

Phrases that have been used tongue in cheek in the past but obviously someone was listening.....and thinking!

The jurisdiction for the farming of Elk in Manitoba was turned over to the Department of Agriculture with the passing of the Livestock Diversification Act. At that time, one of the Federation's concerns was for the future development of "canned" hunts of captive animals as they outlived their usefulness to the farming operations. The Act as passed makes it illegal to hunt captive animals in these situations.

This is where an operator of one of these Elk ranches has made an attempt at being creative. In an attempt to side step the regulation, "tranquillizer hunts" for elk are being offered to those with anywhere from \$1500 to \$4500 to spend for the privilege of:

- Hunting in a 700 acre enclosure with your own personal guide.
- Collecting the velvet antlers from animals tranquilized between July 15 and August 15.
- Receiving a cast replica of the antlers from animals tranquilized from August 16 to March 15.
- Deciding to "harvest" their elk after it has been tranquilized (fee jumps to \$9500 from \$4500) and then only being entitled to the antlers and the cape from the animal.

Some assumptions must be made at this point. First, the removal of the velvet antlers from the tranquilized animal cannot harm the animal so the removed antlers have no traditional "trophy value". Second, the reason the successful client is only entitled to the cape and the antlers from a "harvested" animal must be that the meat is contaminated with the tranquilizing drug and is therefore not fit for consumption! Third, because it is illegal to hunt these animals in the first place, the "harvesting" of these animals must be done by the owner of the game farm as the owner of the animal. In all probability this is done while the animal is still tranquilized! Finally, anyone that has a desire to spend this kind of money for this kind of an experience needs their own personal guide to be out wandering around in a fenced enclosure that is only slightly larger than one mile square!

The Minister of Conservations' response to this proposed scheme and a letter of support from the Manitoba Wildlife Federation for his actions are published along with this information. The Minister deserves similar feedback from you as an individual member for his stand on this matter. Take the time to [e-mail](#), call (204) 945-3730, write, or send a fax (204) 945-3586 to his office.

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