Ontario Working to Put Health at the Centre

An understanding of these important connections across all sectors will enable the creation of policies that help achieve the goals of both groups.



What is Ontario Doing?



Ontario Biodiversity Council:

<u>Vision:</u> biodiversity loss is halted and recovery is advanced. People value, protect and enhance biodiversity and the ecosystem services essential for human health and well-being.

OBS Action #4: Develop a strong network of partners engaged in acquiring a deeper understanding of the linkages between biodiversity and human health and wellbeing

HOW

•EcoHealth established as a result of this action. They are a working group of Council.

•State of Biodiversity Reporting –includes an indicator on public awareness of biodiversity and its relation to our health and well-being (sobr.ca)

•Results from State of Ontario's Biodiversity Report:

• An increase of 4% to 64% of respondents aware of the term biodiversity and 78% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that biodiversity plays an important role in maintaining their health and well-being, representing a 5% increase over 2014.

•Partner in "nature for all" initiative (natureforall.global)











Ontario's **Biodiversity** Strategy **Protecting** what sustains **us**

What is Ontario Doing?



EcoHealth Ontario: collaborative of public health, medicine, education, planning and environmental professionals working together to increase our understanding of the relationships between environment and health.

HOW

•Biennial Workshops – bringing the sectors of health care and conservation together to learn from one another and network.

•Publications:

- Conserving Biodiversity: A Public Health Imperative
- Greenspace and Ecohealth Toolkit: Improving Health and Wellbeing Through Greenspace Provision, Design, and Access
- Green City: Why Nature Matters to Health An Evidence Review.
- Supported Conservation Ontario: The Benefits of Nature: Step Into Nature Initiative

Ecohealth-ontario.ca



What is Ontario Doing?

- Ontario Children's Outdoor Charter
- Monitor zoonotic disease trends in wildlife in partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative
- Environmental Health Climate Change Toolkit
 - <u>http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/ministry/publications/reports/climate_c</u>
 <u>hange_toolkit/climate_change_toolkit.pdf</u>
- Harmonized Heat Warning and Information System for Ontario (HWIS)







- Inter-ministerial Steering Committees and Advisory Committees on a range of animal health issues
- Anticipate and respond to emerging wildlife disease threats
- The Ontario Public Health Conference included a session on biodiversity and human health –a common and emerging theme for public conferences





Ontario.ca/biodiversity

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