

APPENDIX A: Comparison table of current and proposed policy guidance for allocating registered traplines.

Description of provision	Current	Proposed	Outcome
Guidance inclusive of First Nations and Métis	First Nations trappers whose communities are members of Provincial Territorial Organizations holding trapping Harmonization agreements with MNRF are eligible for a right of first refusal to a vacant trapline where that trapper has established a historic family connection to a trapline.	<p>All rights bearing Indigenous trappers with an established historic family connection to a trapline are eligible for a right of first refusal to that trapline when it next becomes vacant.</p> <p>Proposed policy guidance will also provide a process for informing trapline allocation decisions where both First Nations and Métis trappers have expressed interest and established a historic family connection to a trapline.</p>	<p>Proposed policy guidance is inclusive of all rights bearing First Nations and Métis trappers.</p> <p>The proposed policy guidance will also provide a process for informing trapline allocation decisions where there is interest from both First Nations and Métis or from First Nations members from different PTOs.</p>
Determining when traplines are vacant	The four-step process for allocating registered traplines is triggered when a trapline is considered vacant. There is no clear guidance of what is considered a vacant trapline in the current policy.	<p>The proposed policy provides clear guidance with scenarios to clarify when a trapline is considered vacant and when trapline allocation decision-making should begin.</p> <p>Along with guidance for determining trapline vacancies, a provision has been introduced that enables family members to request a switch of head trapper designation on a trapline without triggering a vacancy. This aspect of determining trapline vacancies recognizes the longstanding family heritage aspects of managing traplines. This will allow head trappers in good standing to request head trapper designation on the licence be switched to immediate family members who are active helper trappers on the trapline. This opportunity would only be provided in certain circumstances, including where the helper trapper family member has actively trapped and been licensed on the trapline for 10 years or more.</p>	<p>Only vacant registered traplines are included in the annual vacant trapline notification to Indigenous communities, trappers' councils, and trappers. Under the proposed approach traplines may be switched to an immediate family member of an existing head trapper, without triggering a vacancy.</p> <p>This proposal is responsive to the interests of trappers in valuing the family heritage aspects of managing a trapline and enables family who have exercised good furbearer management on a trapline for 10 years or more to continue managing the trapline as a family.</p>

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Shift the vacant trapline notification period	The current policy provides guidance for MNRF Districts to provide notification of vacant traplines in January of each year. Following this notification, MNRF Districts will not make any trapline allocation decisions until 90 days has passed since the annual notification.	The proposal includes a shifted vacant trapline notification period that would occur in September of each year. Following this September notification, MNRF Districts would not make any trapline allocation decisions until 90 days has passed since the annual notification.	The proposed shifted notification is to ensure that the 90-day window where trappers may provide applications for head trapper designation on traplines overlaps the timeframe when mandatory trapper education courses are available. Most trapper education courses are offered in the fall of each year.
Provide additional guidance on historic Indigenous family connection	Current policy guidance refers to a “significant traditional family connection to a registered trapline”. Further guidance requires that Indigenous applicants provide “relevant information evidencing a historic practice of trapping within the area.”	Proposed policy guidance clarifies that historic Indigenous family connections to traplines refer to time periods prior to and during the establishment of the registered trapline system in Ontario and that family connections can be linked to the area surrounding the trapline as well as the specific trapline.	<p>Applicants will have a better understanding of the materials that support establishing a historic Indigenous family connection to a trapline.</p> <p>This proposed clarification recognizes family connections can be established to specific traplines but also to surrounding areas, as many historic connections predate the registered trapline area system and therefore may not align with current trapline boundaries.</p>
Update qualification requirements	Current policy guidance provides that only qualified and licensed applicants may be allocated a registered trapline. Indigenous applicants who have provided information to establish a historic family connection to a trapline within the 90-day notification period are provided with 6 months to exercise a right of first refusal to a trapline.	Proposed policy guidance will now require applicants to provide information to establish a historic family connection to a trapline AND must be qualified or licensed to trap within the 90-day notification period.	<p>Previous policy guidance did not specifically require Indigenous applicants demonstrate their qualifications to trap at the time of application for a trapline, and the applicants were generally able to become trained and qualified within the 6-month period during which they could exercise a right of first refusal.</p> <p>The proposed policy guidance will require that applicants must provide information to establish a historic Indigenous family connection and must be qualified to trap (completion of mandatory course) prior to or within the 90-day notification period (September – December).</p>

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<p>Provide a process for identifying Indigenous community traplines</p>	<p>The current policy guidance is specific to allocating registered traplines to qualified individual trappers. There is currently no provincial level guidance for identifying registered traplines for Indigenous community use.</p>	<p>The proposed policy includes guidance for MNRF Districts to work with interested Indigenous communities to identify registered traplines that can serve licensed community members as trapper training grounds for cultural and technical purposes.</p> <p>This guidance also supports commitments in trapping harmonization agreements with Provincial Territorial Organizations.</p>	<p>The proposed guidance will provide a consistent process for MNRF Districts to work with Indigenous communities to identify registered traplines that can serve as communal training grounds for cultural and technical purposes.</p> <p>Training and providing experience to licensed community members for the commercial harvest of furbearing mammals would be the primary reason for allocating community traplines. However, this opportunity would recognize that communities may also conduct activities in addition to commercial harvest on these traplines to support social and cultural interests.</p>
<p>Guidance for authorizing trapping on Crown parcels</p>	<p>The current policy only provides guidance for allocating registered traplines.</p>	<p>The proposed guidance will include additional considerations for authorizing trapping on Crown land parcels, areas of Crown land that are not included as part of the registered trapline area system.</p>	<p>The proposed policy guidance will include additional considerations for issuing trapping licences for Crown land areas outside of registered traplines. This revision will include considerations for issuing licences to multiple trappers valid for the same area of Crown land.</p>