



SUBSISTENCE HUNTING

The Facts about Indian Hunting Rights in Alberta

The following information applies to persons defined as Indians under the Indian Act who hunt game for food within the borders of Alberta.

1. In Alberta, the **right of an Indian to hunt for food** is recognized without regard to where in Canada the Indian resides, therefore Indians from Alberta and elsewhere in Canada may hunt for food on lands to which they have a right of access for hunting in Alberta.
2. Indians have a right to hunt game for food, at all times of the year without licenses, on unoccupied Crown lands and other lands with which they have a **right of access**. Indians may hunt for food on privately owned lands if they have first obtained the landholder's permission to enter for the purpose of hunting. Unless hunting permission has first been obtained, Indians may **not** hunt on lands being actively used for mining, lumbering or other industrial purposes. Similarly, Indians may **not** hunt 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.
3. Indians may **not hunt*** in National Parks, Provincial Parks, Recreation Areas, Ecological Reserves and other similar lands where no hunting is allowed, nor may they hunt in Wildlife Sanctuaries, including Road Corridor Wildlife Sanctuaries. It is unlawful for any person including an Indian to hunt within 365 meters (400 yards) of the centre-line of a road designated as a Road Corridor Wildlife Sanctuary. (*Exceptions to this do apply – contact your local Fish & Wildlife Division office for more information.)
4. Laws dealing with **hunting safety** apply to Indians in Alberta. For example, no person, including an Indian hunting pursuant to his/her treaty rights 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 may also apply.
5. It is unlawful to allow the **edible meat** of any game or bird to be wasted, destroyed, spoiled or abandoned. Because the hunting rights of Indians extend only to hunting game for food, all meat from a harvested animal or bird must be salvaged and used for food.

6. For the purposes of conservation and management of the following species, all Indians harvesting a trophy bighorn sheep or mountain goat must **register** the kill at a Fish and Wildlife Division office within 30 days of the kill. Cougar harvested must be registered within 2 business days and grizzly bears must be registered within 4 business days of the kill, at a Fish and Wildlife Division office.
7. An Indian may hunt **migratory game birds**, during all seasons, without a license or permit in Alberta, however bag limits and other laws concerning migratory game bird hunting do apply.
8. **Export of game** outside of Alberta involves both federal and provincial laws. Certain types of wildlife and certain wildlife parts cannot be exported from Alberta by any person, including an Indian. 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.
9. Certain provisions apply for the harvesting of wildlife by Métis in Alberta. The Métis Nation of Alberta has adopted a Harvesting Policy, which is available on their website.

KEY CONTACTS

**Alberta Sustainable
Resource Development
Fish and Wildlife Division**

Dial **310-0000** and ask for the nearest Fish and Wildlife office

Website: www.mywildalberta.com

**Canadian Firearms Centre
Federal Firearms Legislation
Canadian Wildlife Service**

1-800-731-4000

Web-site: www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca

Phone: 1.800.668.6767

Website: www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Phone: 1.800.567.9604

Website: www.ainc-inac.gc.ca

Métis Nation of Alberta

Phone: 780.455.2200

Toll Free: 1.800.252.1553

Website: www.albertametis.com

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