



ALBERTA
SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Office of the Minister

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Ms. Kelly Semple, Executive Director
Hunting for Tomorrow Foundation
#87, 4003 – 98 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6M8

Dear Ms. ~~Semple~~: *Kelly*

In 2007, Alberta declared the first Provincial Hunting Day for the province on September 22. This day promoted hunting as an important wildlife management tool, as well as a healthy outdoor activity that fosters strong connections to and awareness about nature and the environment. A number of organizations provided opportunities, for committed hunting enthusiasts and those who might be interested in hunting, to learn more about this activity.

I am pleased to inform you that the success and support of Alberta's first Provincial Hunting Day led to the Alberta government recently announcing this special day as an annual event on the fourth Saturday in September.

In addition to promoting the strong tradition of hunting, an additional opportunity has been provided for resident youths to experience recreational hunting for upland game birds on Provincial Hunting Day. Regulations for this youth initiative include:

- Qualified Alberta youth (aged 12 to 17) will be able to hunt upland game birds without holding a provincial game bird licence.
- To qualify and be eligible to hunt upland game birds without needing a provincial game bird licence on Provincial Hunting Day, a youth (12 to 17 years of age) must be a resident who has successfully completed the hunter education program.
- Youth hunters must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, or an adult/mentor over 17 years of age who has their parent's or guardian's written permission.

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- The season will be open on this day for eligible youths to hunt those species of upland game birds (except Merriam's turkey) for which there is or will be an open season in the zone* that is being hunted, but the regular season does not have to be open (e.g., sharp-tailed grouse season may not normally open until October 1, but under this special one-day season on the fourth Saturday of September, a youth could hunt sharp-tailed grouse in a particular Wildlife Management Unit (WMU), provided there is a season opening later on for this species in that WMU).
- Alberta resident youths who hold a game bird licence may also hunt this day for the same species as the other eligible youths. The regular daily bag limits for the species that are being hunted apply.
- Parents, guardians or other hunters may hunt in the company of eligible youth hunters (and licensed resident youth hunters) on Provincial Hunting Day. However, adults must hunt only those game birds for which the regular season is open, and they must hold a hunting licence – there is no benefit offered for any adult for hunting on Provincial Hunting Day.

* Camp Wainwright, WMUs 728 and 730, is not included

Pheasant hunting is included in zones where pheasant hunting is offered, but hunting Merriam's turkey is not included in the new youth hunting opportunity on Provincial Hunting Day. Turkey hunting is subject to special limitations, including a special licence draw in specified WMUs for management purposes.

This year, Provincial Hunting Day will fall on September 27. As the day approaches, my department will be working with stakeholder partners to raise the awareness of hunting as an outdoor pursuit and to encourage the recruitment of new hunters. It is important to note that Provincial Hunting Day is an educational/awareness day and, aside from the youth initiative to hunt upland game birds without a licence, there are no additional opportunities being made for hunters and hunting.

I would like to thank everyone who supported this important day, as well as those who participated in and/or hosted activities that made this day a success in 2007. I hope 2008 will bring further support for the important tradition of hunting in Alberta.

Sincerely,



Ted Morton
Minister