



MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION INC.

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To: MMF Harvesters and Harvester Clerks

Date: October 10, 2012

Subject: Notice of Amendment to Laws of the Harvest

I am writing to inform you today of the amendment made to the Metis Laws of the Harvest at the Annual General Assembly in Brandon, Manitoba on September 30, 2012. This amendment concerns the recent closure of certain moose hunting areas to Metis Harvesters in Manitoba.

As most of you are aware, the Manitoba Metis Federation began the Metis Harvester Initiative in 2004, which included the Metis Harvester Card, the Conservation Trust Fund, and the Metis Laws of the Harvest. Conservation of wildlife, aquatic life and other natural resources has always been the basis for the Metis Laws of the Harvest, and of highest importance to Metis elders and Citizens.

Unfortunately, it has become evident that moose populations have severely declined in certain areas of Manitoba. This is because moose populations have not been monitored appropriately by the Province of Manitoba for the past few decades. The game hunting areas described as 13, 14 and 18 and which are otherwise known as the Duck and Porcupine Mountains, were closed to all moose harvesting by the Province in 2011, including aboriginal rights-holders. Game hunting area 26 was also closed for moose hunting.

MMF has now issued a temporary law at 2012 AGA to close moose hunting in the above game hunting areas (**13, 14, 18, and 26**). However, it is clearly a law for the Metis by the Metis. This temporary closure will be for a period of **one year only**, during which time a review and further Consultation will be undertaken by the province with the Metis harvesters who will be affected.

The purpose of this temporary law is to ensure that all stakeholders with an interest in protecting moose populations in Manitoba are aware that provincial legislation does not replace our Metis Rights. The Metis Harvester Initiative will continue to be the way in which the Metis Government regulates our Metis group-right to harvesting for food. MMF is equally concerned as other stakeholders about the low moose populations and we will be a part of the solution. However, Metis Harvesters are responsible to the Metis Nation as a whole, and the Metis Harvester Initiative will be the trusted process to ensure this takes place.

For more information on the temporary moose hunting closure, please contact the MMF Natural Resources department at 1-204-586-8474.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Leforte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "L".

Ken Leforte
Minister of Natural Resources