## alberta fish & game association

## The Alberta Fish & Game Association

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## AFGA disappointed in new Métis harvest negotiations!

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Edmonton April 16, 2007)... Alberta's largest conservation group, the Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA), although being pleased that the original Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement (IMHA) was struck down, it is deeply disappointed that the current renegotiation of a Métis harvesting agreement again leaves out the public consultation process. It was this lack of Albertans' input into the first version of a harvesting agreement that played a major role in its demise.

The AFGA was pleased to provide some input to the MLA Committee on Métis Harvesting and agrees that the recommendations formulated by that committee should be addressed. However, the work of that Committee is not the negotiation process but rather merely an information gathering function the fruits of which may or may not be used in any subsequent negotiations.

"The Alberta Fish & Game must voice its disappointment in once again being left out of discussions that may have an impact on resources that all Albertans share and possible repercussions to privileges; hunting, fishing, trapping that so many us value as part of our quality of life," said Maurice Nadeau, AFGA President.

"Our new premier, the Honourable Ed Stelmach has stated publicly that his new caucus and government will operate in an "open and transparent" manner dealing with all issues that effect ALL Albertans. The IMHA is one of these burning issues and must be dealt with in that regard," he continued.

The AFGA encourages the Government of Alberta to honour its promise and to open this negotiation up to all its citizens.

The Alberta Fish and Game Association is a not-for-profit volunteer organization proud to serve Albertans in the promotion of the wise use of our fish and wildlife resources and the conservation of their habitats. Celebrating its 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary the AFGA has been active since 1908 in working towards these goals. It has a province-wide membership of more than 14,000 individuals spread among 100+ Clubs.