

August 28, 2021

Angelo Lombardo and Matt DeMille
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
4601 Guthrie Drive
Peterborough, ON
K9J 8L5

Dear Mr. Lombardo and Mr. DeMille,

Thank you for reaching out to share your election priorities on behalf of the National Fishing and Hunting Collaborative (NFHC) and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH).

We recognize the value of hunting, trapping and fishing to communities across Canada. We would develop and implement a National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Strategy, re-establish the Hunting and Angling Advisory Panel, and work to elevate the status of National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day. We also know that tourism was one of the hardest-hit sectors because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and will likely be the last to recover. An NDP government would work with tourism industry associations, small business owners, and regional agencies on how to encourage domestic tourism, which would include promoting hunting, trapping, and fishing.

New Democrats are committed to public safety while taking a balanced approach to gun legislation. The rules need to ensure that responsible gun owners, hunters, and gun clubs are able to enjoy their sport responsibly, while ensuring that we keep guns out of the hands of criminals and address the very serious issue of gun crime in our cities. We believe the best way to address crime is to address the root causes of crime, and would focus on a preventative approach while tackling gun smuggling and organized crime.

Chronic Wasting Disease is a serious health risk affecting wild animals and rural livelihoods. In government, New Democrats would take immediate action by prohibiting movement of live cervids, and would examine further options, such as the phase-out of cervid farming with compensation if scientific and medical evidence demonstrated a clear need for them.

We are committed to pursuing a Nature Agenda, anchored by our commitment to safeguarding ecosystems and biodiversity by protecting 30% of our land, freshwater and oceans by 2030. We will launch a 10-year nature plan to reverse species loss and we would curb the import of domestic trade of wild animals. We will further protect our oceans and our freshwater by reducing emissions from shipping and fishing, expanding marine protected areas and implementing a national freshwater strategy.

NDP Response

We know that aquatic invasive species pose a serious threat to Canadian waterways and the biodiversity of ecosystems. It is imperative that the federal government work with the provinces and Indigenous leadership to fund local responses to invasive species that includes education, detection and appropriate response efforts.

Thank you again for sharing your election priorities. We look forward to maintaining a positive relationship with the NFHC and OFAH in Canada's 44th Parliament and beyond.

Sincerely,

The NDP Team