

**Ministry of Natural Resources
Chapleau Wawa District**

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**Ministère des Richesses naturelles
District de Chapleau Wawa**

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May 25, 2026

Laurie Marcil – Executive Director
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SUBJECT: Resource-based tourism development opportunities for locations in Chapleau Wawa District

Laurie Marcil:

The Ministry of Natural Resources' ("the ministry") Chapleau Wawa District has launched a pilot project inviting proposals from qualified individuals and corporations interested in developing and operating new commercial resource-based tourism establishments. Ten locations on public land adjacent to inland lakes are available for new development. The locations were previously used as commercial outpost camp operations and still contain remnants of former buildings, docks, and other derelict structures. The ministry seeks to see these lands redeveloped for commercial resource-based tourism operations once again, contributing to the local economy.

The locations subject to this RFP are situated in relatively isolated areas in the ministry's Chapleau Wawa District. They are located on lakes designated as 'designated tourism lakes' under the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA).

Designated tourism lakes are managed to maintain the remote character of the lake and surrounding area by carefully regulating road and trail development, visual aesthetics, and noise impacts. In many cases, access restrictions are in place on nearby Crown roads to regulate overland motorized access, including snowmobiles. These restrictions are posted under the authority of the Public Lands Act and are enforceable by the ministry's Enforcement Branch.

Historically, these locations have primarily been accessed by floatplane; however, other legal means of access may be viable for some sites, including water access or portage. These lakefront locations may be well suited for tourism development associated with fishing and/or hunting, as well as other non-consumptive resource-based tourism ventures such as eco-tourism.

The opportunity to develop these ten locations is being done through a competitive RFP process. Proposals received by the ministry no later than **2:00pm (Eastern time) Friday October 9, 2026** will be evaluated and scored against criteria set by the ministry. The scoring criteria is designed to assess proposals that:

- maximize economic benefits;
- source local materials and labour and demonstrate the ability to create long term, local/regional employment; and
- Demonstrate the proponent's capacity to successfully operate a commercial resource-based tourism business in Ontario.

Additional consideration will be given to proposals that:

- are submitted by Indigenous proponents or proponents with an established partnership with an Indigenous person, community, or organization; and

- are submitted by Ontario-based, Canadian or Ontario Trade Partner businesses, in alignment with the Building Ontario Businesses Initiative.

Successful proponents selected by the scoring committee will be offered the opportunity to apply for new occupational authority for the identified location(s) issued in the form of either a Land Use Permit (LUP) or Crown lease.

As part of the occupational authority review process and per applicable MNR policies and procedure, a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) will be undertaken for each LUP or Crown lease application. Consultation with the public and Indigenous communities will also be undertaken as appropriate as part of the process.

To request the full RFP package, get more information on the project, or to arrange to have a presentation provided to your organization, please contact Christopher Wright, A/Resource Management Coordinator at 705-465-6812 or MNR.COC.RFP@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Kirk Ellis

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