

MISSISSAUGI HARVESTING Regulations



2020 Version

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The Band Council of the Mississauga First Nation, pursuant to s. 4 of the *Mississauga First Nation Sustainable Harvesting Law*, and by Band Council resolution No. __, hereby make these Wildlife Harvesting Regulations.

INTRODUCTION

Anishinaabe Naakinagewin concerns not only human concerns, but also our place in relationship with all of nature. Our role is to relate to the winds and rains, to move with the seasons, to give thanks for our place in creation. Balance is a foundational concept for Anishinaabe law. What balance means for harvesting is that we must allow for the animal and plant nations to live in harmony. If we take too much, they do not have time to regrow and regenerate, and it puts our relationship at risk. When that happens, it is our obligation as Anishinaabe to restore the balance and make amends.

We take lessons from the animals, watching them and their role in the environment teaches us lessons for our lives. As children, we watch squirrels gather supplies and prepare for the winter, we watch as the bees bounce from flower to flower to bring back food for the whole hive, and we watch birds bring food to their young. They are our first teachers and as such have an irreplaceable role in to us as individuals, families, and community. We also have a special obligation to our clan animals for our guidance.

Sema or tobacco is how we communicate our purpose; we burn it or put it down on the ground to explain our intentions to the spirit world. We can connect with the spirits of animals or plants, impart on them our good intentions, and thank them for giving us food, supplies, and medicines.

Listening to the messages brought forth by our members, we recognize that over-harvesting is a concern for the whole community. Our traditional lands are a vast territory, from the headwaters of the Mississauga down to Lake Huron. The land now called Mississauga First Nation, the land ‘reserved’ for us under the Treaty and as is recognized as such under the *Indian Act* is only a small fraction. Mississauga First Nation asserts that these guidelines for protecting the land should be used within all of our traditional territory to ensure a sustainable future for those yet unborn.

RESPONSIBILITIES & RELATIONSHIPS

Anishinaabe Rights are communal in nature, grounded in the historical harvesting traditions and practices of our people. Certain responsibilities, including conservation and safety, are an important part of exercising these rights. This relationship is based on subsistence needs and cultural values, which have continued since time immemorial.

The following are a list of Anishinaabe responsibilities under our law, you;

1. Must protect the land, waters, animals, and plants for future generations
2. Must take only what your family needs to live mino-biimadziwin
3. Must respect the seasonal harvesting – taking animals or plants out of season will upset life cycles
4. Must harvest sustainably respecting the rights of animals, especially the Moose Nation which has been especially affected by over-hunting and climate change

In our treaties with Canada, there are a number of rights for Anishinaabe outlined and also expressed in Canadian law. As an Anishinaabe you;

1. Do not require hunting or fishing licenses;
2. Can hunt anywhere in the Robinson Huron Treaty area or on private land with written permission;
3. Can hunt or fish in game preserves, Provincial/Federal parks or sanctuaries;
4. Can hunt and fish without limits or quotas, please hunt and fish sustainably;
5. Hunt with a Non-Native person providing that individual has the proper licenses for hunting or fishing;
6. Cannot claim a harvest for a Non-Native of which no proper tags are allocated (i.e. Bull/Cow Moose tag);
7. A Non-Native can help you retrieve a harvest.

Should you have an encounter with a Conservation Officer please be cooperative by identifying yourself as a Mississauga First Nation Band member, present your status card if asked, and explain that as a member of Mississauga First Nation you have an **Inherent Right to Harvest** within the Robinson Huron Treaty area. Do not volunteer any additional information. If the Conservation Officer persists, kindly ask them to contact your Chief (or designate) to verify your identity.

SEASONAL DIRECTION

A member may only harvest the following species of fish and wildlife, and only during the open seasons listed herein:

Season	Species	Event that Opens the Season	Full Moon
Early spring	Pike, Muskie, Perch, pickerel	When the ice leaves the lake	April or May
Early spring	Suckers	Come first	May moon
Early spring	Smelts	When the frogs begin to sing	

Spring	Sturgeon		Between May & June moon
Spring	Barbots & catfish		-can be fished anytime but taste the best in the spring
Spring	Morels & fiddleheads		May moon to June moon
Late spring	Bass		June moon
Late spring	Frogs	Harvest at night	
Late spring	Turtles, Snappers	Harvest at night	
Spring & Fall	Pickerel		-First full moon in May, - done spawning after the first full moon -September moon
Early spring	Lake Trout	Spawning	-First full moon in May, - done spawning after the first full moon -September moon
Early spring	Rainbow	Spawning	-First full moon in May, - done spawning after the first full moon -September moon
Early spring & Late fall	Porcupine		March to April or Sept to Dec
Spring or Fall	Geese	Before they lay their eggs	May moon or September
Early summer	Birch bark harvesting		
Fall	Ducks, Woodcocks		September
Fall	Grouse, turkey, partridge	Same time as moose	September to December full moon
Fall	Moose		September full moon to December full moon
Fall	Deer & Elk		October moon to December moon
Fall	Bear		September to December full moon
Winter	Rabbit	When they turn white	November to February
	Herring, White fish	In the shallow waters	

HARVESTING DIRECTION

BIG GAME

When a young hunter starts out, it is customary that he gives his first successful hunt away to the community, starting with the Elders. Any leftovers from the hunt should go to Barbot Cove, Canoe Lake gravel pit and other areas outside of the community (Bear ceremony in spring).

Moose

- First moose taken goes to individual and second moose taken is shared with community
- September full moon until full moon in November, fall time harvests are important timing
- Take only bulls in December and January
- Leave most remains where moose is harvested
- If a cow and calf are there – take only one calf

Deer & Elk

- October moon to December moon– after moose
- 3-4 deer per family because they are small
- Elk – only during MFN Fall Gathering until the population is larger

Bear

- For individual harvesting – only in the fall time
- For business – fall & spring bear hunts

FISHING

- amount of fish – never take more than you need and share what you can
- you can fish when the fish are spawning, but you must milk them and put the eggs back into the waters
- individual responsibility and respect to share with people especially Elders or “those who can’t fish any longer”
- individual should keep track of what they catch, where they catch, and how often they fish
- any leftover goes to Barbot Cove - Canoe Lake gravel pit and other areas outside of community (Bear ceremony in spring)

Nets:

- No setting of nets if not MFN band member
- Night lines – set no longer than 12 hours in the waters and throw back what you don’t eat.

Sturgeon: are fished at night because that is when they are running. Any sturgeon caught over 4 feet are let go back into the waters. Only keep 4 feet and under to eat.

Pike/Pickerel: throw back any fish under 1 foot so nets have to be ¾ inch or 4 inch which allows for the smaller fish to get through

Minnows: keep 60% and release 40% -there are 48 different types of minnows for selling

SMALL GAME

Beaver: Fall time & the pelts are best in November to February

Otters:

Fishers, Martens:

Groundhogs: When the blueberries are ripe, August

Muskrat:

Squirrels:

Porcupine: early spring (march to April) or late fall (Sept to Dec)

Rabbit: November to Feb for eating – when they turn white

Turtles:

Frogs:

Skunk: Learn how to take the sack out properly

Raccoons: Used to eat those, but probably not safe now because of what they eat

Fox:

Coyote:

Wolf: wolf on our landscape is a major concern; predation of deer and moose

BIRDS

- List names of people wanting feathers on website
- No limits
- Keep track of birds taken

Goose:

- in spring before they lay their eggs (May moon) – when the geese first land
- fall season
- if you see a lone goose – then can take it cause it is without a partner

Ducks: fall time

Grouse, turkey, partridge – fall time – September to December same time as moose

Can set snares for partridge

Woodcock: same as ducks

Dove:

Sandhill crane:

TIMBER

Birch bark: – June – only take the soft bark and don't cut all the way around the tree

Logging: –Harvesting techniques, firewood permits from Lands department

Have to regenerate the forest to original conditions

GATHERING

Medicines: Should only 1/10th of what you are gathering

Morels & Fiddleheads – spring – only use paper bags

REPORTING

Anybody who harvests on Mississauga First Nation land must report any harvest that they have taken and also any other items of interest to the MFN Lands & Resources department.

Methods of Reporting:

Forms

Attached to this booklet

In Person/Drop off/Mail In

64 Park Road, Mississauga First Nation, PoR1Bo

Phone

705-356-1621, ext. 2239 or 2259

Email

stacyb@mississaugi.com

Online

www.mississaugi.com/report

There will be a community list of all harvesting activities published and shared within the community.