontario Fishery Regulations for when it is illegal to delay the immediate release of a fish to allow for measuring, weighing, and taking a picture of a fish caught during the open season*

## BROOK TROUT

*by developing a provincial strategy*

## OTHER FISHERIES PRIORITIES:

**FISHING REGULATIONS** by reviewing and updating the outdated "regulatory guidelines" for managing sportfish fisheries in Ontario (i.e., regulation options for each species)

**TWO-LINE REGULATIONS** by standardizing them across the Great Lakes

**FINE REVENUES** by redirecting those originating under the Ontario Fishery Regulations and the Invasive Species Act to the Special Purpose Account (i.e., not to municipalities that administer the courts or to the province's general revenue)

**ANGLER EDUCATION** by including specific rules and regulations, associated consequences (e.g., penalties), and identification of high-risk invasive fish through the Fish and Wildlife Licensing Service





# PRIORITIES FOR CONSERVATION

Conservation principles are central to both fish and wildlife management. Many habitat, biodiversity, and other general conservation policies can be important for both fish and wildlife. **We need the right people, policies, and approaches in government for sound fish and wildlife management, so we want to see the next government focus on:**

## FRONT-LINE NDMNRF SERVICES AND STAFF

*by renewing the presence, accessibility, and support for grassroots conservation, particularly in northern and rural communities*

## CLIMATE CHANGE

*by embracing and supporting nature-based solutions like habitat protection and restoration*

## INVASIVE SPECIES

*by enhancing management and control policies with new general revenue funding support, and updating Ontario's Invasive Species Strategic Plan with consideration for increased rapid responses planning and NDMNRF district commitments*

## NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

*by increasing the number of [front-line conservation officers](#) to minimize resource abuse and ensuring competitive pay to retain them*

## OTHER CONSERVATION PRIORITIES:

**CONSERVATION IN THE CLASSROOM** by integrating 'sustainable use' into provincial curricula

**PRIVATE LAND STEWARDSHIP** by modernizing resources and establishing programs and policies to support private land habitat

**WETLANDS** by prioritizing protection and establishing sustained funding for restoration (e.g., private land stewardship, community conservation, climate change programs)