

Manitoba Wildlife Federation  
70 Stevenson Rd.  
Winnipeg, MB, R3H 0W7



March 8, 2016

Dear MWF board and staff,

Please accept this letter as an indication of the MLOA's support for your campaign to have the province address the practice of spotlighting in populated areas of Manitoba.

Many of the MLOA's members operate in rural Manitoba and have themselves witnessed either spotlighters in action, or have come across their tracks, their lost game, or their otherwise negative mark on the landscape. As operators who want to see not only healthy wildlife populations, but also a safe hunting environment for their clients and guides, our members do not support the practice of reckless and unethical spotlighting. Although the MLOA has not passed an official resolution supporting your campaign, please consider this letter as indicative of our support.

Please note that we are well aware of the distinction between low-risk night hunting and highly dangerous spotlighting, and we do not wish to encourage the government to pursue any indigenous hunters who are exercising their Constitutional right to hunt safely after dark. In this instance, we would consider hunting methods such as calling moose by moonlight in isolated, remote areas, or quietly waiting in a dark forest for game to come by, as low-risk night hunting methods. This being said, we encourage anyone working on the spotlighting file to seek the first-hand opinions of indigenous hunters, band councils, First Nations lands managers, the Manitoba Metis Federation, and other such stakeholders, in order to have these hunters help define what they believe to be unsafe night hunting.

However, we certainly do believe that spotlighting, as it is typically described, certainly ought to qualify as an unsafe, and therefore illegal, practice. This type of spotlighting often involves people (be they white, black, blue or green) driving around shining a bright light into ditches and fields searching for vulnerable game, often with reckless disregard for whatever else might be within range of their bullets. We also condemn a favoured practice of spotlighters: trespassing on private property without permission. We support your call for more enforcement out in the field as well.

In conclusion, please consider the MLOA as a supporter and ally in your quest to have the province, in consultation with indigenous hunters and other stakeholders, better define where night hunting is and is not appropriate, and to do so immediately, as well as seeking an all-out ban on reckless, unethical spotlighting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Paul Turenne", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul Turenne  
Executive Director, Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association