



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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T̂silhqot'in Nation stands firmly opposed to Antlerless LEH for cow and calf moose

Williams Lake, BC: The T̂silhqot'in Nation stands firmly opposed to the antlerless limited entry hunt (LEH) for cow and calf moose. There are no allocations for cow moose in T̂silhqot'in territory; however, the T̂silhqot'in oppose B.C.'s decision to issue LEH cow and calf moose tags because of the wider consequential effects that this decision has on the environment, the T̂silhqot'in people and Indigenous people's ability to sustenance harvest across the province.

The province's justification for increasing LEH of cow and calf tags is that by lowering or maintaining moose populations they can reduce the excess wolf population, thereby assisting with caribou recovery. However, many of the management units (MUs) where the antlerless LEH have been issued do not even overlap with caribou ranges.

Antlerless LEH for cow and calf moose, or an antlerless general open season (GOS) are prohibited in T̂silhqot'in territory. The T̂silhqot'in Nation stands with other First Nations in B.C. to remove the LEH tags in their territories. The T̂silhqot'in Nation calls on B.C. to reconsider the increase in cow and calf moose tags, and work with First Nations as partners to implement meaningful stewardship management measures.

Quotes:

Nits'il?in (Chief) Jimmy Lulua, Interim Vice-Chair, T̂silhqot'in National Government

"For years now, our people have refrained from exercising our Aboriginal rights and traditional way of life. Our people have gone without to preserve this species. It's frustrating that the government can come in and decide to undo all the years of sacrifice with poor management decisions. Me and my fellow T̂silhqot'in Chiefs have made the decision to refrain from hunting cow and calf moose with the expectation that B.C. would also do the same to ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. B.C. needs to start understanding the big picture. B.C. passed legislation last year to implement UNDRIP to create a path forward to work with First Nations as partners, but they continue to falter on this commitment by failing to engage with us. This is a poor management decision, and one that impacts multiple stakeholders. Let me be clear, there will be no antlerless LEH in T̂silhqot'in territory. Our Nation has reached out to Minister Doug Donaldson to partner

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with us to promote reasonable stewardship of both the moose and the caribou populations.”

Nits'il?in (Chief) Roy Stump, ?Esdilagh First Nation

“It remains deeply concerning that the province continues to push misconceived measures to recover caribou herds. There is little evidence to suggest that killing moose will correct the overabundance of wolves in the region and lead to caribou recovery given all the other prey food sources available. This is a desperate attempt for the province to address caribou recovery because it is something that they have failed to do appropriately for years now. The moose population has been heavily impacted by wildfires and is still struggling to recover. We do not support the antlerless LEH and we invite the province to work with our Nation to develop and implement more technically and culturally sound management measures when it comes to caribou recovery.”

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Learn more:

Link to the B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/indigenous-people/new-relationship/united-nations-declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples>

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