

SECTION: Hunting/Related Activities

SUBSECTION: Hunting and Licensing

SUBJECT: Moose Tag Transfer Policy

POLICY: WilPo.X.X.X

ISSUE DATE: *DRAFT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION*

PREAMBLE

In 2008/09, the Ministry of Natural Resources conducted extensive consultation with hunters and the public as part of Ontario's Moose Program Review. As part of this review, hunters and the public were asked to share their ideas on how to improve the distribution of resident hunting opportunities.

This revised policy was developed in response to hunter feedback received during Moose Program Review consultations, which indicated that most hunters supported more strict conditions surrounding the transfer¹ of moose validation tags.

POLICY CONTEXT

The *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (FWCA)* stipulates that it is illegal for a person to use a licence or any component of a licence (e.g., validation tag, seal) that was issued to someone else, or to do anything which would enable his/her licence, or any component of it, to be used by someone else (*Sec. 68, FWCA*). Party hunting, which permits a person to attach his or her game seal to the wildlife killed by another person who is hunting in a party with him or her, is permitted for moose as per the conditions set out in Part III of Ontario Regulation 665/98. Moose hunters who intend to hunt in a party are encouraged to apply to the Moose Validation Tag Draw using the group application process, as it gives every hunter a better chance of receiving a tag for their group².

The *FWCA* also states that a person shall not transfer, buy or sell a licence or any component of a license to another person (*Sec. 68, FWCA*). However, in order to support the moose tag draw group application process and encourage the sharing of adult moose hunting opportunities, the Ministry of Natural

¹ "transfer" refers to the re-issuing of a moose validation tag received by one hunter to another hunter by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

² Due to the high demand for limited moose tags in Ontario, the moose tag draw is designed to increase the chance of success for those who apply in groups in an attempt to give the greatest number of applicants an opportunity to hunt for an adult moose.

Resources will in some cases allow the group member successful in receiving a tag through the moose tag draw to transfer their tag to an alternate group member if he or she is unable to participate in the hunt.

This policy sets out the conditions under which a hunter may request that the MNR transfer a moose validation tag to an alternate hunter in their group.

APPLICATION

Eligibility Criteria

The Ministry shall transfer a hunter's tag only if all of the following eligibility criteria are met:

- a) The hunter who wishes to have the MNR transfer their tag had applied to the moose validation tag draw as a member of a group.
- b) The hunter did not request a transfer of their tag to another hunter the last time they received a tag. A hunter who has previously transferred a tag must accept a tag in his/her name before he/she is permitted to perform another transfer as consecutive requests for tag transfers are not permitted.
- c) The hunter's group has not already requested a transfer that year. The transfer of a tag cannot be reversed to return the tag back to the original recipient.
- d) The moose season for which the tag is valid has not yet opened.

If a hunter does not meet eligibility criteria b), c) or d) they may be considered for a transfer only if one of the circumstances listed below applies to him/her (and to the original tag recipient, if they are not the same individual), and has occurred following his/her application to the moose tag draw. These circumstances are:

- injury, illness or death preventing participation in the hunt,
- injury, illness or death of an immediate relative³,
- change in employment or cancellation of vacation time.

The hunter must provide supporting documentation with respect to the circumstances described above. In addition to the circumstances above, the tag transfer history of a hunter (and that of the original tag recipient, if they are not the same individual), will be considered. Hunters with a history of performing numerous tag transfers could have their transfer request denied.

³ "immediate relative" means grandparent, parent, spouse, child, sibling or grandchild.

Conditions of Tag Transfer

- a) A moose validation tag can only be transferred to the designated alternate⁴ in the group.
- b) If the designated alternate was non-compliant with mandatory reporting in an applicable Wildlife Management Unit the previous year, they are ineligible to receive a tag through a transfer. No other alternate will be chosen and the hunter's group will not be able to perform a tag transfer.
- c) A moose validation tag can be transferred to a Pool 2 hunter only if the tag is for a Wildlife Management Unit where a Pool 2 hunter had a chance to receive a tag of the same type in the draw.
- d) Hunters who receive a moose validation tag through a transfer will be placed in Pool 2 the following year. Hunters who have transferred a tag to another group member will remain in Pool 1 in the following year.

⁴ "designated alternate" is the Pool 1 member of the group who has gone the next longest number of consecutive years without receiving a validation tag in comparison to the original tag recipient.