



Nov. 25, 2015

Chair and Members, City of Toronto, Licensing and Standards Committee

Re: LS8.1 Licensing of Wildlife Control Operators

November 26, 2015: Meeting 16 of the Licensing and Standards Committee Meeting

Dear Chair and Members of the Licensing and Standards Committee,

As the national body that administers the Agreement for International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) and promotes the sustainable and wise use of Canada's fur resources, the members of the Fur Institute of Canada (FIC) understand well the need to regulate and control activity around wildlife for the benefit of both the animals and the citizens.

As you may already be aware, Ontario has some of the most stringent and competent wildlife regulation and enforcement activity in the country via-a-vis the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, as well as the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA). Further to that, it is our understanding that the city of Toronto's enforcement activity is carried out by the OSPCA and/or the Toronto Humane Society.

It is also worth noting that there is already a provincial licensing regime in Ontario. Any Canadian resident who has successfully completed the mandatory 40 hour Fur Harvest, Fur Management, Conservation Course (FHF MCC) that is accredited and approved by the province can apply for a license. That license gives the individual permission to trap in a designated area in Ontario — but the licensee is also an agent of the crown, which gives them the authority to remove nuisance wildlife in Ontario.

In short it is clear that the province, and by extension the city of Toronto, already has more than adequate means to address regulatory and enforcement requirements around wildlife. To add another layer through the licensing of Wildlife Control Operators to that already substantial regime would serve only to offer redundancy, as well as an increased, unnecessary burden for taxpaying citizens.

It is, quite literally, fixing something that isn't broken.

We agree with the Ontario Fur Manager's Federation (OFMF) that, at this point, the city of Toronto would be best served educating citizens on matters regarding wildlife issues and the role of wildlife control operators.





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The FIC, in partnership with stakeholder groups across Canada and in the province of Ontario, like the OFMF, have worked to successfully promote the principles of sustainability and humane methods for decades. We constantly strive to educate the public on those principles, and we continue to work to ensure the best possible methods are in place to benefit both the citizens and the wildlife.

If there is any further advice we can provide on this or any other related matter, we are always pleased to assist in any way we can.

Sincerely,

James Baker
Executive Director

