



METIS HARVESTING AGREEMENTS

Effective October 1, 2004, the Province of Alberta entered into agreements with the Métis Nation of Alberta Association and the Métis Settlements General Council respecting the harvesting of game and fish. The two agreements, referred to as Interim Métis Harvesting Agreements*, were entered into in response to a ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada, *R. v. Powley*, which dealt with Métis hunting rights.

The Interim Métis Harvesting Agreements recognize certain harvesting rights for Alberta residents who hold, or are eligible to hold, membership in the Métis Nation of Alberta Association and persons who are Métis Settlement members or are eligible to be members of Métis Settlements. Persons recognized under these two agreements are hereinafter referred to as “Métis Harvesters”.

The following interprets what the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreements recognize as opportunities for Métis Harvesters:

1. Hunting for food may occur all times of the year without recreational licenses on unoccupied Crown lands and other lands to which they have a right of access for hunting. This includes privately owned lands and leased lands if permission is first obtained from the landholder to enter for the purpose of hunting. Unless permission to hunt has been obtained, hunting may not occur on lands being actively used for mining, lumbering or other industrial purposes. Similarly, hunting may not occur on fenced, posted or cultivated lands, on lands containing buildings, which may be used or occupied, or on lands on which livestock or other domestically raised animals may be present without obtaining permission. Regulations affecting access to agriculturally leased public lands (Bill C16) apply to Métis Harvesters.
2. Hunting may not occur in National Parks, Provincial Parks, Recreation Areas, Ecological Reserves and other similar lands where no hunting is allowed, nor is hunting allowed in Wildlife Sanctuaries, including Road Corridor Wildlife Sanctuaries (exceptions may apply in specific areas – contact your local Fish and Wildlife Division office for more information.)
3. Laws dealing with hunting safety apply to all Métis Harvesters in Alberta. For example, no person shall hunt in a dangerous manner, illegally discharge a weapon or firearm (such as from a primary highway, or within 200 yards of an occupied building, or at night), discharge a weapon from a vehicle or have a loaded firearm in a vehicle. Local municipal bylaws that prohibit the discharge of weapons in some areas also apply.
4. It is unlawful to allow the edible meat of any harvested game to be wasted, destroyed, spoiled or abandoned. Because the Agreements extend only to hunting for food, all meat from a harvested animal or bird must be salvaged and used for food. The meat from harvested animals may be shared with immediate family members and other Métis Harvesters. There are no commercial applications to harvesting under these agreements.

5. All Métis Harvesters must personally register certain wildlife at a Fish and Wildlife Division office following the kill. Harvested trophy bighorn sheep or mountain goat must be registered within 30 days of the kill. Cougar must be registered within 1 business day of the kill and grizzly bear must be registered within 4 business days of the kill. Contact your local Fish and Wildlife Division office for more information and to inquire about other wildlife that may require registration.
6. Provincial licenses for hunting migratory game birds are not required. However, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and its regulations are administered by the federal government who are not signatories to the IMHAs. Contact the Canadian Wildlife Service for more information in this regard.
7. Export of wildlife outside Alberta involves both federal and provincial laws; certain exports are prohibited while others are regulated and may require a permit. Contact your local Fish and Wildlife Division office for more information about exporting game that has been harvested for food to a location outside of Alberta.
8. The Interim Métis Harvesting Agreements also provide certain allowances for Métis Harvesters to obtain domestic fishing licenses. Contact your local Fish and Wildlife division office for more information.

*These agreements are subject to revision by the parties involved.

KEY CONTACTS

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Fish and Wildlife Division	Dial 310 –0000 and ask for the nearest Fish and Wildlife office
Canadian Firearms Centre Federal Firearms Legislation	1-800-731-4000 Website: www.canadianfirearms.com
Canadian Wildlife Service	Edmonton (780) 951-8700
Métis Nation of Alberta Association	1-800-252-7553 or 780 455-2200 www.metis.org

HUNTING FOR TOMORROW

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