

September 25, 2026

The Honourable Todd Loewen
Minister of Forestry and Parks
Government of Alberta

Re: Reconsidering the 2026 Hunting Regulation Update for Non-Resident Alien Hunters

Dear Minister Loewen:

The Alberta Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) represents nearly 700 hotels and more than 80% of Alberta's hotel guest rooms. Although many operate under internationally recognized brands, most are small- and medium-sized businesses owned and operated by Albertans. These hotels support tourism, local employment, businesses, and communities across the province.

On behalf of AHLA and our rural members, we ask that a practical amendment be made to Alberta's 2026 hunting regulations. The regulations currently state that "unguided non-resident alien game bird licence holders cannot hunt in the same WMUs selected on their first licence when hunting under a second seven-day licence within the same year."

AHLA supports responsible wildlife stewardship. However, this restriction treats consecutive trips within one season the same as separate spring and fall visits, even though hunters pursue different species under different wildlife management objectives.

We respectfully request that unguided non-resident alien hunters be permitted to use the same Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) on a second seven-day licence within the same calendar year when one licence is used during the spring white goose season and the other during the fall game bird season.

Distinct Seasons and Conservation Objectives

The spring season for snow and Ross's geese, from March 15 to June 15, helps manage overpopulation and the resulting damage to Arctic breeding grounds.

The fall game bird season, from September 1 to December 16, involves a separate migration, different species, and distinct ecological objectives. Permitting a hunter to return to the same WMU in the fall would recognize these differences without compromising the government's conservation objectives.

Economic Impact on Rural Communities

Returning hunters generate important business for rural hotels and communities, particularly during shoulder and off-peak seasons. Their spending benefits hotels & motels, restaurants, fuel stations, grocery stores, sporting-goods retailers, and other local businesses.

The restriction may discourage these visitors from returning. Hunters unable to access familiar WMUs may cancel their trips, choose another jurisdiction, or book guided hunts that concentrate more visitor spending within a single outfitting business.

The effect is particularly significant in grassland prairie and east-central parkland WMUs near Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Drumheller, Provost, Wainwright, and Camrose. By comparison, Saskatchewan permits non-resident hunters to purchase one five-day spring licence and two five-day fall licences.

Established Relationships Support Safety and Compliance

WMUs can span hundreds or thousands of square kilometres. Over time, hunters learn the terrain and build trusted relationships with agricultural landowners, accommodation providers, and other local businesses.

Requiring experienced hunters to move to unfamiliar WMUs disrupts these relationships and creates avoidable challenges involving land access, local knowledge, and safety. Allowing them to return in a different season would support responsible hunting and preserve established rural connections.

A Practical Solution for Alberta's Visitor Economy

Alberta's visitor economy benefits from guests who respect the land, support local businesses, and return year after year. Achieving the government's goal of doubling tourism revenues by 2035 will require policies that encourage repeat visitation and extend the benefits of international travel to rural communities.

This amendment would preserve the regulation's intent while supporting rural businesses, responsible hunting, landowner relationships, and established tourism traditions.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this amendment with you and ministry officials and identify an approach that protects Alberta's wildlife while supporting rural communities and the visitor economy.

Yours truly,



Tracy Douglas, CAE
President & CEO
Alberta Hotel & Lodging Association

Cc: The Honourable Andrew Boitchenko, Minister of Tourism & Sport
Mr. Darren Reeder, President and CEO, Tourism Industry Association of Alberta