



THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
Prince Edward Island Branch

May 1, 2024

Via email to: Alysha MacEachern, Committee Clerk (alyshamaceachern@assembly.pe.ca)

Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability
Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island
197 Richmond Street
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7K7

Re: Prohibiting Trapping and Snaring on Prince Edward Island

The Canadian Bar Association – Prince Edward Island Branch’s (PEI Branch) Animal Law section supports the petition to ban trapping and snaring on Prince Edward Island.

The Canadian Bar Association is the largest professional association for lawyers in Canada. Its mandate is to seek improvements in the law and the administration of justice. The PEI Branch represents some 185 lawyers, judges, notaries, law teachers, articled clerks and law students from across Prince Edward Island. Through the work of its practice sections, the PEI Branch provides advice to assist legislators and other key decision-makers in the interests of both the profession and the public.

The Animal Law section aims to create meaningful educational opportunities for members of the legal profession to examine the law and policy developments on all matters affecting non-human animals. An important role of this section is to provide input to government on animal law legislation and other animal law-related matters.

On the bases of the petition, the Animal Law section strongly recommends that the Legislative Assembly of PEI prohibit trapping and snaring on all land on Prince Edward Island.

Bans in Other Jurisdictions

Most Canadian provinces and territories have municipalities with complete or partial bans on traps, snares, or both. These include:

- Alberta: Bonnyville, Canmore
- British Columbia: Coquitlam, Gibsons, North Cowichan, North Saanich, North Vancouver, Port Hardy, Surrey, Victoria

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- Manitoba: Winnipeg
- New Brunswick: Woodstock
- Northwest Territories: Yellowknife
- Nova Scotia: Halifax
- Ontario: Cambridge, Fort Erie, Fort Frances, Guelph, Grimsby, Niagara Falls, Vaughan
- Saskatchewan: Fort Saskatchewan

Many US states prohibit body-gripping trapping for recreational and commercial purposes, trapping on public land, trapping on public and private land, or the use of specific devices (e.g. conibear traps, steel jaw leg-hold traps, snares). States that have passed prohibitions include Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.

The use of leghold traps is banned throughout the European Union. Many European countries have also banned the use of snares. Most recently, Wales and Scotland in the UK have passed bans on snares, alongside bans on glue traps.

In the interests of the safety of people, pets, and wildlife on PEI, we urge you to recommend that trapping and snaring be prohibited on PEI, and that where necessary non-lethal wildlife management strategies be explored.

Yours Truly,



Elizabeth Schoales

Member of the PEI Branch Animal Law Section