



Survey Response: Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters

1. Will you increase Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry's (NDMNRF) Fish & Wildlife budget by increasing Consolidated Revenue Fund investments to match the contributions anglers, hunters, and trappers make through the Fish & Wildlife Special Purpose Account?

An Ontario Liberal government will review provincial budget commitments to the NDMNRF and the Fish & Wildlife Special Purpose Account on a priority basis. We would also take measures to expand Crown land for recreational uses by designating up to 30% of Ontario's lands as protected by 2030. We'll invest heavily in wildlife and conservation efforts, as outlined in our responses below, to ensure that Ontario's anglers and hunters have sustainable stock and land and water options to draw on.

2. If elected, what concrete actions will your government take to promote fishing and hunting, and enhance the recruitment, retention, and reactivation of anglers and hunters in Ontario?

The COVID-19 pandemic has confined Ontarians to their homes and indoor spaces, creating a myriad of issues related to physical and mental health. The Ontario Liberal Party understands the important role that hunting and angling plays in ensuring more Ontarians can enjoy our beautiful natural landscape.

An Ontario Liberal government would work closely with OFAH to identify challenges related to recruitment, retention and reactivation of anglers and hunters in the province. Our government commits to being a resource and partner to ensure the vitality of Ontario's angling and hunting community to promote conservation efforts while making sure that a streamlined pathway exists to getting more hunters and anglers out into nature.

3. What infrastructure investments will you make that will improve accessibility to the outdoors for the people of Ontario? (i.e., access to Crown land roads, public boat launches and parking, and fishing access points).

Our government would protect natural lands by expanding the Greenbelt, while designating 30% of Ontario's as protected areas by 2030. An Ontario Liberal government would create five new provincial parks, including expanding Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park. Our government would also expand access to recreational water infrastructure and will work closely with municipalities and Indigenous communities to protect and restore Ontario's rivers, lakes, wetlands and watersheds, expanding access for a variety of recreational uses.

4. Please outline what specific investment or policy actions you would take to support fishing and hunting, and fish and wildlife conservation in Ontario.

We understand that Ontarians – particularly anglers and hunters – love the province's vast natural environment. We'll reverse the Ford Conservatives' changes to legislation that make



it easier to pave over natural land. And we'll also strengthen the powers of Ontario's Conservation Authorities to further protect green spaces and prevent flooding.

We'll restore and expand natural infrastructure like wetlands and forests through a new \$250 million annual fund for municipalities. An Ontario Liberal government will also work closely with municipalities and Indigenous communities to protect and restore Ontario's rivers, lakes, wetlands and watersheds.

5. Would you commit to investing in the OFAH-NDMNRF programs at levels that are equal to or greater than what is occurring now?

Yes, our government would review all provincial programming caps put in place the Ford Conservatives. The Ontario Liberal Party believes in investing in people, programs and our natural environment. We will reverse cuts to conservation and wildlife efforts, expand research grants and would consider incentives to bring more people to Ontario's natural Crown lands and provincial parks.