

Sault Ste. Marie – Blind River District
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January 29, 2024

Chief Joseph Wabigwan chiefjoewabigwan.tfn@vianet.ca
Thessalon First Nation
40 Sugarbush Road, RR#2
Thessalon, ON P0R 1L0

SUBJECT: Notification of Registered Trapline Availability – Deadline April 28, 2024

Dear Chief Wabigwan:

I am writing to advise that registered traplines are currently available for reallocation within the Sault Ste. Marie – Blind River District. Individuals interested in becoming a head trapper on one of the registered traplines listed below, or other traplines within the District should contact the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF).

The following traplines are currently available for reallocation (refer to map for location):

- SS-10
- SS-59
- BL-11
- BL-17
- BL-58
- BL-59

The ministry continues to allocate vacant traplines using the current process outlined in a procedure called *WilPr1.1.7 Allocation of Head Trappers for Registered Traplines* (attached). All persons expressing an interest in a registered trapline must be (or be willing to become) qualified to trap in Ontario through successful completion of the *Fur Harvest, Fur Management and Conservation Course*.

Prior to the allocation of any registered traplines, the ministry must consider established or asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights protected by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and any impacts that may flow from the decision to assign a vacant trapline to another trapper. Also, consistent with existing trapping harmonization agreements, the ministry considers whether there are any Indigenous persons with a documented family claim or connection to a registered trapline.

It is within this framework that we are requesting whether any trappers in your community may be interested in the traplines noted above. Also, please advise the ministry if your community anticipates that the assignment of any of these traplines to Indigenous persons from your community, other communities or non-Indigenous persons may have an adverse impact on your community's asserted or existing Aboriginal or treaty rights.

Personal information, comments and trapper information are collected by the ministry to assist with trapline allocation and to allow for follow-up with Indigenous communities and individuals who have expressed an interest in the trapline. Personal information is collected under the authority of the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*. The use and/or disclosure of personal information and any other information provided will occur in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Individuals interested in being considered for an available trapline are asked to submit documentation (e.g., head trapper application form and/or documentation in writing of family connection, if applicable) to this office by April 28, 2024. The attached documents will assist individuals in determining what information is required for application to a trapline. If you have an interest in a trapline that is not currently available or vacant, you are encouraged to submit this documentation so that the district office is aware of your interest and can keep your information on file for consideration when a trapline becomes available for reallocation. Please note that the MNRF sends out notifications of available traplines and allocates them once annually.

If you have any questions concerning this opportunity or the collection, use or disclosure of personal information, please contact Michelle Lawson, Integrated Resources Management Technical Specialist, at (705) 255-6583 or michelle.lawson@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

David Nisbet

Digitally signed by David Nisbet
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email=david.nisbet@ontario.ca, c=CA
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David Nisbet
A/District Supervisor
Sault Ste. Marie - Blind River District

Enclosure:

1. WilPr1.1.7 – Allocation of Head Trappers for Registered Traplines
2. FWBull1.1.8- Criteria for establishing a significant Aboriginal family connection to a registered trapline

