

Thunder Bay District Work Center

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Ignace Work Center

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Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Ministère des Richesses naturelles et des Forêts

January 27, 2025

Regional Councillor, MNO - Region 2 Consultation Committee
Métis Nation of Ontario, Region 2
226 May St. South
Thunder Bay, ON.
P7E 1B4

SUBJECT: Notification of Vacant Registered Trapline Availability – Deadline April 28, 2025

Dear Regional Councillor Tim Sinclair,

I am writing to advise that registered traplines are currently available for reallocation within the Thunder Bay Ignace District. Indigenous 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 (MNR) at the contact information provided at the end of this notice.

The following traplines are currently available for reallocation

Trapline	Quota
IG173	20
NG040	35
TB048	64
TB148	45
TB154	24

The ministry allocates vacant traplines using the current process outlined in the procedure called *WilPr1.1.7 Allocation of Head Trappers for Registered Traplines* (attached). Indigenous individuals interested in being considered for a vacant trapline can submit either a documented family connection to the trapline or, if there is no family connection, a Head Trapper application form (attached) to this office by **Monday April 28 2025**.

Information to support showing a family connection to the vacant trapline should include the following:

- Name of the individual making the claim (the “claimant”);
- Name and relationship, to the claimant, of the person upon whom the connection is based;
- Date(s) during which claimant’s ancestor is known/believed to have been trapping the area in question;
- Other relevant information evidencing a historic practicing of trapping within the area;
- A letter of support from the Métis community leadership where the community is capable of holding s. 35 rights and can verify membership of the individual.

For more information on Family Connection, please see the attached FWBull1.1.8 Criteria for establishing a significant Aboriginal family connection to a registered trapline.

All persons expressing an interest in a vacant 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*. For information about this course, please contact [Ontario Fur Managers Federation](#).

Members of rights-bearing Indigenous communities generally do not require an Ontario trapping licence when trapping for food, social or ceremonial purposes within their traditional territory. However, commercial fur harvesting, which involves the preparation and sale of raw pelts to fur dealers, requires the issuance of an Ontario trapping licence. Ontario trapping licences are issued annually and authorize trapping within the registered trapline assigned to a head trapper.

Before the ministry allocates any vacant traplines, the ministry first considers 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. Please advise the ministry if your community believes that assigning any of these vacant 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*. Personal information and any other information provided is only used and/or disclosed according to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1990*.

In addition to the vacant traplines listed in this notice, if you have an interest in a trapline that is not currently available or vacant, you are encouraged to submit documentation as outlined in FWBull.1.1.8 Criteria for establishing a significant family connection to a registered trapline 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 MNR sends out notifications of available traplines annually in January and allocates vacant traplines after the allocation requests are reviewed.

If you have any questions concerning this opportunity or the collection, use or disclosure of personal information and other information, please contact Kyle Webb in the Thunder Bay work centre at 807-708-1756 or email at Kyle.Webb@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

James H Bennitt

Digitally signed by James H
Bennitt
Date: 2025.01.29 09:50:49
-05'00'

James Bennitt
District Manager
Thunder Bay Ignace District Office

Attachments:

1. WilPr1.1.7 Allocation of Head Trappers for Registered Traplines
2. FWBull.1.1.8 Criteria for establishing a significant Aboriginal family connection to a registered trapline
3. Head Trapper Application Form
4. Vacant Trapline Map



SECTION: Fur Management

SUBSECTION: Trapper Licensing

SUBJECT: Allocation of head trappers for registered traplines

PROCEDURE: WiPr.1.1.7

ISSUE DATE: August 27, 2010

RATIONALE

The management of wild furbearing mammals on Crown land is regulated through the allocation of registered traplines to head trappers. Traplines are limited in number and there can be considerable interest in acquiring them when they become vacant. To ensure consistency and fairness in allocating registered traplines, this procedure provides provincial direction and criteria for the selection of head trappers for vacant traplines. This procedure is part of a larger program to sustainably manage Ontario's wild furbearer populations (e.g. licensing, quota setting, harvest reporting, monitoring, research, education and training, marketing).

Within the provisions of the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, S. O. 1997 (FWCA)*, the broader management of Ontario's furbearer populations is in part facilitated by agreements between the Ministry and Provincial Treaty Organizations (Union of Ontario Indians, Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Grand Council Treaty #3) and the Ontario Fur Managers Federation. These agreements provide the basis for Ministry recognition of the importance of trapping and associated organizations as key voices within the fur trapping industry.

PROCEDURE

Environmental Assessment Act considerations

Authorizations made under this policy and procedure are considered a disposition of a right to a Crown resource in that they provide for a person to utilize or obtain a right to a Crown resource. These authorizations must comply with the Environmental Assessment (EA) Act. The ministry complies with the EA Act in the disposition of Crown resources by following the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment for MNR Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects (Class EA-RSFD) and the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (Class EA-PPCR).

Section 2.2.13 of the Class EA-RSFD provides some examples of dispositions that are typically requested and the requirements to support these applications. Staff should refer to these Class EA documents and consult their office EA contact for more specific information.

Step 1: Notification

Subject to this step and step 2 below, districts are to provide adequate notice of registered trapline vacancies to give all potential applicants an opportunity to apply. In January of each calendar year, a notice, generally advising of the potential/periodic availability of registered traplines, will be provided to Aboriginal communities, local trapper's councils and local trappers. Consideration can also be given to the placement of advertisements in local media. Districts will then allow 90 days from the date of this annual notice prior to making any allocation decisions. This general notice shall be made once annually.

To address any local concerns (e.g. human/wildlife conflicts) relating to vacant registered traplines, the district may initiate a separate allocation process to assign a trapper on an interim basis. Such an interim assignment will not affect the scoring in a permanent assignment process.

Step 2: Consideration of First Nations' family members/trappers that have a documented family claim/connection to a registered trapline.

Pursuant to the Trapping Harmonization Agreements (THAs) with Provincial Treaty Organizations (and consistent with Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*) and where a First Nation member with a documented family claim/connection to a registered trapline has notified the Ministry of their interest in acquiring the registered trapline, the Ministry agrees to grant the First Nation member up to six months to exercise their right of first refusal when that registered trapline next becomes vacant.

Aboriginal harvesters benefiting from this provision must be qualified to trap in Ontario through successful completion of the Fur Harvest, Fur Management and Conservation Course prior to being issued a trapping licence.

Where two or more First Nation members from the same community (band) have expressed interest under this step, a recommendation for allocation of the trapline will be made through the local Aboriginal community (e.g. Band Council Resolution). If there is an expression of interest from two or more First Nation members from separate communities for the trapline, a recommendation for allocation of the trapline will be made by the respective Treaty Organization(s).

Step 3: Consideration of recommendation of the head trapper for allocation to an existing helper trapper on the registered trapline.

Step 3 applies if the registered trapline has not been allocated in Step 2 of this procedure.

A head trapper who is relinquishing their interest in a given registered trapline may recommend to the local District Manager that another existing licensed helper trapper currently active on that registered trapline be granted the head trapper designation. Where this recommendation and all other qualification/application prerequisites for licensed trappers are met, the Ministry will allocate the trapline according to the retiring head trapper's recommendation. Head trappers relinquishing their interest in a given registered trapline must advise the District of their recommendation for a successor in writing prior to doing so.

Step 4: Open Competition

Step 4 applies if the registered trapline has not been allocated in either Step 2 or Step 3 of this procedure.

Following consideration of Steps 2 and 3 above, registered traplines that remain vacant will be allocated through an open competition among all interested applicants. Applicants will be ranked based on criteria set out below. A separate application form (Form FW1007) is required for each trapline vacancy that an applicant applies for.

While trapping regulations allow a trapper to potentially be allocated more than one registered trapline, priority for vacancies will be given to applicants who are not currently assigned a trapline (as a head trapper) over those who are already assigned a trapline (see WilPp.1.1.5 Authorizing/issuing a secondary trapping licence). Any and all helper trappers seeking to become the head trapper on a vacant trapline will be considered before an existing head trapper (on a registered trapline) is awarded the vacant line as a secondary head trapping licence.

Despite this, if an existing head trapper indicates at the time of application for a vacant trapline, by signed and dated letter, his/her willingness to forfeit their current trapline if successful in obtaining the vacant trapline they are applying for, then the existing head trapper may be included in the competition for the vacant trapline (where there are also applicants applying for their *first* trapline). Refer to procedure WilPr.1.1.5 – 'Authorizing/issuing a secondary trapping licence' for direction on managing multiple trapping licences issued to individual trappers.

The FURMIS computer program may be used to locate information related to applicants' licensing and harvest activity criteria (Step 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.9 below), while CAVRS can assist in identifying FWCA infractions (Step 4.8). The applicant may be requested to provide copies of actual trapping licences, fur auction house (fur dealer) receipts and other documents to verify accuracy of application information. The Outdoor Card Information System (OCIS) may be used to verify applicant's residency information (Step 4.1).

Where there are multiple applicants for a registered trapline vacancy, applicants shall be awarded points using the following criteria. The applicant scoring the most points will be offered the registered trapline:

Item	Criteria	Points
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4.1	Residency (as indicated on applicants' Hunting Outdoor Card or Ontario Driver's Licence): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residency within or in vicinity of trapline (recommend within 80 km 'as the crow flies'); Beyond 80 km: 	2 points 0 points
4.2	Member of a local trappers council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid membership in any local trapper's council/harvesters association 90 days prior to the date of application for trapline vacancy (applicant to provide proof): Not a member 90 days prior: 	1 point 0 points
4.3	Member of a Provincial Treaty Organization (PTO) (Treaty #3, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Union of Ontario Indians), or member of Ontario Fur Managers Federation (maximum score: 1 point) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant provides proof of membership: Not a member: 	1 point 0 points
4.4	Number of trapping seasons during which applicant has held an Ontario Trapping Licence beginning with 1998-99 trapping season (no maximum): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each trapping season applicant has held a licence: 	1 point
4.5	Number of trapping seasons of active fur management (i.e. actively harvesting furbearers for commercial trade), beginning with 1998-99 trapping season (no maximum): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each trapping season actively trapping: 	1 point
4.6	Applicant is currently a helper trapper on the registered trapline being applied for (where helper trapper does not have the endorsement of the outgoing head trapper): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is a helper trapper on the trapline being applied for: Is not a helper on trapline being applied for: 	1 point 0 points
4.7	Successfully completed <i>Fur harvest, Fur Management and Conservation Course</i> (applicant to provide proof): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful completed course at any time prior to date of application: Has not successfully completed course: 	2 points 0 points
4.8	Conviction for a fur- (trapping-) related violation with the past five trapping seasons (maximum: 2 convictions/10 points): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convicted of a fur- (trapping-) related violation: 	5 point deduction per conviction
4.9	Number of applicant's registered trapline transfers within past ten trapping seasons prior to the date of application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One (1) trapline transfer within past 10 trapping seasons: Additional trapline transfers within the ten trapping seasons: 	No deduction 10 point deduction for each

In the case of a tie in points, the district will assign the trapline in as impartial manner as possible, including (as necessary) seeking the recommendation of the local trappers council, Aboriginal community, or harvester's association. Anonymity of the applicants shall be maintained so as to preclude any influences arising out of personal biases, and in accordance with privacy legislation.

Further considerations

Prior to the allocation of any registered traplines, consideration must first be given to the existence of treaty and Aboriginal rights protected by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, that may need to be accommodated. As registered traplines become open, districts should consider whether there are Aboriginal communities in proximity to the registered trapline who may have, or assert, a treaty or Aboriginal right to engage in trapping activities and the extent to which notification and accommodation may be required or appropriate.

The ministry has set out criteria to assist in determining an Aboriginal 'significant traditional family claim/connection to a registered trapline' (FWBull.1.1.8 "Criteria for determining an Aboriginal significant family connection"). Additional advice may be solicited from Biodiversity Branch, Aboriginal Branch and Legal Services Branch.

All persons applying for a registered trapline must meet applicable qualifications for holding an Ontario Trapping Licence (including successful completion of the Fur Harvest, Fur Management and Conservation Course within the 5 years prior to the date of application, or have held an Ontario Trapping Licence during the 5-year period immediately prior to the date of application). This requirement applies to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal applicants.

This procedure is not intended to be applied to the selection of "helper" ('02') trappers on registered traplines (as helpers are selected at the discretion of the head trapper), nor to selection of farmer, landowner or private land trappers.

Districts may want to consult with Aboriginal communities, local trapper's councils, the Provincial Treaty Organizations and the Ontario Fur Managers Federation, in the event that an interim trapper may need to be assigned to a vacant trapline to mitigate human/wildlife conflict situations (e.g. beaver damage) before a decision has been made to assign a head trapper on a permanent basis.

Head trappers are responsible for ensuring that their trapline is actively trapped, and that their trapping licence is renewed annually. Where the head trapper fails to renew his/her licence, or the head trapper has not actively trapped the trapline, without just cause, for three consecutive years, consideration will be given to revoking the trapline, with appropriate notification.

Trapline Buildings/Improvements

Placement approval and transfer of ownership for trapline cabins is subject to *Public Lands Act* policy. Trappers should be provided a copy of the Ministry's policy "Trapline Buildings on Public Land" PL 3.03.06.

REFERENCES

Legal References

- Environmental Assessment Act Class EA for RSFD
- Environmental Assessment Act Class EA for PPCR
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act
 - Subsection 6(1) - no person shall hunt or trap furbearing mammals except with a licence and in accordance with the regulations.
 - Subsection 48(1) - no person shall sell the pelt of a furbearing mammal except under the authority of a licence.

Related References

WilPo.1.1.1 - Registered trapline trapping - administration and licensing

WilPp.1.1.5 - Authorizing/issuing a secondary trapping licence

WilPp.1.1.6 - How to assign a trapper's licence number

WilPo.1.2.1 - District alpha and numeric codes/township codes

WilPp.1.3.5 - Multiplicity of fur licences/Appeal procedure

FWBull.1.1.8 – Criteria for determining an Aboriginal significant family connection

PL 3.03.06 – Trapline Buildings on Public Land

PL 3.03.02 – Unauthorized Occupations – Control and Removal

Form FW1007 – Head trapper application



SECTION: Fur Management

SUBSECTION: Trapper Licensing

SUBJECT: Criteria for establishing a significant Aboriginal family connection to a registered trapline

BULLETIN: FWBull.1.1.8

ISSUE DATE: August 28, 2010

Introduction

The criteria below are to be used in conjunction with procedure WilPr. 1.1.7 "Allocation of Head Trappers for Registered Traplines" where it is known by the Ministry that an Aboriginal applicant claims to maintain a significant traditional family connection to a registered trapline. These applied criteria are to be applied in relation to commitments contained in the Trapping Harmonization Agreements between Ontario and each of the Union of Ontario Indians and Grand Council Treaty #3.

Documentation received from individuals claiming such a connection should be retained on file by district/area offices indefinitely.

In documenting the existence of a Aboriginal family member/trapper claim/connection to a registered trapline, the following should be considered:

- Only commercial fur harvesting involving the preparation and sale of raw pelts to Fur Dealers requires the issuance of an Ontario Trapping Licence and assignment to a registered trapline area.
- Fur harvesting for food, social and ceremonial purposes by Aboriginal communities who maintain a treaty right is subject to MNR's Interim Enforcement Policy.

Specific Criteria

Aboriginal communities will be provided annual notice in writing of the MNR's intent to update its files in relation to a Aboriginal family member's/trapper's claim/connection to registered traplines. Written documentation of the family claim/connection should include but is not limited to:

- Name of the individual making the claim (the "claimant");
- Name and relationship, to the claimant, of the person upon whom the connection is based;
- Date(s) during which claimant's ancestor is known/believed to have been trapping the area in question;

- Other relevant information evidencing a historic practicing of trapping within the area;
- A letter of support from the Band in which the claimant is a member;
- Rationale for establishing the claim when the claimant is seeking a trapline not associated with their Band.

Where two or more Aboriginal individuals from the same community/band have expressed consideration for the same registered trapline, a decision for allocation of the trapline will be made through a local Band Council Resolution. If there is an expression from two or more Aboriginal individuals from separate communities for the trapline, then the appropriate PTO(s) will resolve.

Where First Nation individuals do not have a documented family claim/connection to a registered trapline, then that member must be a licensed trapper and apply for head trapper designation according to the procedure set out in Step 4 of *WilPr.1.1.7 Allocation of head trappers for registered traplines* as revised on January 20, 2010.

Districts should note that trapping agreements, nor procedure WilPr 1.1.7 do not, in and of themselves, eliminate the need to consider treaty and Aboriginal rights otherwise as allocation and other decisions are made. Once obligations pursuant to the appropriate trapping agreement, and pursuant to applicable MNR policies, have been met, Districts should continue to be mindful of, and appropriately consider, any additional obligations that may exist pursuant to s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

References

Legal References

- Environmental Assessment Act Class EA for RSFD
- Environmental Assessment Act Class EA for PPCR
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act
 - Subsection 6(1) - no person shall hunt or trap furbearing mammals except with a licence and in accordance with the regulations.
 - Subsection 48(1) - no person shall sell the pelt of a furbearing mammal except under the authority of a licence.

Related References

WilPo.1.1.1 - Registered trapline trapping - administration and licensing

WilPp.1.1.5 - Authorizing/issuing a secondary trapping licence.

WilPp.1.1.6 - How to assign a trapper's licence number.

WilPo.1.2.1 - District alpha and numeric codes/township codes.

WilPp.1.3.5 - Multiplicity of fur licences/Appeal procedure.

PL 3.03.06 – Trapline Buildings on Public Land

PL 3.03.02 – Unauthorized Occupations – Control and Removal

Form FW1007 – Head trapper application



Please Print Clearly

Trapline applied for:

Applicant Information

Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial

Mailing Address

Unit No., Street No., Street Name, Rural Route, PO Box, City/Town/Municipality, Province/State, Postal Code/Zip Code

Physical Address (if different from mailing address)

Unit No., Street No., Street Name, Rural Route, PO Box, City/Town/Municipality, Province/State, Postal Code/Zip Code

Telephone Numbers

Home Telephone No. (including area code), Business Telephone No. (including area code), Fax No. (including area code)

Applicant Card ID

Ontario Outdoor Card No. (hunting version), Expiry Date (yyyy), Trapper's No.

Trapping Details

Ministry Use Only

Distance of residence from trapline, Member of a local trappers council, Member of Ontario Fur Managers Federation..., Number of trapping seasons applicant has held..., Number of trapping seasons of active commercial fur harvest, Number of seasons the applicant has been a helper trapper..., Successful completion of the Fur Harvest, Fur Management and Conservation Course, Number of fur (trapping) convictions during the past 5 years, Number of registered trapline transfers within past ten trapping seasons prior to the date of application






Any false information supplied by the applicant will automatically disqualify the application.

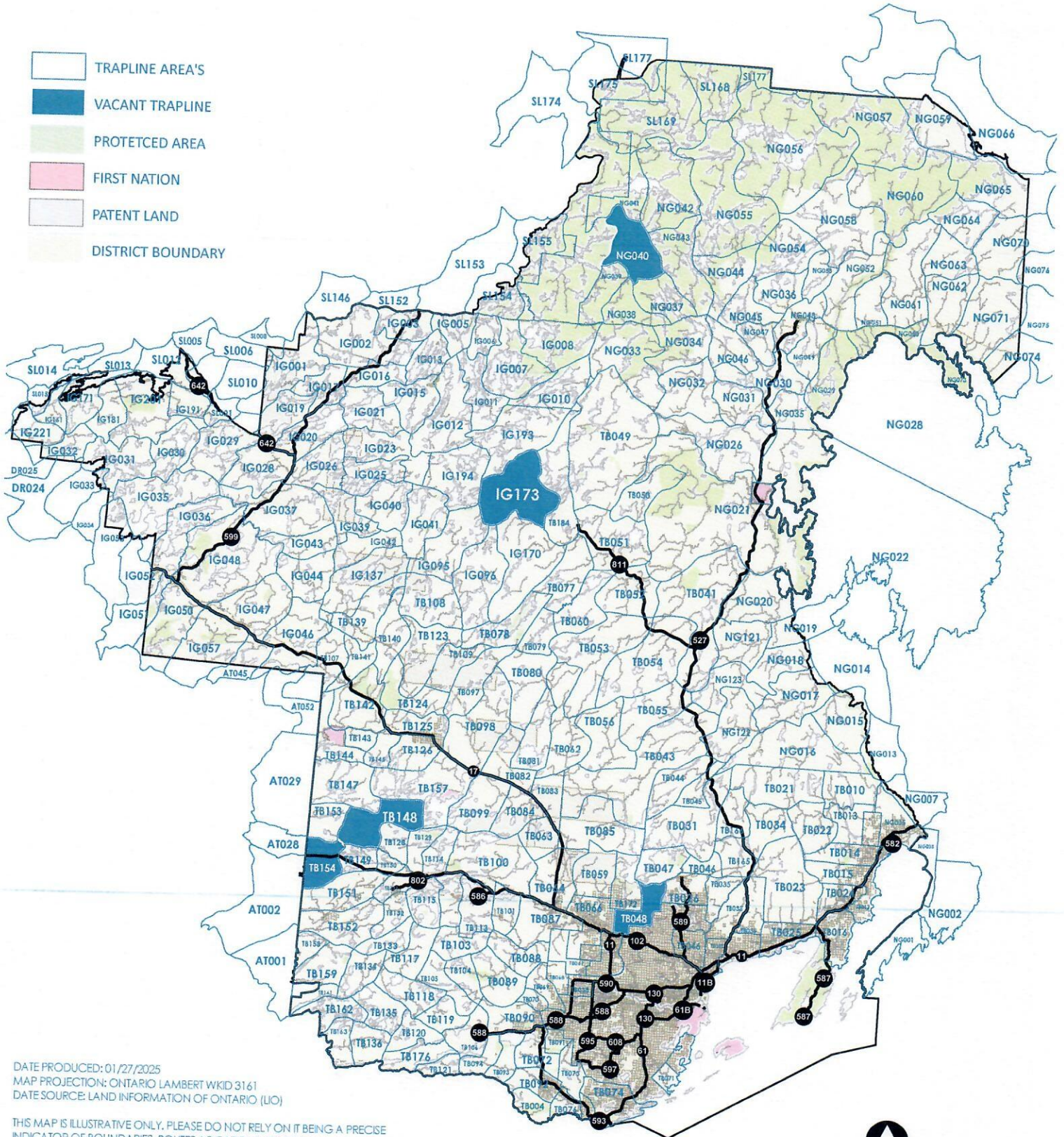
I certify that the information provided in this application is true.

Personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997 and will be used for the purpose of licencing, identification, enforcement, resource management and customer service surveys. Please direct further enquiries to the District Manager of the MNR issuing district.

Applicant Signature, Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

VACANT TRAPLINES

-  TRAPLINE AREA'S
-  VACANT TRAPLINE
-  PROTETCED AREA
-  FIRST NATION
-  PATENT LAND
-  DISTRICT BOUNDARY



DATE PRODUCED: 01/27/2025
 MAP PROJECTION: ONTARIO LAMBERT WKID 3161
 DATE SOURCE: LAND INFORMATION OF ONTARIO (LIO)

THIS MAP IS ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY. PLEASE DO NOT RELY ON IT BEING A PRECISE INDICATOR OF BOUNDARIES, ROUTES, LOCATIONS, OF FEATURES, NOR AS A GUIDE TO NAVIGATION. THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES SHALL NOT BE LIABLE IN ANY WAY FOR THE USE OF, OR, RELIANCE UPON, THIS MAP OR ANY INFORMATION ON THIS MAP.

