



# 2026 MOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR QUÉBEC

NEW MEASURES FOR MOOSE HUNTERS

STARTING IN FALL 2026



Photos: Laurent De Vriendt

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Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre  
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## Context

The 2026 Moose Management Plan for Québec recognizes the great importance of the species for sport hunters and for Indigenous communities. It takes into account the current situation of moose populations, which are relatively stable across the province, while also showing an increase in the herd in several hunting zones and a decrease in others.

The work leading to the plan was guided mainly by the goal of maintaining healthy moose populations to support an attractive and sustainable hunt, while respecting Indigenous rights. Special attention was given to creating and maintaining management tools that reflect regional particularities, biological, socioeconomic and cultural, while simplifying regulations for users whenever possible.

## New measures for moose hunting in 2026

### 1 Association of calf and cow under the designation of “antlerless moose”

Beginning in fall 2026, the Ministère will group the calf (often called “veau”) together with the cow under the regulatory designation of “antlerless moose” (OSB). This change will apply province-wide.

### 2 Random draw for moose without antlers hunting licences

Implementing a random draw represents a major change in moose management and for affected user groups. Although this approach is already well known to hunters, it will have to be clearly explained to be widely accepted. It will therefore be implemented gradually, starting with the zones where the moose situation is more fragile. In hunting zones or subzones where herd status allows, moose without antlers hunting licences (OSB licences) will be issued. The number of OSB licences per zone or subzone will be set annually, taking into account regional biological and socioeconomic realities. Hunters will still be able to buy their regular hunting licence (“Moose, all areas”) each year, without a random draw, which will entitle them to harvest an adult male moose in the hunting zone they select when purchasing it. To be able to harvest a moose without antlers, hunters will have to enter the [random draw](#) for OSB licences and be selected, as is the case for deer without antlers hunting licences for white-tailed deer.

#### Changes to the random draw terms and conditions by zone

The random draw for the moose without antlers hunting licence will be gradually introduced in certain targeted hunting zones, while, in other zones, the terms and conditions currently in effect will continue to apply. The list of the zones concerned will be put online at the beginning of 2026.

### 3 **Sharing an OSB licence among members of a hunting expedition<sup>1</sup>**

The Ministère intends to allow the sharing of an OSB licence among members of a hunting expedition. The holder of the OSB licence will therefore have to sign and issue an individual authorization to each hunter with whom they intend to share the licence. All hunters must hold a valid hunting licence for the relevant hunting area. The written authorization will need to include:

- the name of the OSB licence holder, the number of their regular licence (“original pour toutes les zones”) and the number of their OSB licence;
- the name of the person authorized and the number of their regular licence (“original pour toutes les zones”);
- the name of the hunting area concerned;
- the date of the authorization and its period of validity;
- the signature of the OSB licence holder.

If an antlerless moose is harvested by a hunter under such an authorization, the transportation tag (linked to the regular licence) of the OSB licence holder who issued the authorization must be affixed to that antlerless moose, ending the OSB licence holder’s hunting season.

The hunter who receives an authorization from an OSB licence holder must be able to present this authorization at all times upon request by a wildlife protection officer or a wildlife protection assistant.

OSB licence holders may use the authorization template provided by the Ministère or prepare their own document, as long as all required information is present and legible.

### 4 **Hunting expedition<sup>1</sup>**

To clarify the concept of a hunting expedition, the Ministère intends to define the criteria in regulation. These criteria will rely in particular on case law. A “hunting expedition” means a joint hunting project involving:

1. a prior agreement between two or more persons to hunt together in a given territory;
2. material or logistical preparations;
3. the actual execution of the project, including travel to the hunting territory and active participation in the hunting activity.

The hunting expedition ends when one or more moose are harvested in accordance with the authorized group harvest limit, or when none of the hunters are present in the hunting territory on a given day.

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<sup>1</sup> This information may change following the adoption of the regulations.

## 5 **Changes to seasons and hunting weapons in certain zones**

In some hunting zones, the seasons and permitted types of hunting weapons will be modified to reflect herd trend since the previous 2012 Moose Management Plan and to ensure consistency with management objectives and regional characteristics. Where possible, seasons in hunting zones sharing similar characteristics have been harmonized for consistency. The result is a simplified hunting calendar that still reflects regional differences.

In addition to modifying the seasons, the special muzzleloader season, previously limited to three hunting zones (1, 2 and 10 East), will be removed from the regulations. The use of a muzzleloader for moose hunting will remain permitted during the firearm season. Furthermore, the bow and crossbow will be grouped together and therefore always permitted at the same time in all hunting zones<sup>1</sup>. Finally, moose hunting on Île d'Anticosti will be closed, and black bear hunting dates will be adjusted to maintain synchronization with cervid hunting seasons.

## 6 **Natural moose urine<sup>1</sup>**

To limit the risk of spreading diseases, particularly cervids chronic wasting disease, the Ministère intends to prohibit the sale and importation of natural moose urine. All cervid species in Québec will therefore be subject to these restrictions. The possession and use of natural moose urine will remain legal. Hunters may therefore collect urine from the moose harvested by them or their group and use it for future hunts, but they will not be permitted to buy or sell it. The importation and sale of synthetic urine will remain legal.

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The new measures governing moose hunting are available on [Québec.ca](http://Quebec.ca).

<sup>1</sup> This information may change following the adoption of the regulations.







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