



September 18, 2009

Safe hunting focus of this year's Provincial Hunting Day

Mentoring opportunities help teach new hunters

Edmonton... Alberta's annual Provincial Hunting Day on September 26 recognized that through hunting, Albertans can connect with the outdoors and help with important wildlife management. This day also enables youth to experience hunting for upland game birds without a licence.

"In my youth, I was fortunate to experience some hunting trips that sparked a lasting love for the outdoors," said Ted Morton, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development. "I encourage all hunters to pass on the respect they carry for Alberta's land, forest, water and wildlife and take the opportunity to mentor someone this Provincial Hunting Day."

Safety and conservation rules are in place to guide the youth initiative on Provincial Hunting Day:

- Alberta youth aged 12 to 17 must have successfully completed the Alberta hunter education program.
- Youth hunters must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, or somebody who is 18 or older with written permission from the parent or guardian.
- Regular daily game bird bag limits apply.
- Restrictions apply to specific species and regions. Eligible youth may hunt upland game birds for which there is or will be an open season in that area. Camp Wainwright Wildlife Management Units 728 and 730 are not included. Merriam's Turkey may not be hunted anywhere in the province.
- Parents, guardians and other licensed hunters may hunt with eligible youth hunters on Provincial Hunting Day, but only for game birds for which the regular season is open.

Provincial Hunting Day is an annual event occurring the fourth Saturday of September and is primarily an educational day. Aside from the youth initiative, there are no additional opportunities being made available for hunters and hunting.

Hunting groups will be hosting events in Alberta and will be providing mentoring opportunities for first-time hunters. For more information on Provincial Hunting Day and hunting in Alberta, visit www.mywildalberta.ca.

Communications
Sustainable Resource Development
780-427-8636

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