

MWF Response to March 2011 Press Release

Honourable William Blaikie
Minister of Conservation

Dear Minister Blaikie

The Manitoba Wildlife Federation wishes to congratulate you on moving forward to help the recovery of the moose population in GHAs 18, 18c, and 26. Returning \$190,000 of the hunting license impost fee to its rightful place is a step in the right direction. As you are aware, the \$5 charge on each license sold was intended for just such a purpose and your government as well as the previous government has, for the past twelve years, diverted half of these funds into general revenue. This amounts to in excess of \$2,000,000 that has been misappropriated over that time period.

Increasing the number of resource officers and biologists in these areas is also a step in the right direction and we applaud those initiatives. We would like confirmation, however, as to whether or not these positions will be filled by new, full time permanent hires, or redirected staff put in place as a temporary band aid solution.

Although these are positive steps we can not sit back and feel that the recovery is under way. These initiatives will only help to reduce some of the decline and monitor the populations. The only solution to a recovery of the moose population is a total conservation closure to all hunting and a predator management program. We urge you to take this action without further delay because every day of delay results in less moose and a longer recovery period. Discussions on this file have been ongoing for almost a year now and the time for consultation has long past. The time for action is now.

As a closing comment, we strongly feel that as the lead NGO in the province working towards a solution to this extremely serious problem, the government would at the very least acknowledge our hard work on this file when recognizing partners in a press release. We have spent countless hours working in the communities with our affiliate clubs, along with the Manitoba Trappers Association, the Manitoba Metis Federation, and Moose for Tomorrow. This would also include high level meetings with yourself, your deputy minister Fred Meier and Jack Dubois.

Yours in conservation

Reid Woods, President
Manitoba Wildlife Federation

c.c. MMF, Moose for Tomorrow, MTA, MWF Affiliates