



April 5, 2019

Honourable John Yakabuski
Ministry of the Natural Resources and Forestry
Whitney Block, 6th Floor, Room 6630
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1W3

Dear Minister Yakabuski:

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 740 member clubs. In partnership with the Ontario Hawking Club (OHC), we hereby submit the following review of falconry in Ontario and present recommendations for improvements to the program. Both of our organizations are strong advocates for wildlife policies and programs that enhance sustainable forms of regulated hunting, and promote the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources.

The OHC was founded in 1984 and is an OFAH member club. Since that time, the OHC and OFAH have partnered to protect and enhance the ancient cultural heritage of falconry. We have worked closely with the MNRF to develop a legal framework to allow this hunting tradition to flourish in Ontario. In 2012, we reached a milestone when the MNRF authorized licensed falconers to take a small number of raptors from the wild. This was a signature priority for the OHC.

In 2018, working with MNRF staff, the OHC began a comprehensive review of the program, its impact on falconry, and opportunities for improvement. This policy has yielded several benefits for falconers; however, the initial implementation was very cautious, and the policy contains some elements which severely limit the benefits of an otherwise successful program. Fortunately, as outlined in our review, we believe these issues can be addressed very easily, with no impact on sustainability or budgets.

We respectfully submit our review for your consideration. We would be happy to discuss it with you, if necessary, and look forward to working with you and MNRF staff on the implementation of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Angelo Lombardo
Executive Director
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

Louise Engel
President
Ontario Hawking Club

AL/LE/jb

cc: Christie Curley, A/Director, Species Conservation Policy Branch, MNRF