

Request For Quotes - Services

Project Name:

Herbicide application for the invasive terrestrial plant, Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) in Prince Edward County.

RFQ Closing Date:

June 12, 2026, 4 pm local time

Invitation to Respondents

Quinte Conservation (QC) is inviting written quotations from qualified and licensed contractors ("Respondents") to provide terrestrial herbicide application services for the control of invasive Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*). The work will take place within the Quinte Conservation Watershed on private property where landowners have entered into an agreement with QC to provide services.

The successful Respondent will enter into a service agreement with QC for the provision of the services described in this RFQ and Annex A – Statement of Work.

Submission Requirements:

Respondents must submit (1) one electronic PDF quotation by email prior to the Submission Deadline. Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Submissions must include the following mandatory information:

- Proof of Exterminator Licence:
 - Copy of valid Pesticide Operators License issued by Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) in the name of the Supplier.
 - Proof that all persons who will be handling, mixing, loading and/or applying pesticides hold a valid of exterminator licence for the class of Land Extermination issued by the Director pursuant to Section 35 of Ontario Regulation 63/09 or be exempt from being required to have such a licence in accordance with such Regulation.
- Proof of insurance in the amount of \$2,000,000.00:
 - The Supplier agrees to put in effect and maintain insurance for the Term, at its own cost and expense, with insurers having a secure A.M. Best rating of B + or greater, or the

equivalent, all the necessary and appropriate insurance that a prudent person in the business of the Supplier would maintain including, but not limited to, the following:

- a) commercial general liability insurance on an occurrence basis for third party bodily injury, personal injury and property damage, to an inclusive limit of not less than two million (\$2,000,000) Cdn. dollars per occurrence, two million (\$2,000,000) Cdn. Dollars products and completed operations aggregate, the policy to include the following:
 - I. the Indemnified Parties as additional insureds with respect to liability arising in the course of performance of the Supplier's obligations under or otherwise in connection with this Agreement;
 - II. contractual liability coverage;
 - III. cross-liability clause;
 - IV. employers' liability coverage or Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997 coverage;
 - V. 30 day written notice of cancellation, termination or material change;
 - VI. tenant's legal liability coverage (if applicable and with applicable sub-limits); and
 - VII. non-owned automobile coverage with blanket contractual coverage for hired automobiles; and
 - b) errors and omissions liability insurance, insuring liability for errors and omissions in the performance and provision or failure to perform or provide the Services contemplated in this Agreement, in the amount of not less than two million (\$2,000,000) Cdn. dollars per claim and in the annual aggregate.
 - c) environmental impairment liability with limit no less than \$2,000,000 per claim or occurrence, insuring bodily injury and property damage liability and for clean-up costs arising out of, pertaining to, or in any way related to the actual or alleged discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape of contaminants or pollutants, arising out of or pertaining to the services provided under this agreement, including the transportation of hazardous materials or contaminants.
- A Project Plan that indicates:
 - The Supplier's proposed approaches to treatment.
 - Provide a timeline for project implementation that includes the following:
 - a) Planning and meeting with Quinte Conservation (QC) to coordinate treatment
 - b) Permit Application
 - c) Communications as required by permit
 - d) Mobilization of Equipment to site(s)
 - e) Implementation (timeframe for completion of work)
 - f) Decontamination
 - g) Report back to QC

- Equipment to be used for the treatment of the project areas based on site access, extent of mature trees surrounding buckthorn, proximity to fencelines and large stones.
 - Provide details of equipment or vessel(s) that is appropriately suited to the operational environment including farm fields and narrow laneways. In addition, the proposed equipment should minimize disruption to the public in populated areas.
 - Describe the technology and its proposed use to provide application location tracks during treatment and work with QC to ensure best format for mapping.
 - Proposed approach for safe and effective implementation of herbicide treatment.
 - A communications plan that will describe how the Supplier will communicate with QC and the landowner. It will also outline the Suppliers' communications strategy in fulfillment of any permit requirements for public notification. These communications will be conducted in coordination with QC staff.
 - Provide a plan for decontamination of vessels and equipment to prevent spread of Common Buckthorn. This should include Company practices to prevent the spread of *Phragmites (Phragmites australis subsp. australis)*
 - Detailed description of Supplier's qualifications and experience including:
 - A description of the Supplier's previous experience with treating Common Buckthorn, or a similar terrestrial plant – must have at least 3 years of experience in terrestrial herbicide application.
 - A description of the Supplier's ability to meet the required timeframes described in schedule of work below.
 - Price, including all materials, labour, delivery, travel, accommodation, insurance and any other overhead or other costs and applicable duties and taxes with the exception of Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), if applicable to perform and provide services described in this RFQ, broken down as deliverables and include the following:
 - Coordination of site preparation and Common Buckthorn Control (permit application, meetings with QC to coordinate treatment, communications)
 - Common Buckthorn Control
 - a) QC has confirmed plans to apply 9 acres worth of Terrestrial Herbicide, with the potential to expand treatment up to 30 acres.
 - b) Unit price of herbicide application services per acre (Cdn. Funds), broken down by application equipment type
 - c) Unit Price of herbicide (Cdn funds) per acre
 - Final Report and Data for Mapping
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Location:

Prince Edward County, confirmed.

Potential for projects in the City of Belleville, Municipality of Tweed, Township of Madoc, Municipality of Centre Hasting, Townships of Tudor & Cashel, Township of Addington Highlands, Township of Stone Mills, Township of Tyendinaga, or Town of Greater Napanee.

Description of services required:

Please refer to the Statement of Work at Annex "A"

Payment schedule:

QC will make progress payments in accordance with the payment provisions of the service contract (see schedule below) for cost incurred in the performance of the Work.

Task Description	Percentage of Payment	Date
Herbicide Application Completion	60%	Upon invoice receipt after Completion
Provision of report on volume of herbicide applied and digital file of GPS tracking application pathway and areas sprayed	40%	Upon report receipt after Completion

Evaluation of Quotations

A quotation must comply with all requirements of the request for proposal to be declared responsive. Quotations will be evaluated based on compliance with mandatory submission requirements, relevant experience and qualifications, suitability of equipment and application approach, and price for the recommendation of an award of a service contract. QC reserves the right to reject all proposals received regardless of price.

The service must be provided between June 15th, 2026, and September 1st, 2026, unless extensions are agreed to by QC.

For further information, please contact:

Kaitlin Maurer, *Environmental Monitoring Lead*

kmaurer@quinteconservation.ca

613-968-3434 x 107

Annex A: Statement of Work

Herbicide application scheduled for Summer and Fall of 2026 and 2027 for the invasive terrestrial plant, Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*).

Background

Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) (also known as European buckthorn) is a small shrub or tree native to Eurasia. It was introduced to North America in the 1880s as an ornamental shrub and was widely planted for fencerows and windbreaks in agricultural fields. Since then, it has spread aggressively throughout southern Ontario and in other provinces.

Common buckthorn can thrive in a wide range of soil and light conditions, enabling it to invade a variety of habitats. It is most often found in woodlands and open fields, where it forms dense stands under which few other plants can grow. Common buckthorn can spread widely with the help of birds and animals that eat its fruit, carry the seeds long distances and deposit them in their droppings. Stands of Common buckthorn can invade roadsides, riverbanks, mature forests, farm fields and hydro corridors.

Common buckthorn can pose a threat to agricultural commodities by acting as a host for oat rust, a fungus that causes leaf and crown rust and affects the yield and quality of oats. It can also be an overwintering host for the soybean aphid, an insect that damages soybean crops. Because it can affect agricultural crops, common buckthorn is listed as a noxious weed under *Ontario's Weed Control Act*.

Quinte Conservation has partnered with other Conservation Authorities through Conservation Ontario to create or enhance natural features on marginal agricultural lands to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions, sequester carbon, and increase Ecosystem Goods and Services. This initiative is called the RALP Marginal Lands Initiative and is available for eligible agricultural landowners across the Quinte Conservation Watershed. This RFQ is to create a pool of contractors to contact when RALP projects require herbicide application to implement the creation or enhance of natural features on marginal agricultural lands.

As of May 2026, the treatment areas include approximately 10 acres in Prince Edward County with the potential for up to 30 acres across the Quinte Conservation Watershed.

Timing of Work

Spraying is anticipated to occur between June and mid-September of 2026, subject to suitable weather conditions and plant phenology. The timing of spraying must be approved by Quinte Conservation prior to starting work. There is the potential for additional projects to occur between May and mid-October of 2027.

Work shall generally occur Monday to Friday during hours permitted by municipal by-laws. Weekend or holiday work requires prior written approval.