



ALBERTA'S HUNTING LICENSE SYSTEM

The Facts

1. Alberta's automated licensing system is one of the best in North America. Hunting and fishing licenses are offered 365 days a year on a 24-hour basis and in 2008 Alberta's license system became available online. Ongoing development of the web licensing system is underway, with Alberta Sustainable Resources Development launching hunting licenses in a series of releases. The first release of hunting products will include non - tag items such as Wildlife Certificates and Game Bird licenses. For hunting licenses with harvest tags there is ongoing work required to develop a solution that will meet Enforcement requirements. Over 465 license issuers in 202 communities across Alberta sell hunting and fishing licenses.
2. The system is designed to serve multiple users:
 - The hunter who wants speed, accuracy and availability to purchase licenses.
 - The license issuer who wants to sell licenses accurately and efficiently.
 - The Fish & Wildlife Officer who needs to ensure compliance with laws and regulations.
 - The Wildlife Manager who wants more effective management information.
3. Over 100 hunting and fishing licenses are available for purchase online or at all license issuers. Alberta has one of the most diverse numbers of game species in Canada.
4. In 2008, over 237,000 Draw applications were processed in the June hunting draw compared to 221,000 applications in 2007, an increase of over 16,000 applications or 7%. Applications were distributed between the web, issuer point-of-sale (POS) locations and the 1-900 phone service. There were 91,000 applications processed through the web, 84,000 applications through issuer's POS and 62,000 applications processed through the 1-900 phone line. In the previous year, the issuers and the 1-900 line each processed 110,00 transactions. On June 26, 2008 the last day of the draw, over 30,000 transactions were processed. This is a record volume for daily transactions.
5. The automated paper-licensing system is more accurate and provides more information to the hunter, license issuer, Fish and Wildlife Officer, Conservation Officers and wildlife managers than the manual system. The paper hunting tags are less costly to produce than the old metal tags.
6. **TIPS FOR SUCCESS:**
 - a. **Be Prepared:** Information is available to help you. Read and understand the *Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations and the Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet. Obtain further information from your local Alberta Fish and Wildlife office or visit the My Wild Alberta Website, www.mywildalberta.com.
 - b. **Bring your WIN card with you when purchasing licenses.** The WIN card allows the license issuer to "swipe" much of your application information from the card, which increases speed and accuracy. Over 10% of hunters and anglers do not bring their WIN cards when they purchase licenses. This creates delays for the license issuer and for other customers who are waiting to purchase their licenses.
 - c. **Know the specific license products you want to purchase.** You may need to refer to the *Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet or the *Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations* when purchasing special licenses.
7. **Purchase your products from knowledgeable license issuers or online, and be knowledgeable about what specific products you want.**

8. **Review your license and tags carefully before you exit the Internet licensing system or before you leave the license issuer** to ensure that the information is correct. The license and tags specifically identify the WIN number, the species, the WMU and special conditions associated with the license.
9. **Remember to carry your hunting licenses and tags when hunting.**
10. A new website is available to WIN card holders. Visit the My Wild Alberta Website – www.mywildalberta.com, then click the Alberta RELM site - www.albertarelm.com. **Login to view** your licenses for the last 5 years, special draw priorities, special draw applications, and confirm that your address and phone number are correct.

WHAT THE SYSTEM TELLS US:

- There are nearly **110,000 licensed hunters** in Alberta annually.
- The total number of **hunting licenses sold in 2007 was 404,000.**
- The number of **youth hunters increased by 9.5%** from the previous year to 6,200.
- **Female hunter numbers have increased annually** and in 2007 represented 6.2% of the Alberta hunting population.
- The **Moose partner license* have proven to be popular with hunters:**

2000 – 319	2001 = 909	2002 = 962	2003 = 1084
2004 – 1067	2005 = 883	2006 = 806	2007 = 814

* This license was introduced as a pilot in 2000 and therefore the availability of these licenses was restricted to resident hunters and certain WMUs.
- The **average age of an Alberta male hunter is 44 years** and **41 years for the average Alberta female hunter.**
- The use of partner licenses had been expanded to allow further opportunities for youth under the age of 18, and for various species.

KEY CONTACTS

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Fish and Wildlife Division	Dial 310-0000 and ask for the nearest Fish and Wildlife office. Web-site: www.mywildalberta.com
RELM Call Centre (License Issuers & WIN Card Information)	1.888.944.5494 Web-site: www.albertarelm.com
Canadian Firearms Centre Federal Firearms Legislation	1.800.731.4000 Web-site: www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca

HUNTING FOR TOMORROW

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