

## **Minister Halts Migratory Bird Hunting in Lake Wabamun Area**

The migratory bird hunting season in the Lake Wabamun area has been closed to assist bird rescue and habitat recovery efforts after last month's train derailment near the lake.

"Along with the community and other agencies, government has been working hard on the clean-up efforts at Lake Wabamun," said Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Minister David Coumts. "Together, we are acting to limit disturbance of waterfowl migration around the lake and to aid the clean-up efforts."

Coumts went on to say that closing the area to the hunting of migratory birds contributes to wildlife rescue as well as the long-term recovery of local habitat. "We want to limit human interaction with birds now. This will lessen the number of birds that might be driven to areas of the lake affected by the spill."

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development took this action through a ministerial order in response to a request by Alberta Environment – the Government of Alberta's lead ministry in the clean-up efforts - that was supported by the Canadian Wildlife Service and federal and provincial health authorities.

The area covered by the ministerial order includes the waters of Lake Wabamun, the islands in the lake and all lands up to two miles back from the shores of the lake.

The closure is effective indefinitely. The migratory game bird hunting season opened September 1 in the Lake Wabamun area.

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