



Ana Tinta
Senior Policy Analyst
Ministry of Tourism and Recreation
Sport, Recreation & Community Programs Division, Policy Branch
777 Bay Street
Floor 23
Toronto Ontario
M7A1S5
Phone: (416) 212-4247
Fax: (416) 314-7458

RE: *EBR Registry No. 011-9565 Re: Discussion Paper: Strengthening Ontario's Trails Strategy*

This is in response to the above noted EBR posting regarding the Strengthening Ontario's Trails Strategy Discussion Paper. The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) wishes to address the limited focus of Northern Ontario in its strategies and to highlight the areas that need increased attention.

The Ontario Trails Strategy represents an initiative that helps develop a multitude of partnerships and highlights the successes and outcomes of working together. This is demonstrated by the number of ministries and partnerships involved with the development, maintenance and integration of trails.

Outdoor recreation which includes the utilization of a variety of trails is part of the Northern Ontario livelihood and therefore, generates concerns about the limited focus placed on Northern Ontario within the Discussion Paper. It is evident that the key projects and strategies are targeted towards the Southern region of Ontario, including the new urban park and waterfront trail at Ontario Place, the Ontario Great Lakes Strategy and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan. Based on research done by the Ontario Trails Council, over 700 trails exist within Northern Ontario, which is significant number that commands attention to be placed within this region.

Trail development challenges vary significantly between Northern Ontario and Southern Ontario and were not discussed in much detail within the Discussion Paper. Beyond the acknowledgement that much smaller areas of Crown land that service a much larger population of recreation users exists in Southern Ontario in comparison to Northern Ontario, there was no further discussion to other differences and how they will be addressed.

FONOM asks that the Ministry revise the Discussion Paper: Strengthening Ontario's Trails Strategy to incorporate a Northern focus.

FONOM would be pleased to work the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Sincerely,

Alan Spacek, President,
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)