



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 22, 2014

Funds available for projects to enhance fish populations and habitat

(North Bay, May 22, 2014) Individuals and organizations interested in rehabilitating or enhancing fish populations and/or fish habitat in the greater Nipissing area are invited to submit a project overview to the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA) and the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council (GNSC).

Up to \$225,000 is available to fund projects through Environment Canada's Environmental Damages Fund (EDF), to be disbursed under the recommendation of NBMCA and GNSC. The project recommendations are subject to Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) approval.

"At this stage we're looking for an overview of ideas; a one or two page project summary that basically tells us who, what, where, when, why and how much," said John Thornton, GNSC's President.

To be eligible for funding consideration, the fishery project must meet one of the four following criteria:

- i) Restoration of damaged natural environments; or
- ii) Improvement of environmental quality in damaged areas; or
- iii) Research into the long term cumulative effects of environmental damage; or
- iv) Raising awareness and understanding relating to environmental damage.

Project summaries can be submitted to NBMCA and the GNSC, including a short description of the project with the following information:

- i) What work you would like to do;
- ii) Your reasons for wanting to do the work and how it fits the funding criteria;
- iii) Where the project is to be undertaken;
- iv) When you would like to start and finish the project;
- v) An estimate of the cost of the project; and
- vi) Your name, your organization and contact information.

Project summaries can be submitted by June 18 via email to info@greaternipissing.ca or mail to: Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council, Box 1391, 101 Worthington St. E., North Bay, ON P1B 8K5 Attn: Fish Projects. They can also be dropped off at the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority, 15 Janey Ave., North Bay.

All proposals received on or before Wednesday, June 18 will be evaluated for fit under the EDF program priorities and considered for funding support.

For more information on the Environmental Damages Fund program priorities and performance indicators please go to the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council website at www.greaternipissing.ca.

The North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority was founded in 1972 by the Province of Ontario and its 10 member municipalities. A non-profit organization, the NBMCA works closely with the public to balance human needs with environmental needs throughout the region's watershed. The NBMCA is one of 36 Conservation Authorities who are members of Conservation Ontario. You can follow NBMCA on facebook.com/NBMCA and twitter @theNBMCA. Website: www.nbmca.on.ca

The Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council is a not-for-profit volunteer organization that partners with similar-minded groups and government agencies to implement environmental programs; provides information on conservation and sustainability; and works to increase awareness of the local ecosystem. GNSC is comprised of a diverse group of individuals representing the following interests: First Nations, fisheries, tourism, conservation, forestry, agriculture, wilderness sports, biology, youth, public at large and the environment. www.greaternipissing.ca or email info@greaternipissing.ca.

Background:

On November 12, 2013, the Ontario Court of Justice ordered Carillion Canada Inc. to pay a total penalty of \$250,000 for violating two counts of the *Fisheries Act*. Of the penalty to be paid by Carillion Canada, \$225,000 will be directed into the Environmental Damages Fund, with the funds to be disbursed under the direction of the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority and the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council. Projects permitted under this \$225,000 funding will promote the conservation and protection of fish and fish habitat, and will require the approval of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to proceed.

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/npress-communique/2013/ca17-eng.htm>

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