



MANITOBA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

4-999 King Edward Street | Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0R1
P: 204.633.5967 | F: 204.632.5200 | E: info@mwf.mb.ca
Toll Free: 877.633.4868

mwf.mb.ca



September 23rd, 2022

The Hon. Heather Stefanson
Premier of Manitoba
204 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

The Hon. Greg Nesbitt
Minister of Natural Resources
and Northern Development
330 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

The Hon. Kevin Goertzen
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
104 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

The Hon. Alan Lagimodiere
Minister of Indigenous Reconciliation
and Northern Relations
301 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Premier and Ministers:

Re: Moose Hunting by Licensed Hunters in Northern Manitoba

We note with concern the proposal from Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Inc. (MKO) urging the province to exclude non-indigenous hunters from the opportunity to hunt moose in northern Manitoba.

As the voice for Manitoba's licensed hunters and anglers, the Manitoba Wildlife Federation (MWF) is firmly opposed to unnecessary restrictions on opportunities for resident hunters to enjoy the hunting heritage that have long been part of their Manitoba family tradition.

The MWF agrees that First Nations and Metis have constitutionally protected rights to harvest for food. These rights have been recognized and reflected in provincial policies governing harvest for decades. In circumstances where overall harvest must be reduced to achieve conservation objectives, the MWF has long supported shared management solutions that provide priority to indigenous harvest with more limited opportunities for licensed hunters.

Manitoba's licensed hunters have been enjoying the heritage of moose hunting in northern Manitoba for up to five generations, often in areas remote from traditional indigenous harvest.

The recent move to issue licenses by lottery was motivated by the goal of collecting more information on harvest (which MWF believes should apply to all harvesters), but does not change or increase this tradition of a limited sustainable harvest by licensed hunters in the vast area that is northern Manitoba.

In 2009, all of Manitoba's political parties agreed to recognize the rights of licensed hunters in *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act*. As recently as last fall, the current Premier committed to the MWF that the government would advance Shared Management and engage all stakeholders – Indigenous and non-Indigenous towards fair and sustainable harvesting practices for big game populations. We hold these commitments in the highest regard, and expect to be at the table for these important discussions.

Sincerely,



Carly Deacon
MWF Managing Director
4-999 King Edward St.
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0R1
P: 204-633-5967
E: cdeacon@mwf.mb.ca