

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS



Ontario Conservation Centre

P.O. Box 2800, 4601 Guthrie Drive, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8L5
Phone: (705) 748.6324 • Fax: (705) 748.9577 • Visit: www.ofah.org • Email: ofah@ofah.org

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Dear Mayor/Reeve:

As you are aware, in early 2014 the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) established a two-year pilot project that allowed for the spring hunting of black bears in eight Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) in Northern Ontario.

Ontario's spring bear hunt was a successful wildlife management tool that assisted in maintaining the abundance and density of bears at levels that minimized dangerous encounters between people and bears. It provided hunters with wholesome food and valuable hides, and injected over \$40 million per year into Ontario's economy. The spring hunt is an excellent example of sustainable development in practice, where the benefits from a renewable resource are maximized and costs to society are minimized.

Since the cancellation of the spring bear hunt in 1999, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), northern municipalities, outfitters, and others have advocated tirelessly for its return across the province's black bear range.

In the coming months, the MNRF will assess the success of the pilot project by reviewing hunting and harvest information, the number of nuisance bear encounters, and perspectives from police forces and participating municipalities. On behalf of the OFAH, our 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, our 725 member clubs, and other hunters, outfitters, and businesses in your municipality that will benefit from the return of the spring bear hunt, we urge you in the strongest possible terms to let the government know of your support for the return of the spring bear hunt and the important role that regulated bear hunting has in managing Ontario's black bear populations. Express your support to the Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, and your local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP). Your municipality and other municipalities across Ontario deserve better black bear management, which includes a spring bear hunt.

Thank you for your time and attention on this matter.

Yours in Conservation,

Angelo Lombardo
Executive Director

AL/mr/gh

cc: OFAH Board of Directors
Greg Farrant, OFAH Manager, Government Affairs & Policy
Matt DeMille, OFAH Manager, Fish & Wildlife Services
Mark Ryckman, OFAH Senior Wildlife Biologist