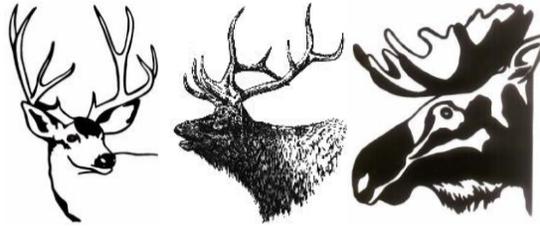


# **HEADS WANTED!!**

## **FOR RESEARCH**



## **ALL DEER, ELK & MOOSE HUNTERS IN BC: We Need Your Help With BC CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) SURVEILLANCE**

### **What is CWD?**

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) affects species in the deer family (cervids). It is not caused by viruses or bacteria, but abnormal proteins (prions). CWD is found in mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk and moose in many jurisdictions in North America, including Alberta and Saskatchewan. Intensive programs in Canada have controlled the disease in captive deer and elk, and are working to manage the disease in free-ranging deer. CWD is always fatal. The only practical way to test for CWD is to examine tissues from a dead animal's head – the tonsils, lymph nodes, and base of the brain.

### **Is CWD in British Columbia?**

**No. BC is considered at low risk for CWD.** No animals have tested positive in BC since testing began in 2001, but ongoing testing is necessary to ensure that BC is kept CWD free. Prevention and early detection are key! Hunters can reduce the negative effects of CWD in BC by understanding the risks to introduction and by supporting surveillance so we can catch it early before the disease spreads. Heads of road or hunter-killed animals are tested. Sampling is focused in the Peace and East Kootenay regions because the nearest cases are in Eastern Alberta. To date, **all samples collected from BC are negative.**

### **What are the Signs of CWD?**

Early signs of CWD include changes in behaviour and weight loss. Infected animals will not exhibit signs for several years. Signs in later stages of the disease include severe wasting (thin), drooling, excessive thirst, lethargy, poor coordination, and drooping head and ears.

### **How is it Spread?**

CWD occurs **ONLY in species in the deer family**, with no evidence of transmission to livestock, domestic animals or humans. Deer can get CWD through animal-to-animal contact as well as animal contact with contaminated environments. That's right – Prions can live in the soil. It is transmitted between animals through contact with urine, saliva and/or feces. Contaminated material can persist in the environment for a long time.

### **Can I Get it?**

There is **no evidence** that CWD can infect humans, however human health authorities advise against eating products from animals that are infected with CWD, or appear unwell.

For more detailed information on CWD, please see the Ministry of Environment pamphlet: "[CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE: A Wildlife Health Guide](#)"

**[WWW.STOPCHRONICWASTINGDISEASE.CA](http://WWW.STOPCHRONICWASTINGDISEASE.CA)**

# \*\*\* HUNTERS \*\*\*

**PLEASE SUBMIT DEER, ELK & MOOSE HEADS FOR RESEARCH**

## BC CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

<b>GOOD SAMPLE</b>	<b>The PERFECT Sample</b>	<b>BAD SAMPLE</b>
<b>Freshly dead or frozen immediately after death</b>		<b>Rotten, green, and/or stinks</b>
<b>Not shot in head</b>		<b>Shot in head or head is severely damaged</b>
<b>Good information about the kill location</b>		<b>No information on where found or killed</b>
<b>One year or older</b>		<b>Less than one year old</b>
<b>Tag filled out and attached to ear</b>		<b>No tag attached to ear</b>

**\*\*\* If possible, please remove antlers (due to limited freezer space) \*\*\***

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR DROP-OFF:**

- Please take a CWD tag, and fill out the information requested.
  - Your name, phone number, and hunter licence number (so we can notify you if sample is positive, or if more information is needed)
  - Species
  - Sex of animal
  - Approximate age of animal (yearling or adult)
  - Date of kill
  - Location of kill (Management Unit, GPS or physical description of location)
  - How was the animal killed?
  - Did the animal look normal? If not, what was it doing?
- Tear off the eartag (small portion with hole), and attach it to the animal's ear using the plastic fasteners provided.
- Please put the labeled head in a plastic bag, and put it in the freezer.
- Then put the completed information card in the drop box.

Thank you for your support of this important program to ensure the health of our wildlife!

**[WWW.STOPCHRONICWASTINGDISEASE.CA](http://WWW.STOPCHRONICWASTINGDISEASE.CA)**