Saskatchewan Trappers Association

The Voice of Saskatchewan's Organized Trappers

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LETTER SENT TO: Premier Scott Moe and Env. Minister Rowden

ATTENTION: To Whom It May Concern

The Saskatchewan Trappers Association (STA) is voicing their concerns about the changes made to the 2026-27 Wolf hunting season.

In the 2023-24 hunting season a new Wolf hunting opportunity was created to allow Saskatchewan residents and guided non-residents to hunt wolves. The season date ran until the last day of the white tail deer season (December 7th). This allowed Northern Fur Conservation Area (NFCA) trappers to resume normal trapping operations for the remainder of the trapping season.

This year (2026) no consultation with the STA or other trapping organizations the Minister of Environment (MOE) extend the hunting season to align with the Wolf trapping season that ends on March 15th. This season will allow both residents and guided non-residents to pursue wolves within all trapping areas of the NFCA. One of the Trapper's concerns are the increased traffic from outfitters and residents on the trails trappers maintain for operating a trap line. This will also limit the trapper's ability to harvest wolves.

Another concern is the safety with hunters using the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association (SSA) trail network. Hunting on or along this trail network has snowmobilers thinking about their own safety while the hunting season is on.

The trappers are already feeling the loss of suitable trapping areas due to the 2025 Wildfire season, and the continued forestry operations on remaining timber stands and recreational snowmobile trails.

One of the Ministry of Environment's reasons behind their decision has come from inaccurate harvest data and outdated population surveys. These numbers inaccurately reflect the numbers of wolves trapped. The ministry is convinced that more wolves can be taken by hunting without affecting trapper harvest or population numbers. We realize you can only go with what's in front of you but no effort except by the STA to show actual harvest data was done. The harvest data collected by the STA from trappers in 24 of 86 NFCA zones and 4 of 12 Wildlife Management Zones (WMZ) was over 700 wolves which exceeded the harvest data the ministry used for

trapping. Their records showed less than 170 harvested by trappers. Hunter harvest success by both guided and resident hunters has been 2% average which shows hunting to be ineffective. Licence sales for wolf hunting has also declined yearly as reflected by the success.

In a statement from Minister Rowden to the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA): ***"The ministry considers trapping to be the most effective method for regulating wolf populations. In cases of wolf predation, it is more effective to engage with trappers or contact Saskatchewan Crop Insurance to access a predation specialist."***

This is a statement that should be used before limiting a trapper's success in a season.

The investment made by trappers to pursue what they do to make a living, as well as, being in the outdoors when they are trapping is something that should not be taken away from their traditional rights. Decisions made that changes this only causes conflict in the fur conservation areas. Being at the table when change is made is the only right way to accomplish this.

The STA wants the Ministry to reverse the decision made on the season dates and change it back to the former December 7th close. Outfitters will still be able to offer wolf hunts and trappers can resume with trapping operations which is what the ministry considers to be the most effective method to regulate wolf populations.

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