

## ***Licensing of Transporters, was featured in the 2005/2006 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis***

### **LICENSING OF TRANSPORTERS (formerly known as Packers)**

In October 2003, the Minister of Water, Land & Air Protection (MWLAP) directed that the transporting of all hunters should be regulated under the **Wildlife Act**, and that persons providing transporter services to residents should be accommodated under the new framework.

A task group was struck in November 2003 to develop a strategy for implementing a new framework to include transport service providers. This task group was chaired and managed by MWLAP and consisted of members from interested and affected stakeholder groups such as: the BC Wildlife Federation, the Guide Outfitters Association of BC, the Northeast Packers Association of BC, and Land and Water BC.

The task group developed a full implementation plan which was agreed to by all members and was approved by the Minister in April of 2004. As a result, the new transporter regulation was developed and became effective in January of 2005.

The **Wildlife Act** Commercial Activities Regulation, BC Reg. 338/82 now regulates the activities of "transporters" (formerly known as "packers"). Transporters are persons who provide transport services to resident hunters. They do not assist, or accompany, another person for the purposes of hunting for wildlife. These activities are currently carried out by "guide outfitters", who are also defined and regulated under the **Wildlife Act**.

This new regulation will help reduce adverse impacts on habitat and wildlife resources, and reduce conflicts between guide outfitters and transporters by clearly defining the activities in which licenced members of each group may engage.

To obtain a copy of this new regulation, contact your local library or the Queens' Printer and ask for the **Wildlife Act** Commercial Activities Regulation, BC Reg. 338/82. Also see the Illegal Transporting section and the Wildlife Permits article for regulatory requirements.