



**Ontario Fur Managers Federation
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November 26, 2015

**Chair and Members,
Licensing and Standards Committee**

Re: LS8.1 Licensing of Wildlife Control Operators

Dear Chair and Members of Licensing and Standards Committee,

On behalf of the Ontario Fur Managers Federation, we would like to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to speak to you regarding the Licensing of Wildlife Control Operators. OFMF understands that this committee needs to make sure that the residents of Toronto and the wildlife are looked after legally and properly.

We would like to point out that there are three provincial agencies that have legislation, regulation, and enforcement branches that are responsible for both the wildlife and the public in Ontario. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry are the competent authority in Ontario that regulate how wildlife can be handled, relocated, or dispatched humanely by any individual, business or organization. They also have over 200 enforcements officers to enforce the laws and ensure that these activities are legally, humanely carried out in the rural and municipal jurisdictions in Ontario.

The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) also enforces legislations and laws regarding the inhumane treatment of animals and wildlife. In Toronto enforcement is conducted by the Toronto Humane Society and

or the OSPCA. They also have officers that enforce and ensure that wildlife is protected in Ontario and that individuals or businesses in violation are charged and prosecuted.

The Ministry of Government and Consumer Services is the provincial agency that protects residents of Ontario from misrepresentation or fraudulent activities by individuals and business in Ontario. Complaints regarding business practices are under their jurisdiction and consumers may also access accreditation agencies such as the Better Business Bureau.

Concerns with the activities of wildlife control operators, can be and are addressed through these existing agencies and can result in removal of licenses, fines and/or charges.

The OFMF does not believe licensing Wildlife Control Operators, whether individuals or businesses in Toronto will have any added effect on protecting wildlife or residents beyond what is currently in place. The OFMF believes that the City would be better served by educating the public on what rules govern wildlife control and what factors to consider when hiring a wildlife control operator.

The OFMF would like to make the committee aware that there is already a provincial body that governs and licenses individuals wanting to remove or harvest furbearers in Ontario. Individuals that are a resident of Canada who have successfully completed the mandatory 40 hour Fur Harvest, Fur Management, Conservation Course (FHFMC) that is accredited and approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) can apply for a license. This license gives the individual permission to trap in a designated area in Ontario but also the individual is an agent of the crown which gives them the authority to remove nuisance wildlife in Ontario. This license is approved by the MNR and is issued by the OFMF on behalf of the MNR in Ontario. The OFMF also is the body that delivers the training for instructors and delivery of the FHFMC by authority of the MNR.

- The OFMF recommends to the committee that any individual involved in removing, relocating or dispatching defined nuisance wildlife in Toronto be required to provide proof of having completed the mandatory 40 hour FHFMC and be in possession of a current valid Ontario Trapping license.**

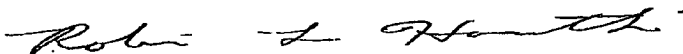
- **The OFMF recommends to the committee that this license is the only license that is required and should give the committee the confidence that the residents of Toronto and wildlife are provided the protection they deserve.**
- **If the committee recommends any course or workshop to be mandatory for Wildlife Control in Toronto it must be recognized and approved by MNRF and the government of Ontario.**
- **It also should be mandatory that the instructors or presenters of such a workshop or course be approved and appointed by the MNRF for Ontario.**
- **We would like to remind the committee that they should not restrict any legal tools or methods that would humanely deal with removal of wildlife whether it is relocation or lethal dispatch, or would cause any hardships or safety concerns for residents of Toronto in dealing with the problems they have encountered.**

The OFMF would also like to remind the committee that all traps and live holding devices that are used for wildlife removal in Ontario must be certified and approved by MNRF under their legislative authority. To qualify these devices have had to be tested to meet the Agreement for International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) which is an international agreement between Canada, Russia and the European Union.

The OFMF has provided each of the committee members with copies of brochures that have been produced by the OFMF to educate the public and trappers. We are constantly working on best methods or BMPs for wildlife and brochures to ensure humane wildlife trapping methods and to help the public avoid human/wildlife issues.

In closing we hope that we have offered your committee recommendations and solutions that will help in managing the overabundance of wildlife in Toronto and protecting the residents of Toronto. OFMF is willing to work with your staff and Animal Services in any way that we can. Thank you again for allowing us to address the committee on this item.

Sincerely on behalf of OFMF,



**Robin Horwath
General Manager**