

Dear Mr. DeMille,

Thank you for reaching out to the Ontario NDP Campaign on behalf of the province's Anglers and Hunters.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP recognize the many ways the province's anglers and hunters help ensure that our shared conservation areas, diverse ecosystems, and waterways are protected, and that our local outdoor tourism industries are promoted in what has been a number of challenging years. New Democrats have long raised the issue of cuts to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (now Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry) that have led to a lack of resources to adequately monitor and protect Ontario's natural resources and wildlife, including the failure to collect on millions of dollars in fines, as NDP incumbent candidate, and long-time MPP for Timmins, Gilles Bisson, has raised.

An NDP government will ensure that the Ministry has the funding and resources to do its job properly. We have long advocated that any funds collected under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act should be used for fish and wildlife conservation, and an NDP will ensure that these funds are only used for its intended purposes. We opposed Doug Ford's cuts to local Conservation Authorities' powers, while under the cover of the COVID-19 pandemic his government passed legislation to override environmental protections, increasing development over our shared green and ecologically sensitive areas. We'll restore local control over Conservation Areas and protect forests and other ecologically sensitive areas.

An NDP government will build on the work of the OFAH, and others, to help the province's struggling tourism sector. Our plan includes partnering with industry to promote the unique experiences Ontario has to offer. We'll extend the Staycation Tax Credit, and make available a second round of funding through the Tourism Recovery Program. And, as you know, NDP incumbent candidate, the long-time MPP for Algoma-Manitoulin, and avid hunter, Mike Mantha, continues to call for a provincial Lyme Disease Strategy. An Ontario NDP will implement such a strategy.

Thank you again for reaching out to Ontario's New Democrats.

Sincerely,

Dan O'Brien (he/him)

Director of Policy

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