



September 25, 2025

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) D Division
1091 Portage Avenue
PO Box 5650
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3K2

Attention: Assistant Commissioner Scott McMurchy

Dear Assistant Commissioner McMurchy:

Re: Blockade of East Side Road by Bloodvein First Nation

Thank you for your response to ours of August 29th.

As you are aware, no sanctions or enforcement actions in respect to this illegal blockade were ultimately taken. The blockade was converted to a checkstop in response to capitulation by the provincial government in the form of further exclusions imposed upon licensed hunters.

Even though the issue is now essentially moot, several statements in your letter cause us concern and we are responding in order that there be no misunderstanding about the facts and legalities of this matter.

- “Bloodvein First Nation’s announced intention to prevent non-Indigenous hunters from entering their ancestral and Treaty territory” implies that there is some legal foundation for their position. There is not. BFN’s claim of exclusive ownership of this public land is fundamentally incorrect. It ignores the terms and principles of Treaty 5, the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement, and section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. No one – including First Nations – should be able to unilaterally expand their rights by ignoring our Constitution and erecting blockades.
- “Thus far no actual blockade or instance of non-Indigenous individuals being prevented from travelling through the area in question have been reported to the RCMP.” Had there been any investigation of this matter, the RCMP would have found that BFN did, in fact, intercept and detain a person who presented at the blockade simply because he had a fishing rod in his possession, and there were reports that other citizens had been prevented from using the highway as a result of the blockade.
- “Further, there is no indication that an act contrary to statute, whether the Criminal Code or the provincial Highway Traffic Act, has occurred which would require the RCMP to investigate and/or intervene.” We respectfully disagree – it is illegal to prevent public access

to Crown Land and public highways: blockading a highway may contravene section 140 of the provincial *Highway Traffic Act* and may constitute intimidation (section 423(1)(g)) and mischief (section 430) under the *Criminal Code*.

- “Your letter does not indicate whether MWF has reached out to Bloodvein First Nation regarding potential collaboration in finding mutually amenable solutions to this issue. I suggest that establishing a dialogue with Bloodvein leadership may be beneficial for both the First Nation and MWF.” We find this suggestion – to engage with an illegal blockade designed to exclude licensed hunters – beyond strange coming from the organization charged with enforcing the rule of law.

We enclose an email from one of our members that we hope captures the disappointment we feel in your failure to uphold the rule of law in our province.

We close with a quote from The Honourable David Brown, now retired from the Ontario Court of Appeal, who had this to say in a decision rendered while he served on the Ontario Superior Court and presided over litigation dealing with blockades of rail lines ((2013 ONSC 115):

[26] I acknowledge that in some respects the concept of the rule of law possesses its own subtleties, textured-ness and nuances, but in some fundamental respects it is quite simple -- no person in Canada stands above or outside of the law. Although that principle of the rule of law is simple, at the same time it is fragile. Without Canadians sharing a public expectation of obeying the law, the rule of law will shatter. And a key support for maintaining that expectation of abiding by the law is that those who are empowered to enforce the law will do so, and do so in an even-handed fashion. As a member of one part of our system for the administration of justice, I remain puzzled why another part -- our police agencies and their civilian overseers -- does not make use of the tools given to it by our laws to "ensure the safety and security of all persons and property in Ontario", which is the first of the principles directing the delivery of police services under the [Police Services Act](#). ...

Sincerely,



Carly Deacon
Managing Director
Manitoba Wildlife Federation

cc Premier Wab Kinew
Hon. Ian Bushie, Minister of Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures
Hon. Matt Wiebe, Minister of Justice and Attorney General

From: [MWF Member]

To: "premier" <premier@leg.gov.mb.ca>, minjus@manitoba.ca

Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 10:35:23 AM

Subject: Providing safety to all Manitobans during Moose Hunting season

Gentlemen,

I am writing today in the hope that a hunting trip, which my son and I have been planning for the past year, will not be affected by unnecessary disruptions. We have patiently followed all government rules, entered the draw process, and were fortunate to be selected for a Moose hunting licence in GHA 17A. We are grateful for this opportunity and have already invested in equipment and supplies for the hunt, paying the Manitoba provincial sales tax as part of those purchases.

We fully respect the land, the rules, and the wildlife. While we are non-Indigenous, we also respect and consider the perspectives of others on the hunting of all animals, regardless of species. Our hunt is scheduled to take place northwest of Bisset, Manitoba.

We respectfully ask that the Province of Manitoba and the RCMP ensure that our family is able to access this area in a safe manner without interference, roadblocks, or incidents that may prevent us from enjoying a lawful and safe hunting trip and family vacation on Crown land.

We are concerned that no clear statements have yet been made regarding the current situation, which leaves law-abiding citizens uncertain and uneasy.

Please understand that we are not seeking confrontation. We are simply asking, in a reasonable manner, that as Manitobans who follow the law, pay our taxes, and contribute to the well-being of the province, we be allowed to exercise our legal right to hunt and vacation in this area without disturbance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,
[MWF Member]