



HUNTING WITH FIREARMS

The Facts about hunting with firearms in Alberta

The Federal "*Firearms Act*" differentiates between **owners** of firearms and their actual **firearms**.

- A Firearms Licence enables individuals to own firearms and ammunition.
- A Firearms Registration Certificate relates directly to the firearm itself and to the specific individual who owns the firearm.

1. DEFINITIONS:

A FIREARM: Any device or contrivance capable of forcing a projectile at a speed greater than 500 feet per second. There is a difference between restricted and non-restricted firearms. Information about classes of firearms is available through the Canadian Firearms Centre web-site.

POL (Possession Only Licence): This licence authorizes the continued possession of firearms already owned. This licence was made available as of January 1, 2001. You may **not** use this licence to purchase a firearm, but it can be used when **borrowing** a licensed firearm or purchasing ammunition. This licence is no longer available, but can be renewed.

PAL (Possession Acquisition Licence): This licence is required for all who wish to acquire firearms for the first time, or in addition to any firearms already owned. You may also use this licence to purchase ammunition for your firearm.

Minors Licence: Anyone aged 12-17 may possess a minors licence. You must be eighteen (18) years of age to obtain a PAL .

2. **To use a firearm to hunt in Alberta, it must be a non-restricted firearm.**
Examples of non-restricted firearms include shotguns and rifles.
3. In addition to federal and provincial legislation, you may need to inquire about other restrictions at your local municipal office.
4. **FIREARMS LICENCES:** If you **own a firearm or wish to purchase ammunition**, you must carry a valid firearms licence (POL/PAL).
5. In order to acquire a PAL, you must complete the Canadian Firearms Safety Program (CFSP). Individuals 18 years of age and older have the option to challenge the CFSP. In Alberta, the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (A.H.E.I.A.) coordinates the delivery of the CFSP.
6. **REGISTRATION:** The RCMP and Canadian Firearms Centre coordinate verification, registration and licensing in Canada. In Alberta, the Chief Firearms Officer (located in Edmonton) coordinates the **registration** of firearms. **If you own or use any firearm without the appropriate licence after January 1, 2003, you may be guilty of a criminal offense.** For more information, contact the Chief Firearms Officer.
7. **FIREARMS USE:** You must carry a valid Firearms Licence (PAL/POL) while hunting. Hunters are encouraged to carry their registration documents while hunting.

Can I hunt without a valid firearms licence? Yes, youth and adults can hunt without a valid firearms licence as long as they are under the **immediate and direct** supervision of the individual legally entitled to possess and use that firearm. **Immediate and direct** is defined by the Canadian Firearms Program (CFP) as **within arms length**.

Contacts for the organizations mentioned are available on the next page

8. **TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE:** Both restricted and non-restricted firearms must be transported unloaded. However, muzzle-loading firearms may be transported loaded between hunting sites, **as long as the firing cap, primer, or flint is removed.** You may leave a non-restricted firearm in an unattended vehicle if it is unloaded and placed in a locked trunk or similar compartment of the vehicle. If the unattended vehicle does not have a trunk or similar compartment, lock the vehicle or the part of the vehicle that contains the non-restricted firearm, and leave the non-restricted firearm inside, unloaded, and out of sight.

In a remote area where hunting might reasonably occur, you may leave a non-restricted firearm in an unattended vehicle with no trunk or locking compartment (such as a canoe, kamik, or snowmobile). However, the non-restricted firearm **must** be out of sight, and rendered inoperable via a secure locking device – unless you require it for predator control.

If you live in a rural area, and need reasonable access to your firearm for animal control purposes, you may be exempted from some of the storage and transportation requirements. Check with the Chief Firearms Officer to confirm that provincial and municipal laws allow storage on a temporary basis.

The firearms legislation continues to evolve. As a firearms owner and user, you are responsible to ensure that you fall within the legal requirements. In order to ensure that you comply with federal, provincial and municipal legislation, please consult the appropriate authorities.

KEY CONTACTS

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Fish and Wildlife Division	Phone: 310.0000 and ask for the nearest Fish and Wildlife office. Web-site: www.mywildalberta.com
Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (A.H.E.I.A.)	Edmonton Phone: 780.466.6682 or 1.866.282.4342 Web-site: www.aheia.com Calgary Phone: 403.252.8474 or 1.866.852.4342 Web-site: www.aheia.com
Canadian Firearms Centre Federal Firearms Legislation	Phone: 1.800.731.4000 Web-site: www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca
Chief Firearms Officer	Edmonton Phone: 780.495.7779 or 1.800.731.4000



DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this FACT SHEET is for general information purposes only. This FACT SHEET is not intended to be a comprehensive or detailed statement concerning the matters addressed in this FACT SHEET and is not intended as a substitute for legal or any other kind of professional advice. You should seek appropriate, qualified professional advice before acting or omitting to act based upon any information in this FACT SHEET and contact the appropriate legal authority to obtain the information on hunting and firearm regulations. While every effort is made to ensure that the information in this FACT SHEET is current and accurate, Hunting for Tomorrow does not accept any liability with respect to your use of, or reliance on, the information contained in this FACT SHEET.