



Sagkeeng Anicinabe

October 5, 2020

The Sagkeeng First Nation maintains jurisdiction over its Unsurrendered Lands – including Game Hunting Area 26 – and condemns the Manitoba Metis Federation’s claim to any hunting rights in that area.

Re: Game Hunting Area 26 Media Release

Chief and Council of the Sagkeeng First Nation is disappointed and surprised to see the September 29, 2020 press release from the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) regarding Game Hunting Area (GHA) 26. In their Press release, the MMF stated that on October 1, 2020 they will be full re-opening GHA 26 to the harvesting of moose by MMF Metis Harvesters and that the MMF will be engaging with First Nations leadership to come to an agreement on how First Nations and Metis Nation Harvesters will move forward on moose harvesting.

GHA 26 is within the traditional resource area territory of Sagkeeng First Nation and the membership of the Sagkeeng First Nation have been exercising their aboriginal and treaty rights in their traditional resource area since time immemorial. Very importantly, as set out in *Court of Queen’s Bench* claim no. CI07-01-52308 (attached), GHA 26 is also within the unsurrendered title area (The Unsurrendered Lands) of the Sagkeeng First Nation. It is clearly set out in Treaty One that the only lands allegedly surrendered by the Sagkeeng First Nation were those lands within the Treaty One Boundaries. Although the people of the Sagkeeng First Nation have always had exclusive use and occupancy of the Unsurrendered Lands, (including GHA 26), they were never called upon, nor have they ever, surrendered their title to these lands. Consent in the form of a Treaty is required from Sagkeeng First Nation for the taking or use of any of these Unsurrendered Lands and the resources on and under them. Sagkeeng First Nation does not consent to the use of GHA 26 by MMF Metis Harvesters.

The Sagkeeng First Nation maintains that the MMF does not have the right or authority to fully re-open GHA 26 to the harvesting of moose or even hunt in the area. Sagkeeng First Nation members, and members of other First Nations who are permitted by Sagkeeng First Nation, have the sole and exclusive rights to hunt and harvest moose within GHA 26. Current hunting restrictions have been in place as a conservation measure to protect the existing moose population within Manitoba and attempt to ensure the long-term sustainability of a resource that is of the utmost importance to Sagkeeng First Nation and its members. These hunting restrictions are currently under review by the Sagkeeng First Nation and the potential changes are pending.



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The Sagkeeng First Nation maintains that the MMF's position is not grounded in law or reality and has no effect on current conservation measures that are under discussion between the Sagkeeng First Nation and Manitoba. The Sagkeeng First Nation will take all steps necessary to ensure the preservation of moose within GHA 26 by bona fide conservation measures and to ensure that the exclusive use and occupancy of the Unsurrendered Lands by the members of the Sagkeeng First Nation is maintained and protected in perpetuity.


SAGKEENG CHIEF AND COUNCIL

