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# *News Release      Communiqué*

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For Immediate Release

## **2014-2015 Moose Population Reduction Program Set to Commence in Terra Nova National Park**

Program is part of broader initiative to improve forest health within national parks

October 8, 2014

Terra Nova National Park

Parks Canada

Parks Canada announced today that year four of the moose population reduction program in Terra Nova National Park will proceed from October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

The program is part of a multi-year plan to reduce hyper-abundant moose populations that have negatively impacted forest health in Terra Nova National Park. Research has shown that years of heavy browsing by moose has significantly damaged forest vegetation, halted the growth of new trees, and reduced the diversity of plants throughout the park.

In Terra Nova National Park, a total of 85 licences were made available this year, including five licences for registered charitable organizations. As in 2013/14, there is a single Moose Management Area covering the majority of the park including some buffer areas where hunting is not permitted. There is a twenty-metre no-hunting roadside buffer along both the Trans-Canada Highway and Terra Nova Road (Route 301) and a fifty-metre buffer along the Eastport Highway (Route 310).

Visitors planning to come to Terra Nova National Park during the moose population reduction program are encouraged to review the maps and safety information available on the Parks Canada Forest Health website ([www.pc.gc.ca/foresthealth](http://www.pc.gc.ca/foresthealth)), call Terra Nova National Park at 709-533-2801 prior to their visit, and pay particular attention to signage indicating which areas are open and closed to hunting.

### **Quick Facts**

- The Hyper-abundant Moose Management Plan developed for Terra Nova National Park was completed after extensive public consultations and examination of population reduction efforts in other national parks and protected areas. With the cooperation of the Newfoundland Wildlife Division, qualified hunters must obtain a license for hunting moose in Terra Nova National Park through the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's big game management system.
- The use of motorized watercraft on inland waters, as well as all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and snowmobiles within Terra Nova National Park, is strictly prohibited for any purpose, including moose retrieval.
- Moose were intentionally introduced to the island of Newfoundland in 1878 and 1904. Since that time, the population of moose on the island has grown to approximately 120,000 animals. The current moose population within Terra Nova National Park is estimated to be 190 animals.
- Moose can eat up to 30 kilograms of vegetation each day. Their preferred diet includes balsam fir, white birch, trembling aspen and red maple. These are all important components of the forest ecosystem within Terra Nova National Park.
- A moose population reduction program is also being carried out within Gros Morne National Park.





## Quotes

“Excessive browsing by high numbers of moose has negatively impacted the composition and structure of the boreal forest in Terra Nova National Park and as a result, Parks Canada is taking proactive steps to address these hyper-abundant, non-native moose populations to preserve the native diversity of the forest ecosystem. The population reduction program is part of a larger, multi-year forest health initiative to improve the ecological integrity of the park’s forests.”

*Bill Brake, Field Unit Superintendent, Terra Nova National Park*

“Public safety is a top priority for Parks Canada and every effort will be made to minimize the impact of the population reduction program on visitors to Terra Nova National Park. Hunters and visitors are encouraged to review maps indicating hunting zones, become familiar with safety information, and wear bright colours, especially blaze orange, to ensure they are clearly visible when visiting the Park during the population reduction program.”

*Kirby Tulk, Acting Resource Conservation Manager, Terra Nova National Park*

## Associated Links

Terra Nova National Park

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/terranova>

Forest Health – Parks Canada

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/progs/np-pn/sf-fh/index.aspx>

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador - Department of Environment and Conversation

<http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/>

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## About Parks Canada

Parks Canada works to ensure that Canada’s historic and natural heritage is presented and protected for the enjoyment, education and appreciation of all Canadians, today and in the future. Through a network of 44 national parks, 167 national historic sites and four national marine conservation areas, Parks Canada sets the stage and invites Canadians, as well as people from around the world, to engage in personal moments of inspiring discovery of our treasured natural and historic places.

