

Ontario Power Sport Working Group (OPSWG) – ORV fees to fund ORV trail and education for Ontario



I have mentioned this at previous AGMs and in previous newsletters but just to recap on what this is all about. This group was originally formed by the key stakeholders in the off highway motorized vehicle sector. The objective was to provide a report to the government outlining a proposal to create a significant and stable user pay funding model that would generate enough revenue to fund education programs and contribute to trail maintenance and other programs in keeping with “public policy objectives”.

We submitted a report about 18 months or so ago. At this time the Ontario government do not see this as a priority and are not looking to proceed.

Breaking news: for an example of what the program could look like, please see the recent BC government announcement:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2017FLNR0061-000924>

Work for 2017: We are currently actively working together to revise our proposal and revisit our communications strategy.

The project is facilitated by a third party paid political consultant. The OPSWG group members currently are:

- ATV Ontario (and affiliates)
- The Eastern Ontario Trails Alliance
- The Ontario Federation of All Terrain Vehicle Clubs (and affiliates)
- The Canadian Off Highway Vehicle Distributors Council (COHV)
- The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs
- The Ontario Federation of Trail Riders
- The Ontario Federation of 4WD Recreationists

The official stated objectives are:

- Design a sector-supported sustainable funding model (new money);
- Create an accountable and transparent structure to administer the funds collected;
- Maximize opportunities to involve stakeholders in power sport and trail programs; and
- Ensure that funds from the sector are used to address a broad range of public policy objectives.

Clearly this is a very important initiative that we need to remain active on.