



## **Hunting and Fishing Activities: Million-Dollar Benefit to Alberta**

Hunting and fishing activities not only enrich the lives of many Albertans, they also stimulate Alberta's economy. Both activities have beneficial socioeconomic impacts on our economy: the creation of income within the province (Gross Provincial Product, input), tourism, government revenue, wages and salary increases, and the creation of thousands of jobs.

In 2008, partners Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association, Alberta Fish and Game Association, Alberta Professional Outfitters Society, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development—Fish and Wildlife Division, Alberta Tourism, Parks, and Recreation – Tourism Division, and Hunting For Tomorrow directed a study on the economic impact of Hunting and Fishing activities in Alberta. The study established that total expenditures on hunting and fishing related activities in Alberta, including direct and capital costs, and Outfitters' and Conservation Organizations' income, totalled \$801 million in 2008. Fishing alone accounted for \$469 million; \$296 million came from hunting and the remaining \$36 million was made by Outfitters and Conservation Organizations.

Direct expenditures, including accommodation, transportation, food and beverages, and equipment generated a permanent increase in the GPP by \$265 million, created 3,500 jobs, increased wages and salaries by \$151 million, and produced a total government revenue of \$116 million: \$63 million to the Federal government, \$46 million to Provincial government, and \$6.2 million to Municipalities. In 2008, hunters and anglers spent \$500 million in Alberta on capital expenditures, large purchases including property, large equipment, vehicles, and boats. Although these purchases may not be recurrent, they generated a temporary increase of \$457 million in Alberta income, created 8,368 person years of employment, prompted \$276 million in wages and salaries, and generated a total government revenue of \$172 million: \$113.5 million in taxes to Federal, \$47.4 million to Provincial, and \$10.8 million to local government, all within 2008.

In 2008, total direct expenditures on hunting and fishing in Alberta totalled \$113.4 million. When the expenditures of organizations and outfitters are added, the total was \$149.4 million, with the Conservation Organizations' expenditures of \$12.7 million and expenditures on packages of \$23.2 million. These expenses induced a permanent increase of \$307 million for Alberta's GPP income, a permanent increase in salaries and wages of over \$178 million, the support of 4,126 jobs for Albertans, and total government revenue of \$134.6 million. \$73.4 million went to the Federal government, the Provincial government collected \$54 million, and \$7.2 million went to local governments.

Tourism driven by hunting and fishing stimulates the province's economy. Non-resident-foreign and non-resident-Canadian hunters and anglers spent \$20.5 million on direct expenditures, and \$1 million on capital expenditures in Alberta. Foreign anglers have identified fishing as a major incentive to visit Alberta.

The economic impacts are not the only contribution of hunting and fishing to Alberta. Recreation and the enjoyment of nature are also important, and hunting and fishing allow for quality time spent with friends and family, and these increase the importance of Albertans' volunteerism, and conservation activities. Hunters and anglers have voiced their aspirations for better management of the natural endowments of Alberta, including improved protection for our wildlife and resources.

For more information about hunting and fishing in Alberta, or more information on hunting programs and what the various organizations are doing to promote hunting opportunities in Alberta, please contact Hunting For Tomorrow. Your involvement in this regard is certainly appreciated.

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