



FACT SHEET # 7

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 License enables individuals to own firearms and ammunition.

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.

PAL (Possession Acquisition License): This license 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 license to purchase ammunition for your firearm.

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

2. **To use a firearm to hunt in Alberta, it must be a non-restricted firearm.**
3. For the purpose of hunting in Alberta, a non-restricted firearm is for hunting or sporting purposes (such as target shooting). Examples of non-restricted firearms include shotguns and rifles.
4. **FIREARMS LICENSES:** If you **own a firearm or wish to purchase ammunition**, you must carry a valid firearms license (PAL). In addition to federal and provincial legislation, you may need to inquire about other restrictions at your local municipal office.
5. In order to acquire a PAL, you must complete the Canadian Firearms Safety Program, which provides the certifications necessary to apply for a PAL. In Alberta, the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (A.H.E.I.A.) coordinates the DELIVERY of the Canadian Firearms Safety Program. **If you own or use any firearm without the appropriate license after January 1, 2003, you are guilty of a criminal offense**
7. **FIREARMS USE:** You must carry a valid Firearms License when using non-restricted firearms in Canada while hunting.

Can I hunt without a valid firearms license? Yes, youth and adults can hunt without a valid firearms license as long as they are under the **immediate and direct** supervision of the individual legally entitled to possess and use that firearm.

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 Environment and Parks 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: http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/index-eng.htm
Chief Firearms Officer	Edmonton Phone: 780.495.7779 or 1.800.731.4000

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