
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Feb. 16, 2013

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural
Resource Operations

THE YOUTH HUNTING LICENCE AND THE INITIATION HUNTING LICENCE

CHANGES RELATED TO ACCOMPANYING SOMEONE HUNTING UNDER A YOUTH HUNTING LICENCE

Q1. *What changes have been made to a youth hunting licence?*

Government has approved amendments to the *Wildlife Act* that expand the age range for a youth hunting licence to make it available for youth ages 10 to 17 years, inclusive. Previously, the age range of the youth ('junior') hunting licence was 10 to 13 years.

Q2. *Why was the age range of the youth licence expanded?*

Hunting is a popular recreational activity for many rural families in the province. Expanding the age range of the youth hunting licence ensures that hunting remains affordable for youth and their families. It also makes it easier for youth ages 14 to 17 (inclusive) to give hunting a try and to have more mentorship opportunities as they are no longer required to first complete the **Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE)**¹ course.

Q3. *Can a youth purchase the youth hunting licence?*

No, a parent or guardian must purchase, as well as hold, the youth hunting licence on behalf of the youth.

To purchase the youth hunting licence, the parent or the guardian must sign an "Acknowledgement of Responsibility" form, confirming that the parent or guardian will be fully

¹ The Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) course is designed for individuals wishing to obtain their first B.C. resident hunting licence. It is offered through a partnership agreement with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the British Columbia Wildlife Federation (BCWF).

CORE is required for youth (ages 10 to 17 years, inclusive) seeking an individual bag limit and who want to enter the Limited Entry Hunting draw.

responsible for the actions of his or her child or ward while the child or ward is hunting or carrying a firearm.

A non-resident of B.C. or a resident who resides in a remote area of the province may apply for a youth hunting licence by mail. This person must submit all appropriate documentation with the application.

Q4. *Can a youth hunt alone when a youth hunting licence has been issued to a parent or guardian for the youth?*

No, youth (ages 10 to 17, inclusive) who participate in hunting in B.C. must be accompanied* by, and under the close personal supervision² of, an adult who holds a hunting licence and meets the qualifications. An adult is someone who is 18 years of age or older.

* **accompany** means to remain in the company of the other person, able to see the other person without the aid of any device other than ordinary corrective lenses and able to communicate by unamplified voice with that person.

Q5. *Does an expanded youth hunting licence provide a bag limit?*

No, a youth hunting under an expanded youth hunting licence will not have an individual bag limit for game. However, any game killed by a youth must be accounted for. The accompanying hunter must have the appropriate licence for any big game species being hunted and is required to cancel the species licence when an animal is taken.

Q6. *Can a youth who holds a valid expanded hunting licence participate in Limited Entry Hunting?*

Yes, a B.C. resident youth who holds a valid expanded youth hunting licence may hunt in a Limited Entry Hunt (LEH) if accompanied by and under the close supervision of an adult who holds a valid species licence and a valid LEH authorization. Any game killed by a youth must be accounted for, and the supervising hunter must cancel the species licence when an animal is taken.

² The intention is to ensure that there is someone present in a hunting party who is responsible for accompanying and closely supervising the young person. Any person hunting in the company of a young person will be responsible for ensuring that the young person is adequately accompanied and supervised.

Q7. *Can a youth (ages 10 to 17, inclusive) purchase an adult hunting licence?*

Yes, a youth who is a B.C. resident³ may purchase an adult hunting licence; however, a Hunter Number Card is first required. A Hunter Number Card may be issued free of charge to a resident of British Columbia who has successfully completed the Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) safety training examination.

To purchase an adult (full) hunting licence, a youth must apply for a licence in person in the presence of a parent or guardian, who must sign an “Acknowledgement of Responsibility” form. By signing this form, the parent or guardian agrees to be fully responsible for the actions of his or her child or ward while the child or ward is hunting or carrying a firearm.

Q8. *What are the proposed qualifications to accompany (supervise) a youth hunter?*

1. The supervising hunter must be 18 years of age or older and hold a hunting licence (or is exempt from holding a hunting licence).
2. The supervising hunter:
 - if they are a resident, must hold a resident hunter number card, or
 - if they are a non-resident, must have passed a hunter safety training course in another province or territory of Canada or state of the USA, and
 - must have held a hunting licence (other than an initiation hunting licence) in British Columbia or another jurisdiction for not less than three previous licence years preceding the current licence year, and
 - must not be prohibited from carrying or possessing a firearm (under s. 24 of the *Wildlife Act* or a law of Canada, a province or territory of Canada or a state of the USA.)
3. The supervising hunter may accompany no more than two youths, on whose behalf a licence has been issued to a parent or guardian, at one time⁴.

³ **B.C. resident** means a person who is a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada, and whose only or primary residence is in B.C., and who has been physically present in B. C. for the greater portion of each of 6 calendar months out of the 12 calendar months immediately before doing a thing under the *Wildlife Act*, or if not a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada, but whose only or primary residence is in B.C. and has been physically present in B.C. for the greater portion of each of the 12 calendar months immediately before doing a thing under the *Wildlife Act*.

⁴ The supervising hunter may accompany no more than two youths, or two initiation licence holders at one time (i.e. two youth or two initiation licence holders or one youth and one initiation licence holder). Note a youth who has completed CORE and holds a hunting licence is not included in the maximum of two youth to be supervised.

Q9. *Does this mean that an 18 year old may supervise a 17 year old?*

Yes, as long as the 18 year old satisfies the other qualifications of a supervising hunter.

Q10. *Can a young person safely hunt?*

In the past eight years, there have only been 15 deaths related to hunting in B.C. (source: B.C. Coroners Service). Of these, eight were due to natural disease, such as a hunter dying from a heart attack. Two deaths were due to a gunshot wound; both were adults.

Hunting is a popular recreational activity for many rural families and similar mentorship licences and initiatives exist elsewhere in Canada and the United States.

Q11. *What is the incidence of youth injuries due to firearms?*

Information directly related to children injured while hunting with firearms in B.C. is difficult to find. The following statistics⁵ on firearm related injuries were taken from ten children's hospitals and four general hospitals from across Canada; the statistics don't represent all injuries in Canada nor the percentage of youth injuries as a total of the whole population:

- The type of guns involved included BB guns, air guns and pellet guns (non-powder guns) and rifles, handguns and shotguns (powder guns).
- From 1998 to 2003, a total of 463 injuries were reported (all ages) associated with guns (not necessarily related to hunting):
 - 188 involved children under the age of 14;
 - 115 involved youth between the ages of 15 – 19;
 - 31 injuries were directly related to hunting.
- Also during the period, 21 fatalities related to guns were reported; one (4.8%) is related to hunting activity.

⁵ Health Surveillance and Epidemiology Division (Public Health Agency of Canada). Injuries associated with guns: Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program (CHIRPP) database, 1998-2003, all ages.

CHANGES RELATED TO ACCOMPANYING SOMEONE HUNTING UNDER AN INITIATION HUNTING LICENCE

Q1. *What is an initiation hunting licence?*

The initiation hunting licence is a new type of mentoring licence that allows a person 18 years or older that has never previously held a hunting licence in B.C. to try hunting for a one-year period. It is a one-time-only licence.

Q2. *Who is eligible to obtain an initiation hunting licence?*

To be eligible for the initiation hunting licence, a person:

- must be a B.C. resident,
- must be 18 years or older,
- must not have held a B.C. hunting licence in the past, with the exception of a youth (junior) hunting licence, and
- must be under the close personal supervision of a licensed adult who satisfies the requirements to accompany.

The requirements to complete CORE and to hold a Hunter Number Card⁶ are waived for this one-time-only licence.

Q3. *Can a person holding an initiation hunting licence hunt alone?*

No, this licence requires the holder to be accompanied* by, and under the close personal supervision of, an adult who holds a valid hunting licence and meets the other qualifications to accompany (see question 10 below). An adult is someone who is 18 years or age or older.

* **accompany** means to remain in the company of the other person, able to see the other person without the aid of any device other than ordinary corrective lenses and able to communicate by unamplified voice with that person.

⁶ A Hunter Number Card is first required in order to purchase Hunting and Species licences in British Columbia. A Hunter Number Card may be issued free of charge to a resident of British Columbia who has successfully completed the Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) safety training examination. A document issued by a province of Canada, other than British Columbia, or a state of the United States of America evidencing successful completion of a hunter safety training course may be used to obtain a Hunter Number Card. A resident hunter number and resident hunter number card must not be issued to a person under the age of 10 years.

Q4. *Is a person who has completed the Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education eligible for an initiation hunting licence?*

Yes, a person who has completed the Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) safety training examination is eligible for an initiation hunting licence, so long as he or she meets the requirements outlined above.

Q5. *Can a person who is eligible purchase the initiation hunting licence without yet knowing who will be their supervising hunter?*

Yes, a person may purchase the initiation hunting licence without having to identify who will be the supervising hunter. However, while hunting, the supervising hunter must be identified on the licence and sign in a space provided. A person who holds an initiation hunting licence could have a different supervising hunter each time they go out hunting.

Q6. *Does an initiation hunting licence provide a bag limit?*

A person holding an initiation licence will not have an individual bag limit for game. However, any game killed by this person must be accounted for. The supervising hunter must have a species licence for any big game species being hunted and is required to cancel the species licence when an animal is taken.

Q7. *Can an initiation hunting licence holder enter the Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) draw?*

Only a person who holds a Hunter Number may enter the LEH draw. An initiation hunting licence holder who has a Hunter Number could enter the draw, but if drawn for a LEH authorization the person will be required to obtain a regular resident hunting licence prior to participating in any Limited Entry Hunt.

Q8. *Can an initiation hunting licence holder participate in Limited Entry Hunting?*

No. The holder of an initiation hunting licence may not participate in a Limited Entry Hunt (LEH).

Q9. *Can someone who has failed CORE obtain an initiation hunting licence?*

Yes. A person who has studied CORE, but failed the exam will be able to obtain an initiation hunting licence and hunt under the close personal supervision of an accompanying hunter who meets the qualifications. This person may still have more knowledge about hunting than the person that has not studied the CORE curriculum.

Q10. *Can a person who has held a hunting licence in another jurisdiction be issued an initiation hunting licence?*

Yes, as long as this person is now a B.C. resident and meets all other eligibility requirements.

Q11. *What are the proposed qualifications to accompany (supervise) the holder of an initiation hunting licence?*

1. The supervising hunter must be a resident of B.C., be 18 years of age or older and hold a resident hunting licence (or is exempt from holding a hunting licence).
2. The supervising hunter
 - a. Must have held a hunting licence (other than an initiation hunting licence) in British Columbia or another jurisdiction for not less than three previous licence years preceding the current licence year, and
 - b. Must not be prohibited from carrying or possessing a firearm (under s. 24 of the *Wildlife Act* or a law of Canada, a province or territory of Canada or a state of the USA).
3. The supervising hunter may accompany no more than two initiation licensed hunters at one time⁷.

⁷ The accompanying hunter may accompany no more than two initiation hunting licence holders or two youth hunting licence holders at one time (i.e. two initiation licence holders or two youth or one initiation licence holder and one youth).

OTHER CHANGES BEING MADE RELATED TO THE YOUTH OR INITIATION HUNTING LICENCE

Q1. *If the Initiation Hunting Licence is new, how much will it cost?*

Government is introducing the new licence at \$19.00 (\$15.00 licence fee plus \$4.00 Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation surcharge).

Q2. *What if a youth wants to hunt with a guide – do they still need a supervising hunter?*

Yes. Although a guide provides professional services related to hunting, the role of a supervising hunter as a mentor includes holding and cancelling a species licence for any animal that is hunted and killed. This requirement is not included in the services of a guide. Hunting with a guide provides an exemption for the supervising hunter to not have to meet all of the qualifications, however the supervising hunter must still hold and cancel the species licence. See attached table which summarizes the qualifications for a supervising hunter.

Q3. *How does this affect First Nation individuals who want to be a supervising hunter?*

The qualifications to be a supervising hunter are aimed at ensuring public safety through demonstrated hunting experience by the supervising hunter mainly through previously licensed experience. First Nations are exempt under the *Wildlife Act* from the requirement to hold a hunting licence. Therefore, alternate qualifications are prescribed for First Nations which reflect relevant hunting experience but are not based on having previously held a hunting licence. See attached table which summarizes the qualifications for a supervising hunter.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR A SUPERVISING HUNTER

Class or Group of supervising hunter	Base Requirement Minimum age of 18 for all	Qualifications	Other
Resident accompanies a youth or initiation hunting licence holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed BC's hunter safety training or hunter safety training in other jurisdiction • Must hold a resident hunting licence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must hold a resident hunter number card, • must have held a hunting licence (other than an initiation hunting licence) in British Columbia or another jurisdiction for not less than three previous licence years preceding the current licence year, and • must not be prohibited from carrying or possessing a firearm (under s. 24 of the <i>Wildlife Act</i> or a law of Canada, a province or territory of Canada or a state of the USA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must hold and cancel a species licence for any animal hunted or killed
Non-resident accompanies a youth hunting licence holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed hunter safety training in other jurisdiction • Must hold a hunting licence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must have passed a hunter safety training course in another province or territory of Canada or state of the USA, and • must have held a hunting licence in another jurisdiction for not less than three previous licence years preceding the current licence year, and • must not be prohibited from carrying or possessing a firearm (under s. 24 of the <i>Wildlife Act</i> or a law of Canada, a province or territory of Canada or a state of the USA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must hold and cancel a species licence for any animal hunted or killed
First Nations accompanies a youth or initiation hunting licence holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempt from holding a hunting licence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must have received training in hunting, • must have previously hunted lawfully without supervision, and • must not be prohibited from carrying or possessing a firearm under section 24 of the Act or a law of Canada, a province or territory of Canada, the United States of America, a state of the USA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FN person is exempt from requirement to hold species licence
A Guide accompanies a youth hunting licence holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervising hunter must hold a hunting licence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is exempt from the qualifications above for a resident or non-resident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must hold and cancel a species licence for any big game animal hunted or killed, the youth has their own bag limit for small game