

Proposed New Wildlife Regulations for the NWT:

Possession of Wild Meat and Wildlife Parts



The new *Wildlife Act* for the Northwest Territories (NWT) will come into force in November 2014.

Several regulation changes are needed to implement the Act. Regulation changes are being done in three phases:

- Phase One deals with the immediate changes needed to bring the new Act into force and ensure people can continue to harvest and use wildlife in a safe and sustainable manner.
- Phase Two addresses regulations needed to implement some of the new concepts in the Act, such as requiring developers to have wildlife management and monitoring plans, and requirements for harvest reporting and harvester training.
- Phase Three is ongoing. It will deal with new regulations, as required.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is working with Aboriginal governments, Renewable Resource boards, stakeholders and members of the public to develop the regulations needed for Phase One. ENR would like to hear your views on these proposed changes.

Please send your comments by fax, mail or e-mail by **August 31, 2014**, to:

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Possession of Wildlife Meat or Parts

Under the new *Wildlife Act*, there are several ways people can legally possess game meat and other wildlife parts.

You can lawfully harvest it yourself, receive it from someone else who lawfully harvested it, or you can get a permit for possession.

Hunters often give meat to other people. There is no longer a limit on how much meat a person can receive as a gift. This change respects the tradition of sharing common to all cultures. Receipts will be required for gifts of game meat over 5 kg. This protects people who receive gifted wildlife from being charged with illegal possession under the new legislation. The receipt must show:

- harvester's name, licence or identification number;
- date the meat was gifted;
- species of game of the gifted meat; and
- weight of the portion of meat.

Recipients of gifts of meat less than 5 kg are encouraged to label their packages with the harvester's name and identification or licence number. While this is not a requirement, it will protect you from being charged with unlawful possession of wildlife if you have more than one package of gifted meat.

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You do not need a permit to possess wildlife parts that have been tanned, preserved by a taxidermist or manufactured into food, clothing, jewelry or art.

You do not need a permit to possess wildlife parts you lawfully possessed before the November 2014.

Under the proposed regulations, you will not need a permit to possess the following parts:

- naturally shed antlers;
- porcupine quills;
- feathers or other inedible parts of ptarmigan or grouse;
- owl pellets or feces from other species;
- road-killed small game;
- hooves, unless certification for Dall's sheep, muskox or wood bison is needed;
- hides or pelts, other than furbearers, unless certification is needed; and
- bones, including skulls with antlers or horns attached, unless certification is needed.

You can kill wildlife without a permit or licence to prevent starvation and to defend life or property. You must report any wildlife killed for these reasons to a Renewable Resource Officer as soon as you can and provide details, including your name, date, time, location, species, amount and any other related information requested by an officer. If reasonable, you must give big game killed in defence of life or property to an officer.

You cannot keep any part of big game or prescribed wildlife that is killed in defence of life or property.

If you accidentally kill or seriously wound big game with a motorized vehicle, you must report the accident to an officer within 24 hours and provide your name, date, time, location, amount and kind of wildlife you hit, and any other related information requested by an officer.

More information on the proposed regulation changes for the *Wildlife Act* is available at your regional or local ENR office or on-line at www.nwtwildlifeact.ca



Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources