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Ontario offering free fishing for Father?s Day weekend

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In honour of Father's Day on Sunday, June 16, the province is offering free fishing for the entire weekend.

?Father's Day weekend is a great time to get out on one of Ontario's beautiful lakes or rivers and enjoy fishing,? said Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources. ?Fishing is a fun activity for everyone in the family and it's a great way to spend time together, so I encourage you to cast a line June 15 and 16 to celebrate Father's Day.?

Right now, you can fish for many species, including yellow perch, common carp, northern pike, lake trout and walleye in most of Ontario. Some waterbodies have exceptions; be sure to check the Fishing Regulations Summary before heading out so you are aware of all limits on how many fish you can keep.

If you are fishing for free during this period, you need to carry identification issued by the provincial or federal government, showing your name and date of birth.

Outside of free fishing periods, most Canadians between the ages of 18 and 65 must have an Outdoors Card and a fishing licence.

Veterans and active Canadian Armed Forces members residing in Ontario can enjoy free recreational fishing in the province all year.

The last annual free fishing event this year is Family Fishing Week (June 29-July 7) to celebrate Canada Day