



Reference: 105183

APR 14 2009

Ron Bjorge
Executive Director
Wildlife Management Branch
Sustainable Resource Development
2nd fl Great West Life Building 9920 - 108 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 2M4

Dear Mr. Bjorge:

In keeping with obligations under the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement, this letter is to formally advise you that Alberta guide outfitters will be recognized as equivalent to British Columbia guide outfitters as of April 1, 2009.

At the discretion of a regional manager, licensed guide outfitters from Alberta may be required to demonstrate knowledge of the *Wildlife Act* and regulations, just as a regional manager may require of guides being licensed for the first time in British Columbia. The Ministry of Environment is taking steps to standardize testing procedures over the next year. Measures will be taken to ensure that testing is restricted to jurisprudence so as not to create a barrier to mobility for Alberta guides.

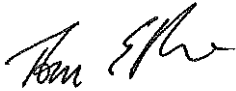
This letter is also an opportunity to inform you of 2008 amendments to the *Wildlife Act* which were recently brought into force by regulation:

1. **Effective immediately**, British Columbia has repealed the requirement that assistant guides actively guide and hold licences for 24 months in order to qualify for a guide outfitter licence. This change removes barriers to employment in British Columbia and is consistent with direction provided by Canada's Premiers in support of the Agreement on Internal Trade.
2. **Effective June 15, 2009**, amendments to the *Wildlife Act* will liberalize ownership requirements for a guiding territory certificate, an essential component to the guiding license in British Columbia. The certificate is the document that gives the guide the exclusive control over guiding privileges in the area described in the certificate.
 - Moving forward, a guide can either purchase a guiding territory certificate (as is current practice), or be employed by a guiding territory certificate owner.

- A person or a group will be able to own more than one guiding territory certificate and each certificate can be held by more than one person. This recognises that there may be other partners in a guiding business who may wish to be co-owners of a Guiding Territory Certificate. This provides greater certainty for investors and recognizes business relationships that already exist in the guide industry.

A copy of this letter and your letter regarding the same will be posted to the Ministry of Environment's website at: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/env/> to aid the public understanding of the benefits of TILMA for licensed occupations.

Sincerely,



Tom Ethier, Director
Fish and Wildlife Branch

cc:

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