



# B.C. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE PROGRAM

## Help protect B.C. deer, elk, moose, and caribou from CWD



*Understand the risks and regulations*



*Report sick animals*



*Do not transport high-risk material*



*Submit samples for testing*

### WHAT IS CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE?

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a neurological disease that affects deer, elk, moose, and caribou. The disease is caused by an abnormal protein called a prion. An infected animal can shed the prions throughout the course of the disease, even before symptoms develop. Surveillance is key to understanding CWD and to detect new cases of the disease as early as possible.

### IS THERE A RISK TO HUMANS?

There is no direct evidence that CWD can infect humans, however, there is much that is not known about the disease. Human health experts recommend that all animals known or suspected to be infected with CWD are not eaten.

### WHAT DOES CWD LOOK LIKE?

As the disease progresses, infected animals may exhibit extreme weight loss, drooling, difficulty swallowing, increased drinking and urination, poor coordination or stumbling, trembling or depression.

### WHAT IS B.C. DOING ABOUT IT?

The Province has been testing free-ranging deer, elk, moose, and caribou for CWD in B.C. since 2002. The first positive cases of CWD were found in deer sampled in 2023. In response the Province, with input and support from partners, has expanded monitoring, regulations, research and outreach to reduce the risk of CWD in B.C.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

### *Report sick animals*



If you observe an animal that is unusually thin or exhibiting symptoms like stumbling or trembling, please take photos or video and report to the B.C. Wildlife Health Program or the RAPP line at 1-877-952-7277.

### *Do not transport high-risk material*



Transport of high-risk tissues (brain and spinal cord) into B.C. and out of some regions of B.C. is not allowed. Please leave the high-risk tissues where you harvest the animal and transport only the edible portions, antlers, cleaned skull plate, and/or hide.

### *Submit samples for CWD testing*



Hunters in B.C. are encouraged, and sometimes required, to submit samples to be tested for CWD. Visit our website for drop off locations and instructions. Know before you go - see B.C. Hunting Regulations for updated information at [www.gov.bc.ca/hunting](http://www.gov.bc.ca/hunting).



## Be part of the solution

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

B.C. Wildlife Health Program  
Call: 250-751-3219 • Email: [CWD@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CWD@gov.bc.ca)  
[www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease](http://www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease)



The B.C. Chronic Wasting Disease Program gratefully acknowledges our partners for all of their support.