



# NORTHERN ONTARIO AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **“Ontario Fish Farmers Welcome Federal Commitment to Aquaculture”**

MANITOULIN ISLAND, Ontario – March 5, 2008

Good news was unveiled on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 when Finance Minister Flaherty provided a commitment of \$70 million over 5 years for the continued development of Canada’s sustainable aquaculture industry.

The federal government has demonstrated their recognition of the importance of the Canadian aquaculture industry as an economic driver for rural Canada which includes Northern Ontario and specifically the Manitoulin Island area.

“Not only are we producing a healthy product that is naturally rich in Omega-3 Essential Fatty Acids, we are now poised to make even greater economic contributions to Ontario’s economy,” says Karen Tracey, Executive Director of the Northern Ontario Aquaculture Association. “In 2007, Northern Ontario Farmed Rainbow Trout generated \$51 million in economic contributions. Now with the strong leadership and support federally we expect a strengthening of the aquaculture sector in Ontario and good news to rural areas where traditional agri-food sectors have been shrinking.”

With the federal financial commitment we expect a streamlining of the regulatory coordination between federal and provincial agencies. Improvements in provincial science policies by establishing performance-based environmental standards for aquaculture operations will encourage strategic investments in research and innovation to enhance our environmentally responsible aquaculture sector.

It is now possible to move forward in a positive direction with planning, investment and research to allow fish farming to realize its full potential as a vibrant agri-food sector that is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

Ontario fish farmers are passionate about seeing the industry succeed and have already established themselves nationally as leaders in freshwater aquaculture research. The aquaculture industry has excellent potential for slow, carefully planned expansion - ensuring environmental responsibility for today and brighter economic prospects for the future.

*The Northern Ontario Aquaculture Association is a not-for-profit provincial association located in Little Current on Manitoulin Island representing the interests of aquaculture operators, fingerling producers, processors, feed companies, researchers and suppliers who share a common interest in a viable, sustainable Ontario aquaculture industry.*

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*“Practising Sustainable Aquaculture”*



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