

# Media Release

For Immediate Release

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## NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

### Trans Canada Trail adds 310 kilometres in NW Ontario parks

Trail users in Northwestern Ontario will celebrate International Trails Day – Saturday, June 7 – by hiking, cycling and canoeing newly-designated sections of the Trans Canada Trail.

The routing of the Trans Canada Trail on existing hiking trails, cross-country skiing trails and canoe routes within nine Ontario provincial parks is the result of a new partnership between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Trans Canada Trail Ontario.

“This signals a major step forward for trail building in Ontario,” said Cameron Clark, Chair of Trans Canada Trail Ontario’s Board of Directors. “As we celebrate all the achievements in the trails community across the country today, we are delighted to welcome the additions to the trail within Ontario provincial parks. Not only do they anchor the Trans Canada Trail in Northwestern Ontario, but provincial parks like Quetico and Sleeping Giant allow trail users to witness the majesty of Northern Ontario landscapes and add to the overall grandeur of the Trans Canada Trail.”

Located in Ontario provincial parks between Marathon and the Manitoba border, the 310 kilometres of trail offer park users and trail enthusiasts new opportunities to enjoy the distinct qualities of each park while exploring the trail. When completed, the Trans Canada Trail will be the world’s longest recreational trail, connecting Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

“Ontario’s provincial parks contain outstanding examples of the province’s natural and cultural heritage that belong on the Trans Canada Trail, and they offer unmatched opportunities for recreation enjoyed by visitors from around the world,” said Natural Resources Minister Donna Cansfield

Trans Canada Trail Ontario is responsible for connecting Ontario’s 4,000-kilometre section of the Trans Canada Trail, which is the longest of any province or territory along the 21,000 kilometre cross-country route. With the new trail designations in northwestern Ontario parks, Trans Canada Trail Ontario has now surpassed the 2,500 km milestone. While this is a huge achievement, there still much work to be done to realize a continuous trail that spans the province.

The Trans Canada Trail designation in the nine provincial parks – which include Rushing River, Winnange Lake, Eagle-Dogtooth, Turtle River-White Otter Lake, Quetico, Kakabeka Falls, Sleeping Giant, Rainbow Falls and Neys – began three years ago with a Memorandum of Understanding between Trans Canada Trail Ontario and the Ontario government. The partnership supports efforts to connect sections of the Trans Canada Trail in Ontario by 2010. See [map](#) attached.

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