



September 1, 2016

Dear trails community member,

I am pleased to announce that the *Ontario Trails Act, 2016* and amendments to the *Occupiers' Liability Act* and *Trespass to Property Act* have been proclaimed in full and came into force today.

As a member of the trails community, your contribution to the passing of this legislation was indispensable. I want to thank everyone who has supported this process through to its successful conclusion, and that includes the trail providers, the trail users, and all stakeholders.

Ontario is home to over 80,000 kilometres of trails that support recreation, tourism and active transportation. Each year, millions of Ontarians and visitors from outside the province experience our world class trails system. Trails encourage explorers of all ages and abilities to visit our unique communities and support local economies and jobs.

As you know, 2017 marks the 150th anniversary of both Canada and Ontario. This celebratory year will be a time of excitement and inspiration. It will be a time for the province, as a founding member and leader in Confederation, to engage all Ontarians in commemorating and celebrating our 150th anniversary.

I am excited that the inaugural Ontario Trails Week will take place during this celebratory year, and I hope that the trails community will embrace this opportunity to showcase our world class trails and the natural wonders of our great province.

I also look forward to collaborating with the trails community to work on key elements of the *Ontario Trails Act, 2016*, including:

- Developing a process for recognizing Ontario Trails of Distinction;
- Establishing a voluntary trail classification system;
- Establishing voluntary best practices; and
- Periodically reviewing the Ontario Trails Strategy.

There are many exciting possibilities ahead as we continue our efforts to build strong communities across the province that are exciting, creative and healthy places to live, work and play.

Thank you again for doing your part to enable the passage of this important piece of legislation.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eleanor McMahon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Eleanor McMahon
Minister