

Nipigon Geraldton District  
5 Wadsworth Drive  
Nipigon, Ontario  
P0T 2J0  
Telephone: (807) 887-5000  
Facsimile: (807) 887-2993

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January 23, 2025

Regional Councillor Tim Sinclair  
Métis Nation of Ontario, Region 2  
226 May Street South  
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1B4

**SUBJECT: Annual Notification of Vacant Registered Trapline Availability – Deadline May 2, 2025**

Dear Regional Councillor Sinclair,

I am writing to advise that registered traplines are currently available for reallocation within the Nipigon Geraldton 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 vacant traplines are currently available for reallocation:

- GE013
- GE143
- NG073
- NG096
- NG109
- NG080
- TR016
- TR029

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 May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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 **Orion Addis, IRM Technical Specialist** in the MNR Nipigon Geraldton District at (807) 889-0566 or [Orion.addis@ontario.ca](mailto:Orion.addis@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,



Chris Magee  
District Manager

Attachments:

1. Head Trapper Application Form
2. FWBull1.1.8- Criteria for establishing a significant Aboriginal family connection to a registered trapline
3. WilPr1.1.7 – Allocation of Head Trappers for Registered Traplines
4. Registered trapline information and maps