

## **NORTHWEST SPECIES AT RISK COMMITTEE**

**Town of High Level Office  
High Level, AB**

**Monday, January 29, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.**

### **AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Minutes Page 3
4. Terms of Reference Page 7
5. Committee Member Updates: (Short) Round Table Discussion
6. Petition Page 11
7. Provincial Public Meetings & Grow the North Page 15
8. February 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Meetings
9. Legal Opinion
10. Brucellosis in Caribou Page 21
11. Communications
  - a) Danielle Smith Show
  - b) Video
  - c) Other Media
12. Global Restoration
13. Delegation: Erin Donovan and Keyra Hawley Yurchi

14. Associate Membership

15. Six Week Action Plan

16. Long Term Plans

a) Five Year Reviews

b) Northern Alberta Boreal Stewardship Society

c)

17.

18.

19. Next Meeting Date(s)

20. Adjournment

**Northwest Species at Risk Committee**

**Town of High Level Office  
High Level, AB  
Teleconference**

**Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Lisa Wardley Chair, Deputy Reeve, Mackenzie County  
Crystal McAteer Vice Chair, Mayor, Town of High Level  
Terry Ungarian Reeve, County of Northern Lights  
Eric Jorgensen Councillor, Mackenzie County  
Linda Halabisky Councillor, County of Northern Lights  
Amber Bean Councillor, Clear Hills County

**REGRETS:** Michelle Farris Mayor, Town of Rainbow Lake  
Chris Mitchell Councillor, Town of Rainbow Lake  
Brent Reese Councillor, County of Northern Lights  
Jason Ruecker Reeve, Clear Hills County  
Keith Hutchinson Councillor, Town of Manning  
Mike Morgan Councillor, Town of High Level  
Miron Croy Councillor, Clear Hills County  
Sunni-Jeanne Walker Councillor, Town of Manning  
Jacquie Bateman Councillor, Mackenzie County

**ADMINISTRATION:** Byron Peters Deputy Chief Administrative Officer,  
Mackenzie County  
Allan Rowe Chief Administrative Officer, Clear Hills  
County  
Jessica Simpson Executive Assistant to the Deputy CAO,  
Mackenzie County  
Laura Braun Administrative Assistant/ Recording  
Secretary, Mackenzie County

**ALSO PRESENT:** Diana McQueen DMC Consulting (via teleconference)

**MOTION**

**1. Call to Order**

Lisa Wardley called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

**17-12-007**                      **MOVED** by Linda Halabisky

That the agenda be adopted with the removal of 5. Committee Member Updates: (Short) Round Table Discussion.

**CARRIED**

**3. Adoption of the Minutes**

**17-12-008**                      **MOVED** by Linda Halabisky

That the minutes from the December 7, 2017 NWSAR Committee meeting be adopted with the amendment of:

Elections for Chairperson

- Third Call: No further nominations.

Elections for Vice Chairperson

- Third Call: No further nominations.

**CARRIED**

**4. Terms of Reference**

**17-12-009**                      **MOVED** by Terry Ungarian

That the Terms of Reference be adopted for information.

**CARRIED**

**5. Response to Provincial Range Plan**

Byron read a summary of the Draft Range Plan. This was followed by a general discussion on the plan including the likes and dislikes of the committee, what the committee should push

for, and how the energy companies view this as well.

## 6. Communication Strategy

It was agreed on to wait for the news release until it was edited to tell the government more specifically what the committee thought of the Draft Range Plan.

Update on the video: Kathleen Rukavina said Long Sleeves is going to come up and take a weeklong tour during the time we're having the open houses. An additional ten minute documentary would be five thousand dollars. If each municipality wanted a section showing their own municipality, it would be an additional two hundred dollars per municipality. Long Sleeve will have video and audio from all the open houses. They will also have a lot of additional footage for a video in the future. If they would air it so that each municipality had their own section, everyone could share their part of the video on their own website.

17-12-010

**MOVED** by Amber Bean

That the video project be expanded.

## **CARRIED**

Terry left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Committee will try and keep the news release to a couple pages. Also, the local papers and radios need to get this as well along with Global, CTV, CBC, Edmonton Sun, CBC North.

Diana left the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

## 7. Next Meeting Dates

- ❖ January 29, 2018 @ 4:00 p.m. in High Level

## 8. Adjournment

17-12-011

**MOVED** by Linda Halabisky

That the Northwest Species at Risk Committee meeting be adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

**CARRIED**

These minutes were adopted this \_\_\_\_\_

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Lisa Wardley, Chair

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### NORTHWEST SPECIES AT RISK COMMITTEE

#### **Background:**

The northwest region of Alberta encompasses high economic development value in a variety of natural resource sectors. Notwithstanding this, the region is requested to carry the highest burden of environmental protection of any other region within Alberta.

Current and proposed Provincial policy and strategies requires the Lower Peace Region to subsidize economic activity in other regions; to allow, both, the Federal and Provincial governments to achieve conservation targets for the natural environment. Cumulatively, multiple conservation initiatives and species at risk recovery strategies have the ability to negatively impact the rural communities of northwest Alberta.

We, the local tenants of this region have collaborated; in an attempt to secure smart economic growth, a sustained quality of life, and well-balanced environmental protection for our future generations. Through the use of optimal adaptive management, transparent stakeholder engagement, and effective environmental stewardship; we endeavour to achieve this purpose.

#### **Purpose:**

To collectively provide and share information, ideas and resources; relating to the continued and future prosperity of northwest Alberta. Instill effective regional adaptive management and transparency which allows all stakeholders to play a vital role in shaping our collective future. Develop tangible solutions founded upon an evidence-based approach, to ensure a balance of smart economic growth, a sustained quality of life, and an enhanced natural environment; for all of our businesses, communities and wildlife.

#### **Responsibilities:**

To ensure that any impending species recovery or conservation initiative, that has the ability to affect the smart growth of northwest Alberta; is prefaced with a thorough regional socio-economic impact analysis.

To proactively work with all other levels of government, including the First Nations; to create well-balanced working groups; with all key stakeholders relevant to impending conservation areas and species recovery.

Emphasizing that, northwest Alberta currently encompasses a vast amount of protected lands. Impending species recovery and conservation initiatives should aim to enhance the value of

these areas for species at risk recovery and biodiversity, rather than seeking to protect unjustifiable additional areas of land.

**Structure:**

Two councillors and/or Members at Large and an alternate appointed by each of the founding municipalities.

Alternates may attend all meetings.

Founding municipalities consist of:

- County of Northern Lights
- Mackenzie County
- Town of High Level
- Town of Rainbow Lake
- Clear Hills County
- Town of Manning

Associate membership is available to other municipalities. Associate member shall not have voting rights.

Mackenzie County is the administrative lead for the committee, with administrative support from each of the founding municipalities.

The administrative lead will prepare and provide the agenda for all meetings.

Meetings are open to the public as per Section 197 and Section 198 of the Municipal Government Act.

Meetings may, in part, be closed to the public if matters to be addressed are recognized under; Section 197(2) of the Municipal Government Act, and/or Division 2 – Part 1 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

The committee shall pursue grant opportunities to fund any larger projects, with Mackenzie County as the grant sponsor and/or lead.

**Quorum and Costs:**

Decisions shall be reached by consensus, consisting of two appointed members from each of the founding municipalities. Alternates shall not be considered for consensus unless standing in for an appointed member.



Meetings shall be hosted by the Town of High Level, at the Town of High Level Office, and meeting costs will be shared by the founding municipalities.

Each Municipality and other delegates are expected to cover the costs of their members. Additional costs, such as those derived from committee motions, will be subject to additional discussion and approval from each of the founding municipalities.

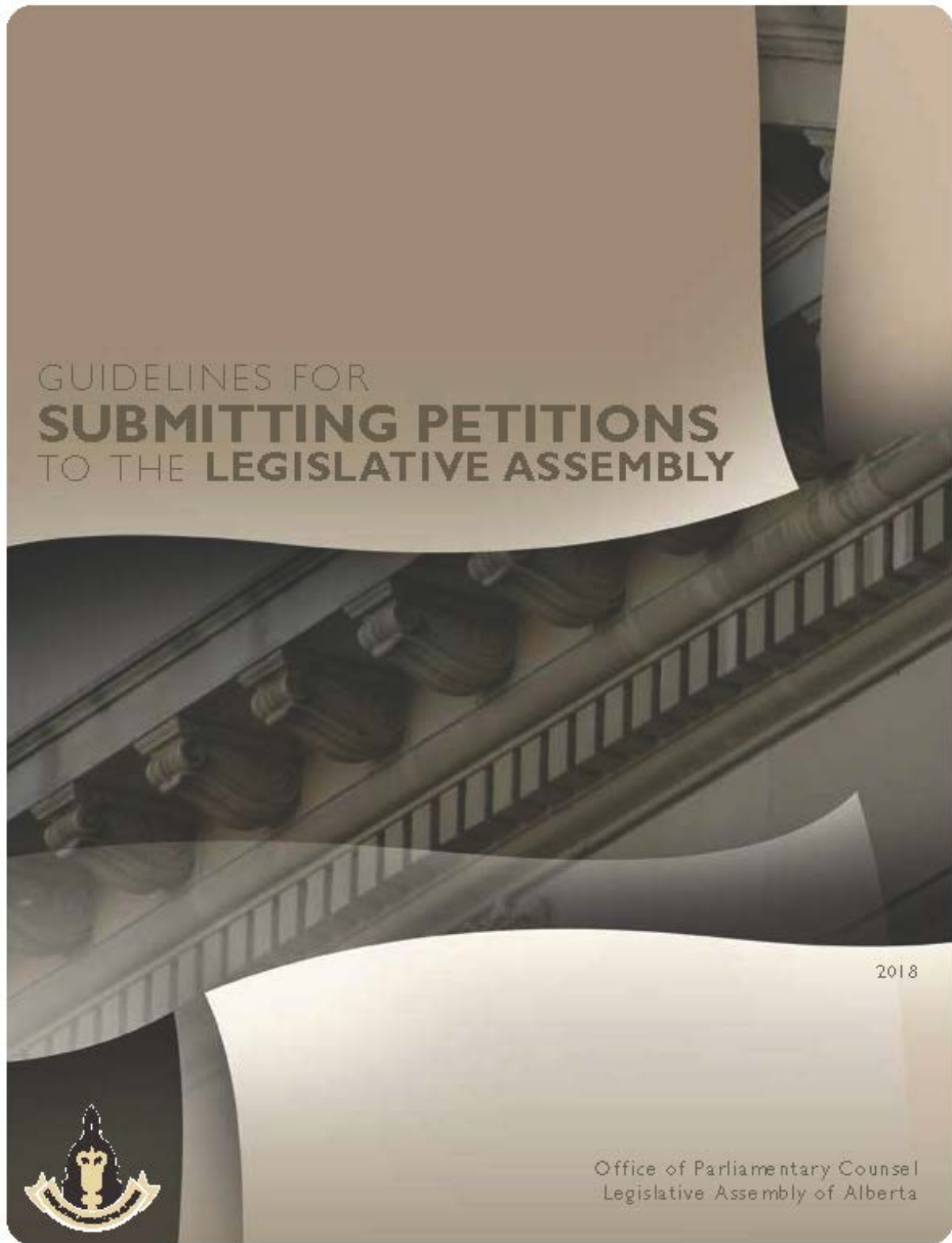
All decisions reached by consensus; which are within the scope of the Terms of Reference, are binding upon all municipalities.

Associate members shall pay a \$1000 Associate Membership fee.

**Communication:**

An electronic data sharing forum will be created and maintained, with access for all of the committee members, and meetings will be scheduled quarterly, or as required by the Chair.





GUIDELINES FOR  
**SUBMITTING PETITIONS**  
TO THE **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

2018



Office of Parliamentary Counsel  
Legislative Assembly of Alberta

# GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING PETITIONS

## to the Legislative Assembly

Petitions to the Legislative Assembly are a means by which members of the public may bring certain issues to the notice of the Assembly and request the Assembly to do or refrain from doing something.

- By convention, petitions may only be presented to the House by private Members (i.e. MLAs who are not Cabinet Ministers).
- When a Member presents a petition, this does not necessarily mean that the Member holds the same view that is expressed in the petition. Rather, the Member is simply fulfilling his or her role as an elected representative in bringing forward in the Assembly certain views expressed by constituents.
- Members are not, however, obliged to present a petition in the Assembly.

There are a number of rules governing the form and content of petitions to be presented in the Assembly.

- Before being presented in the Assembly, petitions must be reviewed by Parliamentary Counsel to ensure they are in proper form. This must occur no later than one sitting day prior to the day the petition is to be presented in the House.
- Petitions that are not in proper form will be returned to the Member. Signatures on a petition must be original. Petition pages with photocopied signatures and petitions in electronic format are not in order.
- The Member must endorse his or her name on the front page of the petition. This does not mean that the Member supports the remedy requested in the petition, it only indicates that the petition is being submitted through that Member, who has taken all reasonable care to ensure the petition's authenticity, and that the signatures are genuine.
- The petition is presented in the Assembly by the Member at the appropriate time in the Daily Routine.

- The Member confines his or her remarks to a brief description of the remedy sought, the number of signatures attached and the geographic area represented by those signing the petition.

Often Members are unsure of the rules for presenting petitions on behalf of their constituents. The following, compiled from the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, House of Commons Procedure and Practice [2<sup>nd</sup> edition, O'Brien and Bosc, 2009], Beauchesne's (6<sup>th</sup> edition), and the practice in the Alberta Assembly, gives a brief summary of how to draw up and eventually present a petition.

1. The petition must be addressed to the Legislative Assembly. It cannot be addressed to the Government, a particular caucus, a political party or to any individual Member (e.g. the Premier or a Minister) or group of Members in the Assembly. The distinction between the Legislative Assembly and the "Government" is very important in writing a petition. Ideally, a petition should be addressed to "The Legislative Assembly of Alberta, in Legislature Assembled".

The prayer of the petition (i.e. what the petition requests) must be clearly stated on the head of each and every page containing signatures. Signatures appearing on a blank page will cause that page to be severed from the petition. If both sides of a page are to contain signatures, both sides must display the prayer of the petition. All persons signing the petition must be residents of Alberta.

In order for a petition to be in proper form, each page of the petition must also include a notice which states that the name and address of every person who signs the petition may be made available to the public. Omission of the notice on any page containing signatures will cause that page to be severed from the petition. If both sides of a page are to contain signatures, both sides must display the notice.

2. Petitions to the Legislative Assembly should not be confused with other types of petitions, such as those prepared pursuant to the Municipal Government Act.

3. Petitions cannot be addressed to specific individuals, nor should they criticize specific individuals in or out of the Assembly. All other proprieties demanding moderate and temperate language should be observed.
4. The petition must ask for a remedy within the power of the Legislative Assembly. This is distinct from "Government" or "Cabinet". For example, the Assembly can be asked to pass a Bill, but cannot be asked to "make a law" – only the Legislative Assembly together with the Lieutenant Governor can do that. The Assembly can, for example, be asked to change its own procedures, to give favourable consideration to a Bill or to sit at certain times. However, these are not the most common types of requests.  
  
If a petition wants to touch upon matters that are the responsibility of the Alberta Government (as opposed to the Assembly), then the petition can only ask the Assembly to "urge" the Government to implement certain policies (e.g. a petition can "urge" the Government to introduce a Bill). While it is not within the Assembly's power to perform the functions of the Government, it can urge the Government to govern in a certain way. The same principle applies to other levels of government. Matters that are the responsibility of the federal Parliament or government are not properly subjects for petitions to the Legislative Assembly. Similarly, certain matters that are the responsibility of a municipality may be out of order unless a direct connection can be established with the provincial administration. Normally, petitions concerning matters under the administration of other levels of government should be addressed to the level responsible. However, if the Assembly only "urges" other governments to adopt specific policies, this may be permissible. Much depends on the nature of the petition and the remedies requested.
5. No petition may be presented which asks for any direct expenditure or direct charge on the public revenue. Petitions directly requesting increased funding for any program or for the creation of new programs are out of order. However, a petition urging the Government to consider increasing funding for a program or asking for relief from a burdensome situation which would require funds to alleviate it would not be out of order. The appropriation of public funds is done upon the initiative of the Crown with the consent of the Assembly. A petition calling for a reduction of expenditure would be in order, as would a petition asking that certain existing programs increase their efficiency or change their focus. Much depends on the actual wording of the petition.
6. Petitions must not contain debate or argument. They should avoid untrue, misleading or contentious statements to "set up" the remedy being requested. Members of the public who wish to make speeches in their petitions, or who wish to "set up" the context of their petition with the use of "whereas" or "it is known that ..." could see their petition ruled out of order. The Member presenting the petition in the Assembly is not entitled to state the preamble, only the remedy sought, the number of signatures and the geographic area or sector represented by the signatures.
7. Original copies of all pages must be submitted. Photocopied petitions will be returned to the Member. Electronic petitions will also be ruled out of order.
8. Once presented to the Assembly, petitions cannot be returned because they then belong to the Assembly.
9. The presenting of a petition does not mean that the Assembly has made any decision on the relief requested. Neither the Assembly nor the Government are compelled to take any action on a petition.

If you have any questions, please contact

**Office of Parliamentary Counsel**

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 9820 - 107 Street NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1E7  
Telephone: 780.422.4837  
Fax: 780.427.0744  
e-mail: parliamentary.counsel@assembly.ab.ca





## **Provincial Public Meetings**

### **February 20, 2018**

Whitecourt Public Information Session

**Location:**

St. Joseph Parish Hall  
5538 Mink Creek Road  
Whitecourt, AB

**Time:**

3:00 to 8:00 PM

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### **February 22, 2018**

Edmonton Public Information Session

**Location:**

Kingsway Legion  
14339 – 50 Street NW  
Edmonton, AB

**Time:**

3:00 to 8:00 PM

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### **February 27, 2018**

Cold Lake Public Information Session

**Location:**

Cold Lake Courtyard Marriot  
Route 28 and Highway 897  
Cold Lake, AB

**Time:**

3:00 to 8:00 PM

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### **March 1, 2018**

Fort McMurray Public Information Session

**Location:**

Quality Hotel and Conference Centre  
424 Gregoire Drive  
Fort McMurray, AB

**Time:**

3:00 to 8:00 PM

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**March 6, 2018**

High Level Public Information Session

**Location:**

Best Western Mirage Hotel and Resort

9616 Highway 58 N

High Level, AB

**Time:**

3:00 to 8:00 PM

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**March 8, 2018**

Grande Prairie Public Information Session

**Location:**

Grande Prairie Elks Lodge

10806 - 106 Street

Grande Prairie, AB

**Time:**

3:00 to 8:00 PM





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### Charter Quotation

Modified: 01/10/2018 11:17am  
 Printed: 01/10/2018 01:14pm

**Quote Number:** 2218  
**Date Requested:** 01/10/2018 09:54am  
**Salesperson:** WB  
**Travel Date(s):** 01/10/2018  
**Aircraft:** C-GGUH\* - CESSNA 208  
**Page:** 1 of 2

#### Prepared For

**Mackenzie County**  
 J laney Klassen

**Attention:** J laney Klassen  
**Phone:** 780-\*928-3983  
**Fax:**  
**Email:** jaklassen@mackenziecounty.com

| Date       | ETD      | Departure City        | Arrival City          | ETA      | Pax | E TE  | SM  |
|------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----|-------|-----|
| 01/10/2018 | 07:30 AM | FORT VERMILION (CEZ4) | LA CRETE (CFN5)       | 07:48 AM | 0   | 00:06 | 22  |
| 01/10/2018 | 08:00 AM | LA CRETE (CFN5)       | COLD LAKE (CEN5)      | 10:00 AM | 8   | 01:48 | 345 |
| 01/10/2018 | 05:00 PM | COLD LAKE (CEN5)      | LA CRETE (CFN5)       | 07:00 PM | 8   | 01:48 | 345 |
| 01/10/2018 | 07:00 PM | LA CRETE (CFN5)       | FORT VERMILION (CEZ4) | 07:18 PM | 0   | 00:06 | 22  |
|            |          |                       |                       |          |     | 03:48 | 734 |

|                    | Qty | Rate       | Amount            |
|--------------------|-----|------------|-------------------|
| Aircraft Charter   | 734 | 5.90 /sm   | 4,971.00          |
| Discount           | 10% |            | -497.10           |
| Airport Seat Tax   |     | 11.00 /pax | 176.00            |
| Fuel 1 (0-200)     |     | 2.00 /sm   | 1,380.00          |
| Landing Fees       | 1   |            | 25.00             |
| Nav Canada         |     | 55.00      | 55.00             |
| Ramp Fee           |     | 65.00      | 65.00             |
| Crew Expenses      |     |            | 250.00            |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>    |     |            | 6,424.90          |
| GST                |     |            | 321.25            |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> |     |            | <b>\$6,746.15</b> |



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### Charter Quotation

Modified: 01/10/2018 11:17am  
Printed: 01/10/2018 01:14pm

**Quote Number:** 2218  
**Date Requested:** 01/10/2018 09:54am  
**Salesperson:** WB  
**Travel Date(s):** 01/10/2018  
**Aircraft:** C-GGUH\* - CE55NA 208  
**Page:** 2 of 2

### Prepared For

**MacKenzie County**  
Jalaney Klassen

**Attention:** Jalaney Klassen  
**Phone:** 780-\*928-3983  
**Fax:**  
**Email:** jaklassen@mackenziecounty.com

### Disclaimer(s)

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ADJUSTMENT.

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### Charter Quotation

Modified: 01/10/2018 11:16am  
 Printed: 01/10/2018 01:12pm

**Quote Number:** 2219  
**Date Requested:** 01/10/2018 09:59am  
**Salesperson:** WB  
**Travel Date(s):** 01/10/2018  
**Aircraft:** C-GGUH\* - CE55NA 208  
**Page:** 1 of 2

#### Prepared For

**Mackenzie County**  
 Jalandey Klassen

**Attention:** Jalandey Klassen  
**Phone:** 780-\*928-3983  
**Fax:**  
**Email:** jaklassen@mackenziecounty.com

| Date       | ETD      | Departure City        | Arrival City          | ETA      | Pax | ETE   | SM  |
|------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----|-------|-----|
| 01/10/2018 | 07:30 AM | FORT VERMILION (CEZ4) | LA CRETE (CFN5)       | 07:48 AM | 0   | 00:06 | 22  |
| 01/10/2018 | 08:00 AM | LA CRETE (CFN5)       | FORT MCMURRAY (CYMM)  | 09:18 AM | 8   | 01:06 | 218 |
| 01/10/2018 | 05:00 PM | FORT MCMURRAY (CYMM)  | LA CRETE (CFN5)       | 06:18 PM | 8   | 01:06 | 218 |
| 01/10/2018 | 06:18 PM | LA CRETE (CFN5)       | FORT VERMILION (CEZ4) | 06:36 PM | 0   | 00:06 | 22  |
|            |          |                       |                       |          |     | 02:24 | 480 |

|                    | Qty | Rate       | Amount            |
|--------------------|-----|------------|-------------------|
| Aircraft Charter   | 480 | 5.30 /sm   | 3,210.80          |
| Airport Seat Tax   |     | 11.00 /pax | 176.00            |
| Fuel 1 (0-200)     |     | 2.00 /sm   | 872.00            |
| Landing Fees       | 2   |            | 60.00             |
| Nav Canada         |     | 55.00      | 55.00             |
| Ramp Fee           |     | 65.00      | 150.00            |
| Crew Expenses      |     |            | 250.00            |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>    |     |            | <b>4,773.80</b>   |
| GST                |     |            | 238.69            |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> |     |            | <b>\$5,012.49</b> |



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ADJUSTMENT.

FUEL SURCHARGE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

# Fact Sheet - Brucellosis

## What is brucellosis?

Brucellosis is a disease caused by several species of the *Brucella bacterium*. It is chronic and contagious.

The disease can affect many species of mammals, particularly cattle, swine, bison, elk, deer, goats, sheep, horses and other ruminants.

Brucellosis is a zoonotic disease, meaning it can spread from animals to humans.

There are various types of brucellosis, including the following:

- bovine brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*), which primarily affects cattle, bison and elk
- porcine brucellosis (*Brucella suis*), which primarily affects swine
- caprine/ovine brucellosis (*Brucella melitensis*), which primarily affects goats and sheep

Humans can become infected by all types of brucellosis, including a fourth type, which is known as "rangiferine" brucellosis. It occurs in reindeer and caribou in northern Canada.

## Where is brucellosis found?

The disease is present to varying degrees in most countries of the world. Much of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Western Europe have eradicated brucellosis from their livestock. The United States is nearing eradication, as well.

Canada initiated an eradication program for bovine brucellosis in livestock in the 1940s, and was declared free of the disease in 1985. Several isolated cases of bovine brucellosis in livestock were subsequently identified, with the last known case occurring in a cattle herd in Saskatchewan in 1989.

Porcine brucellosis and caprine/ovine brucellosis have never been reported in livestock or wildlife in Canada.

Canada has two wildlife reservoirs of brucellosis:

- bovine brucellosis is present in free-ranging bison herds in and around Wood Buffalo National Park, which straddles the border between Alberta and the Northwest Territories
- rangiferine brucellosis is present in free-roaming caribou and reindeer in arctic and sub-arctic Canada

Management plans are in place to prevent the spread of brucellosis from these wildlife populations to domestic livestock.

## **How is brucellosis transmitted and spread?**

Animals can become infected with brucellosis in a number of ways, including:

- through direct contact with infected tissues or fluids from an infected animal;
- by consuming colostrum or milk from an infected animal; or
- by consuming feed or water that has been contaminated by infected tissues or fluids.

## **What are the clinical signs of brucellosis infection in animals?**

Following infection, the bacteria spread through the blood and lymphatic system of the animal, infecting many tissues-particularly the reproductive organs, mammary glands and joints. This can cause abortions, weakened offspring and infertility.

In cattle, abortions are the main clinical sign of the disease. Most animals abort during the first pregnancy following infection, and will carry subsequent pregnancies to term. However, they remain carriers for life, and can continue to shed large quantities of the bacteria during subsequent births and occasionally in their milk.

Infected males may develop a testicular infection that reduces fertility. Some infected animals develop joint infections-especially of the knees-which cause enlarged joints, lameness, and reduced productivity.

In horses, in addition to being a cause of abortion, brucellosis can also cause draining sores on the head and neck.

Any infected animal may carry brucellosis for life.

## **Does brucellosis pose a risk to human health?**

While brucellosis can cause a disease in humans called "undulant fever," human cases are rare in Canada. Sanitary practices in slaughterhouses and pasteurization of milk are effective in preventing the vast majority of human cases of brucellosis.

Human infection can be prevented by avoiding unpasteurized dairy products (e.g. milk, cheese) and by careful handling of infected animals and their tissues.

## **How is brucellosis diagnosed?**

Various blood tests can be used to identify the presence of brucellosis by detecting antibodies to the bacterium. In a few cases, animals that are in the "latent carrier" stage of the infection will give a negative result on these serological tests.

The best method for a definitive diagnosis of brucellosis has been to culture the organism from tissues or fluids. Modern tests are now able to detect the presence of the DNA of the bacteria in tissues and fluids.

## **Are there any treatments or vaccines for brucellosis?**

The bacteria that cause brucellosis are susceptible to certain antibiotics. However, treatment of infected livestock does not effectively eliminate the infection because the bacteria are able to "hide" from the drug inside the cells of lymph nodes and other organs. Treatment requires a very long course of antibacterial drugs, which is not suitable for animals and does not always eliminate the infection, achieving temporary remission only.

Vaccines have been developed to prevent the disease symptoms (abortion, infertility, etc.) of brucellosis in animals. However, these vaccines do not necessarily prevent animals from becoming infected with the bacteria. Some vaccines may interfere with diagnostic tests because they result in the production of antibodies that cannot be distinguished from those produced by a true infection.

Vaccination of cattle for brucellosis is not permitted in Canada. In order to be considered officially free of brucellosis under the criteria established by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), a country cannot practise vaccination for the disease.

## **How does the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) maintain Canada's brucellosis-free status for livestock?**

The brucellosis-free status of Canadian livestock is maintained by a series of programs designed to:

- prevent the introduction of infection through import controls;
- detect any infected animals in the population as early as possible through surveillance;
- thoroughly investigate all suspect cases of the disease that are reported to CFIA; and,
- eliminate any confirmed infection found in livestock through the mandatory slaughter of all infected and exposed animals.

Brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*, *Brucella suis*, *Brucella melitensis*) is a reportable disease in Canada. This means that anyone who suspects that an animal has brucellosis must immediately notify a CFIA veterinarian.

In addition, surveillance programs are carried out in the cattle, swine, farmed bison, and farmed elk and deer sectors. For cattle and swine, surveillance is done by surveying the national herds. Blood samples are collected from randomly-selected animals at slaughter and tested in the CFIA laboratory.

This is augmented by the ongoing testing of cattle at auction markets in northern Alberta and northeastern British Columbia, due to the presence of brucellosis among free-ranging bison in and around Wood Buffalo National Park.

For farmed bison and farmed elk and deer, surveillance is done by routinely collecting blood samples at slaughter for laboratory testing. Farmed elk and deer herds are also periodically tested on the farm.

## **What happens if brucellosis is detected in livestock in Canada?**

If brucellosis is detected in a livestock herd in Canada, the CFIA immediately implements disease control measures. This includes the humane destruction and disposal of all infected animals and animals that were exposed to the infection. Compensation is paid for animals ordered destroyed by the CFIA.

Contaminated areas of the infected farm must also undergo cleaning and disinfection. Once restocked, the herd will be subject to periodic testing to confirm that the infection has been eliminated.

Herds that had contact with the infected herd are also investigated and tested, in order to identify any additional cases and determine the possible source of the infection.