

Natural. Valued. Protected.

FACT SHEET

ENHANCEMENTS TO THE CLTIP

The Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) is a voluntary program designed to recognize, encourage and support the long term sound stewardship of Ontario's provincially significant lands. It offers tax exemption to those landowners who agree to protect defined biodiversity and natural heritage values of their property. Under the program, landowners agree not to undertake activities that will degrade damage or result in the loss of features for which it was identified.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has developed program policies that are aimed at providing greater transparency and accountability. The revisions, effective **July 5, 2010**, are the result of discussions with stakeholders and the public.

Revisions to CLTIP include:

- The policy clarifies that commercial harvesting of timber continues to be excluded under CLTIP because there is no regulatory requirement for a formal management plan to ensure sustainability.
- Open spaces such as meadows and grasslands are recognized under CLTIP. The revised policy clarifies that in order to confirm these spaces are in a natural state, additional information like photos or site descriptions may be required.
- The policy clarifies that invasive species management, trail maintenance and tree felling/removal for health and safety purposes are permitted activities.
- The policy identifies land features or activities that, for the purposes of this program, are considered to be inconsistent with the natural heritage and biodiversity objectives for conserving the land.
- Commercially harvested properties, once harvesting is completed, are excluded from CLTIP for 10 years, or, until the property has been re-evaluated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and it has been determined that the features and/or values remain.
- The Community Conservation Lands guide now contains target timelines for application review and notification.

For more information about CLTIP or the Community Conservation Lands guide, please visit:

www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/CLTIP/index.html.