



# Establishing a Unified, Sustainable Funding Model for ATV Clubs in Ontario

PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION: THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE CLUBS

JANUARY 24, 2020

## Who We Are

The Ontario Federation of All-Terrain Vehicles (OFATV) represents over 6,700 members across 18 ATV clubs, with over 4,500km of trails across the province. Operated by a passionate team of volunteers, our not-for-profit organization strives to provide safe, responsible, legal and sustainable trails for the recreational use of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles (ROVs). With a steadily increasing number of ATV enthusiasts in a near-billion dollar market in Ontario, the OFATV is a necessary entity to ensure the safety and responsible use of both ATV equipment and the trails our membership enjoys.

The status quo presents borders between ATV club districts with separate fees and trail regulations, which limits sporting tourism and consistent investment into sustainable trail maintenance. It is our position that a more cohesive, forward-thinking approach to licensing and permits is a necessity to maintain industry success and consumer satisfaction. The OFATV looks forward to working alongside the Ontario Government to address what we believe are necessary changes to current policy in order to foster a better future for ATV and ROV enthusiasts.

## Establishing License Funding Model

Action: To recognize the OFATV as Ontario's leading and only All-Terrain Vehicle Federation, granting authority to implement and collect a license fee from riders.

Granting the OFATV the authority to implement a license fee will provide funding to environmental engagement and conservation efforts currently supported by the Federation. The Federation intends to implement these funds towards the creation and maintenance of trails across the province while simultaneously growing the sport's popularity and reputation. The Federation has been, and will continue to be a not-for-profit with all funding being administered to the entirety of the sector to improve the experience for all who wish to partake in the sport. The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) has demonstrated success with this model, following a 2001 change to the *Motorized Snow Vehicles Act* (MSVA) that requires any snowmobile driven on an OFSC trail to display a valid trail permit. Between OFSC investment into their trails and advocacy for the sport, there is a strong precedent for the impact of standardized licensing fee on the industry as a whole.

## Universal Regulations and Trail Access

Action: Mandate that all ATV clubs in Ontario must belong to the Federation in order to standardize rules and regulations

Currently, regional borders across the province prevents enthusiasts from investing in sporting tourism outside of their club's boundaries unless they purchase an entirely separate permit. This prevents consumer enjoyment and eliminates possible funding for local businesses that may otherwise enjoy higher traffic. Even more importantly, it fragments the regulations that govern rider safety and trail preservation, with each regional club implementing its own unique terms of use that do not necessarily meet the highest available standard. A universal, standardized regulatory framework would enable riders to access trails across the province's vast landscape

while ensuring that trails are developed and maintained in a sustainable fashion. Leaders in the power sports industry have long understood that educating the public and establishing comprehensive rules of use are imperative to preserving Ontario's resources and avoiding environmental damage. The Federation works alongside public land managers and conservation initiatives to mitigate and repair this damage on the behalf of riders. This system can only be truly effective if there is a single set of Federation rules and regulations to promote a unified, sustainable infrastructure.

## **Implementing New Safety Training for Youth**

### Action: Implement mandatory ATV safety training for youth under the age of 16

Rider safety is of the utmost importance, and requires the implementation of mandatory ATV safety training for youth 16 and under to protect the most vulnerable demographic of ATV operators. Despite representing only 12-15% of all ridership, they account for 27-35% of all ATV-related fatalities. Some studies report that youth under 16 are four times more likely to require ATV-related emergency room treatment than any other demographic. Among this sub-demographic, the primary purpose for the ER visit was vehicle rollover, or falling off the vehicle, further exacerbated by almost 23% of ATV riders refusing to wear a helmet during operation.<sup>1</sup> Early safety education will save lives and promote a more careful, healthy approach to the sport.

## **Conclusion**

The Ontario Federation of All-Terrain Vehicles seeks to dramatically improve the experience of over 6,700 members, and enable Ontario's power sports enthusiasts to enjoy the province's trails in a safe, responsible manner. With over 4,500km worth of trails, it is crucial that the Ontario Government approves a unified, sustainable approach that will guarantee a flourishing industry for all enthusiasts to enjoy.

We thank the Government of Ontario for its ongoing support and look forward to working alongside policymakers to revitalize and improve the future of the sport.

---

<sup>1</sup> Public Health Ontario, *The Epidemiology of All-Terrain Vehicle and Snowmobile-Related Injuries in Ontario*, April 2019, <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/atv-snowmobiles-injuries-report.pdf?la=en>