 Baxter on the implementation of the Ontario Trails Strategy and its key initiatives.

- Identify challenges that confront trails in Ontario along with possible solutions.
DEVELOPMENT AND LAUNCH OF THE STRATEGY

- The Ministry of Health Promotion is the lead ministry for trail coordination and planning matters and promotes the economic, health (physical and mental) and environmental benefits of trails.

- The Strategy is a framework with 52 action items.

- 2003 – 2005, MHP led the development of the Strategy with advice from the Minister’s Advisory Committee and DWG on Trails and involved over 1,000 participants in the process.

- 2005 - Cabinet approved the Ontario Trails Strategy (with $3.5 million over 5 years) with its vision of achieving: "a world-class system of diversified trails planned and used in an environmentally responsible manner, which enhances the health and prosperity of all Ontarians".

- 2010 Review of the Ontario Trails Strategy.
TRAIL CONTEXT

- Water trails (e.g. canoe routes) and land trails.
- Recreational and active transportation uses.
- Motorized (snowmobiling, ATVing, off-road motorcycling etc) and non-motorized uses (cycling, horseback riding, walking, jogging, cross-country skiing etc.).
- Trails can bring people to the waterfront year round.
- Waterfront trails link communities and attractions.
- Trails are accessible to all regions, cultures, ages and abilities.
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR TRAILS

National Structure
- Canadian Trails Federation – not-for-profit trail organizations.
- National Trails Coalition - Canadian Trails Federation, the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations and the Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council.
- A Federal-Provincial/Territorial Committee on Trails.

Provincial Structure
- Ministry of Health Promotion is lead ministry for trails coordination and planning matters.
- Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee is ADM-led (13 ministries and 11 external organizations (refer to Addendum 1).
- Directors’ Working Group on Trails involves 17 ministries.
- Ontario Trails Council is the provincial trails umbrella.
KEY TRAIL INITIATIVES OF THE STRATEGY

- Review of Legislation Affecting Trails.
- Review of Off-Road Vehicle Use.
- Trails for Life grant program 2005/06 – 2008/09 merged into the Healthy Communities Fund.
- Central website for trails through the Ontario Trails Council.
- Trail mapping through the Ministry of Natural Resources.
Ontario Trails Act (Ministry of Health Promotion)

- Request permission to develop an Ontario Trails Act.
- To develop the content for the Trails Act collaboratively with other ministries and external stakeholders.

Key Elements

- Trail definitions, categories, provincially significant trails etc;
- Trail leadership;
- Protection of public and private lands;
- Link to the Occupiers’ Liability Act;
- Trail easements;
- Financial sustainability;
- Enforcement; and
- Other.
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION (CONT’D.)

Changes to the Public Lands Act (Ministry of Natural Resources)
- Add stop and inspect provisions.
- Protect Crown lands from environmental damage.
- Require agreements for major trail events on Crown lands.

Change the Occupiers’ Liability Act (Ministry of the Attorney General)
- Provide a reference to trail standards in the Act such that courts may refer to standards established by the sector as a consideration in determining liability.

Enhance the Planning Act (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing)
- Explore opportunities to enhance the Act to better foster active communities though municipal planning (e.g. active transportation considerations).
ONTARIO TRAILS STRATEGY

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION (CONT’D.)

Amend the Trespass to Property Act (Ministry of the Attorney General)
- Increase deterrents to trespass through increased fines.

POLICY PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION

Review of Relevant Transportation Legislation and Policy (Ministry of Transportation)
- Toward a more collaborative approach to trail and highway planning in Ontario.
- Consider corridors, inter-sections and over/underpasses.

Enhance the Provincial Policy Statement (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing)
- During scheduled reviews explore opportunities to better foster active transportation and access to trails through municipal planning.
Policy on Provincially-Owned and Future Abandoned Railway Rights-of-Way (Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure)
- Permission to develop a policy to enable municipalities and not-for-profit organizations to secure and/or use existing lines for trail purposes.
- Determine a process to deal with trail interests in future abandoned rail corridors.

Review of Economic Incentives for Landowners to Allow Trails on their Properties (Ministry of Finance)
- Determine if there are feasible incentives.
### Other examples of the MHP’s collaboration on trails

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<tr>
<th>Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)</th>
<th>• Memorandum of Understanding with MNR and the Trans Canada Trail in support of completing the Trans Canada Trail in Ontario</th>
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| Ministry of Transportation (MTO)   | • MHP staff sit on the MTO-led inter-ministerial working group on active transportation  
• Various transportation planning exercises |
| Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MEI) | • MHP presents the case for capital investment in trails |
| Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) | • MHP staff reviewed the Planning by Design, a Healthy Communities Guide  
• MHP staff are involved in the Provincial Policy Statement Review 2010 |
<p>| Ministry of Tourism and Culture (MTC) | • MHP staff provides input to MTC on trails tourism (Sobara Report) |</p>
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<th>KEY CHALLENGES</th>
<th>POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS</th>
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| Collaboration and coordination at local, regional, Provincial and Federal levels | • Coalitions – a united voice  
• New partnerships and networks (e.g. health, research)  
• Champion common priorities (e.g. Trails Act, branding, signage) |
| Relatively weak research, policy and legislative framework for trails           | • Stronger policy voice for parks, beaches and waterfront trails – green infrastructure – urbanization – retrofitting – aging  
• Support existing proposals under consideration  
• Minimum liability standards and technical guidance tools for trail development and maintenance  
• Economic impact models that incorporate social/health benefits  
• A scan on water trails  
| Lack of tools to support a quality trail system in Ontario                      | • A Case for Trails (benefits based) – e.g. all green benefits  
• Guidelines for the provision of green space and active transportation (including trails) |
| Lack of secure funding sources                                                  | • Workable funding models that consider all sectors |
CONTACT INFORMATION

Ministry of Health Promotion

Carol Oitment, Policy Advisor
Sport, Recreation and Community Programs Branch
carol.oitment@ontario.ca

Craig Stewart, Manager
Sport, Recreation and Community Programs Branch
craig.stewart@ontario.ca

Ontario Trails Strategy
ADDENDUM 1: ONTARIO TRAILS COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

1. Ontario Trails Council;
2. Ontario Federation of Agriculture;
3. Nature and Outdoor Tourism Ontario;
4. Disabilities;
5. Active Transportation;
6. Wasauksing First Nation;
7. Ontario Stewardship Program;
8. Conservation Ontario;
9. Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
10. Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters; and
11. Trails Study Unit, Trent University.

MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES

1. Health Promotion;
2. Attorney General;
3. Municipal Affairs and Housing;
4. Natural Resources;
5. Transportation;
6. Northern Development, Mines and Forestry;
7. Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs;
8. Finance;
9. Tourism and Culture;
10. Energy and Infrastructure;
11. Citizenship and Immigration;
12. Ontario Heritage Trust; and