

**Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry**

Species Conservation
Policy Branch
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**Ministère des Richesses
naturelles et des Forêts**

Direction des politiques de
conservation des espèces
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April 14, 2015

Dear Chief and Council,

This past September, Ontario launched the Moose Project to consider new moose population objectives and explore potential management actions to address factors affecting moose populations such as harvest, predation, parasites, climate and changing habitat. Outreach discussions with stakeholders, tourist outfitters and Aboriginal groups and communities provided valuable insights about moose populations and the factors affecting them. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) appreciates the contributions of all those who participated in discussions to this point.

As a first step in addressing factors affecting moose populations, Ontario is moving forward with the following changes to moose hunting seasons for provincially licensed moose hunters:

- starting in 2015 – the moose calf hunting season across northern Ontario is limited to a two week period beginning the Saturday closest to October 22;
- starting in 2016 – the start of moose hunting seasons across much of northern Ontario is delayed by one week.

Details on provincially regulated moose hunting seasons can be found in Ontario's Hunting Regulation Summary (link at ontario.ca/hunting).

These changes are intended to address concerns about low calf recruitment. The short calf season will address these concerns directly and the delay will allow more time for the moose mating season (rut) to take place prior to the start of the gun hunting season when harvest pressure increases significantly. MNRF does not believe that these changes will adversely impact Aboriginal harvesting rights. Rather, these actions are intended to support continued Aboriginal harvest, and ultimately help sustain and grow Ontario's moose population. Our ministry is interested in working together, in a manner that is respectful of existing Aboriginal and treaty rights, to ensure a healthy and resilient moose population in Ontario. We recognize that moose are culturally significant to many Aboriginal peoples and continue to be an important traditional food source as well. As part of the second phase of the Moose Project, Ontario will continue to examine and discuss additional actions that could be taken to address a broader range of stressors affecting moose, including predation, habitat and parasites. There will be further opportunities for Aboriginal peoples to be informed and engaged as Moose Project discussions continue, and MNRF is committed to meeting any obligations to consult and accommodate that may arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chloe Stuart".

Chloe Stuart
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