



# COVID-19 IMPACT SURVEY

## BEAR OUTFITTERS RESULTS

This survey was sent to 366 bear outfitting businesses across Ontario. This survey was conducted to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on bear outfitters. Since the spring bear hunt is just around the corner, the significant impact of this pandemic is imminent.

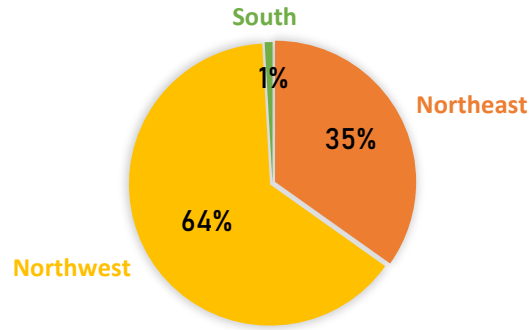
Through this survey we captured a "moment in time" perspective as well as provide a forecast of what the impacts will be if the travel restrictions remain in place through the spring hunt and potentially the fall bear hunt. The data was collected from March 26<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. A total of 121 operators completed the survey.

The numbers presented below represent **only the data collected** from operators who have answered the survey.

NOTO is sharing the results of this survey with Government to request support to assist these small businesses survive these difficult times. We have asked for the development of a Resource-Base Tourism Emergency Fund as well we have asked that Bear Management Area fees be waived for 2020. These results will also be shared with our colleagues on Destination Northern Ontario's Northern Ontario COVID-19 Task Force to keep them updated with the impacts felt by the industry.

It is important to note that in Ontario, tourism businesses who provide bear hunt services to hunters must acquire a Bear Management Area through MNR and receive an allocation of Black Bear Hunting Licence Validation Certificates for that area. The large majority of the hunters that use the services of tourism businesses are American guests. So the revenue losses that are being reported in this survey are from those American guests in Canadian dollars.

Participants were located in the following MNRF regions:



**\$155,426**

**Spent on BMA fees**

*Total represented as a sum spent by all operators who participated in the survey.*

*MNRF reports that they collect ~\$386,000 annually in BMA fees.*

In terms of BMA fees, the average operator spends **\$ 1,387** annually, with the smallest operator spending \$150 annually and the largest operator spending \$7,615 annually.

In terms of cancellations at March 31st, 2020 as a result of COVID-19,  
\* **290 hunters** have canceled their spring bear hunt reservations  
\* **55 hunters** have canceled their fall bear hunt reservations.

**\$1,030,918**

**in revenues has been lost as a result of cancellations.**

*Total represented as a sum from revenue losses of all operators who participated in the survey.*

- \$587,445 in revenues have been lost as a result of spring bear hunt cancellations. On average, operators have lost \$5,245, with the largest individual business loss reported being \$38,886.
- \$443,473 in revenues have been lost as a result of fall bear hunt cancellations. On average, operators lost \$4,264, with the largest individual business loss reported being a sum of \$56,000.

If the spring bear hunt was to be cancelled as a result of COVID-19:

**\$2,170,976**

in revenues would be lost, not counting revenues from bear operators who did not participate in the survey.

If both Spring and Fall 2020 bear hunts were to be canceled as a result of COVID-19,

**\$4,560,821**

in revenues will be lost. This does not include revenues lost from operators who did not participate in the survey.