

300 Water Street
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Dear Fur Garment Owner:

Many people have misconceptions about fur trapping and the use of wild furs. That's why we're taking this opportunity to let you know that the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources supports regulated fur trapping for harvesting common species of furbearers. Consider the following points:

- Most of society benefits, either directly or indirectly, from trapping. These activities help reduce wildlife damage to human property, provide funds for wildlife management and conservation programs, provide products for human use and provide jobs.
- Trapping provides income, recreation and an outdoor lifestyle for many citizens through the use of a renewable natural resource. It is part of the North American heritage. Trapping is often vital to the subsistence and self-sufficiency of peoples in remote regions who have few other economic alternatives.
- No endangered or threatened species are trapped. All such species are protected by international, national, and/or provincial laws.
- Furbearing populations are monitored by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. All twenty-two species that are trapped for their fur are abundant, and are responsible for the majority of the nuisance animal complaints that occur each year in Ontario. Many species like raccoon, beaver and coyote are near record levels of abundance.
- Trapping is highly regulated. These regulations prevent overharvesting and make sure that harvest methods are as humane as possible given the current technology. Regulations restrict the type and size of traps used, the frequency with which they are checked, and the time and places where trapping may occur. Trappers are required to successfully complete mandatory training courses. Regulations are enforced by specially trained Conservation Officers.
- Trapping occurs in the fall and winter to avoid the capture of newborns or mothers with dependent young.
- Trappers contribute to the more than \$40 million raised annually to fund fish and wildlife conservation and management in Ontario through licence fees and royalties paid to the province.

Yours truly,



Andrew M. Houser
Director, Fish and Wildlife Branch