

# Indigenous Hunting Rights in British Columbia



By: Liam Robertson

# Broken Down

- ❖ Firearm Licensing (Briefly)
- ❖ Hunting on Traditional Territory
- ❖ Hunting off Traditional Territory
  - ❖ *Applying for a FWID and BCEID*
- ❖ Metis Hunting in BC



# Licensing or PAL

- Everyone who wants to own a gun is required to take the **Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC/CRFSC)**
  - *Restricted (handguns)*
  - *Non-restricted (rifles)*

May be eligible to have this requirement waived if you are...

- **Indigenous elder** – may ask for alternative certification because of your status as an elder, but you must prove your knowledge of firearms safety and firearms laws to a CFO.
- **Indigenous adult (18+)** – may ask for alternative certification if the safety course is not reasonably available or accessible because of time, location, or cost. You will also need a recommendation from an elder or a leader in your community confirming that you have the necessary firearms knowledge.
- **Indigenous minor (under 18)** – must provide the CFO with a recommendation from an Indigenous elder, an Indigenous community leader, or an adult who
  - is at least 18 years old,
  - has known the minor for at least six months before the application, and
  - has been safety certified by a CFO.

Chief Firearms Officer: 1-800-731-4000

<https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/firearms/indigenous-peoples>

# Hunting on Traditional Territory

## Band Regulations

- Check with your band to know if you are hunting on traditional territory or off traditional territory.
- Each band will commonly have their own rules such as not killing cows, having designated hunters etc.
  - *Check with your band*
- Legally speaking you can hunt on traditional territory with very few regulations from BC hunting.

## Provincial Regulations

- When you are hunting on your traditional territory you do not have to abide by the ***BC Hunting Regulations***.
  - *This includes quotas, bag limits, and species licenses, season dates, etc...*
- You do have to abide by safety and conservation concerns.
  - *Often LEH are covered here. For example Roosevelt elk on Vancouver Island.*

## *Summary*

- Check with your band because they are very band specific rules. Have someone in the band office walk you through what the regulations are.
- Recommend carrying status card or proof of membership while you hunt but this is **not legally required**.

# What a traditional territory map may look like



# Hunting off Traditional Territory

- The only exception that indigenous people hold when they are off traditional territory is the requirement to purchase a license.
  - *INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DO NOT NEED SPECIES LICENCES (Except for LEH)*
- You must abide by all quotas, season dates, bag limits, LEH draws, etc...
- In order to apply for LEH you will need a BCEID and a FWID.
  - *Instructions to Follow.*



<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/sports-recreation-arts-and-culture/outdoor-recreation/fishing-and-hunting/hunting/regulations/2020-2022/hunting-trapping-synopsis-2020-2022.pdf>

# Provision (BC Wildlife Act)

## Hunting and trapping

**11** (1) A person who hunts wildlife commits an offence unless the person holds all of the following:

- (a) a hunting licence issued to the person under this Act;
- (b) any limited entry hunting authorization that is required by regulation;
- (c) any other licence that is required by regulation;
- (d) any other permit that is required by regulation.

(1.1) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person under 18 years of age on whose behalf the parent or guardian holds the licence.

(2) A person must not issue a hunting licence for a person under 10 years of age.

(3) and (4) [Repealed 2003-90-24.]

(5) A person under 18 years of age commits an offence if the person hunts unless the person is accompanied by an adult who

- (a) is 18 years of age or older,
- (b) holds a hunting licence, other than an initiation hunting licence, or is exempted from holding a hunting licence, and
- (c) meets the prescribed qualifications.

(6) [Repealed 2003-90-24.]

(7) [Repealed 2016-11-31.]

(8) A person commits an offence if the person traps fur bearing animals unless he or she holds a trapping licence.

(9) Subsections (1) (a) and (c) and (8) do not apply to an Indian residing in British Columbia.

## Angling licences

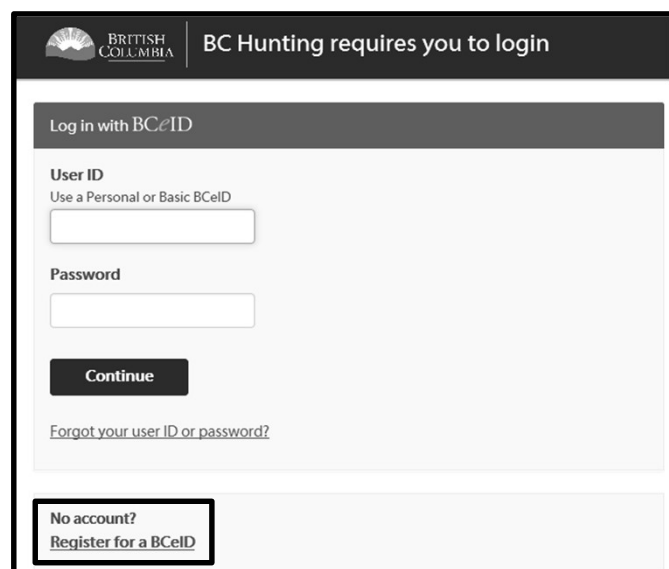
**12** A person commits an offence if the person angles in the non-tidal waters of British Columbia unless the person is

- (a) the holder of
  - (i) an angling licence, and
  - (ii) any other licence or permit that is required by regulation,
- (b) an Indian residing in British Columbia, or
- (c) exempt by regulation.

[https://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/consol31/consol31/00\\_96488\\_01](https://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/consol31/consol31/00_96488_01)

# Apply for credentials – Adult

<i>If</i>	<i>You need the following</i>	<i>To apply for</i>
<b>You want to use the BC Hunting online system</b>	BCeID and a Fish and Wildlife profile	Any credential
<b>You are a BC resident</b>	Proof of BC residency	BC Resident credential
<b>You are a resident of Canada outside of BC</b>	Proof of Canadian residency	Non-Resident credential
<b>You are a non-resident alien (a non-resident of Canada)</b>	Proof of age	Non-Resident alien credential
<b>Your proof of residency does not include your date of birth</b>	Proof of age	BC Resident, Non-Resident, Non-Resident alien credential or Verified user status
<b>You want to hunt in BC</b>	Proof of hunter safety training	Hunting credential
<b>You are a First Nations BC resident applying for Limited Entry Hunting</b>	Proof of status under the <i>Indian Act of Canada</i>	Hunting credential



## Before you start

Before creating a Fish and Wildlife profile and applying for credentials, you'll need:

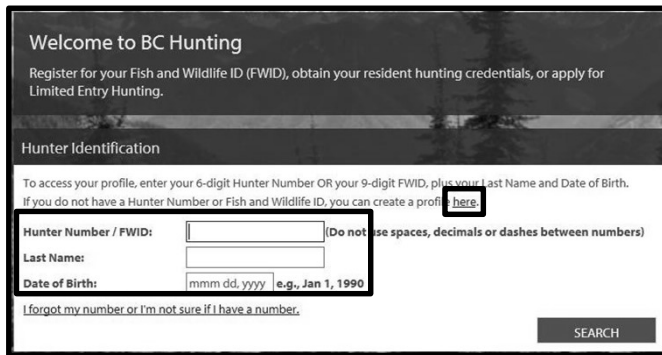
- Access to a scanner or smart phone to make a copy of the required documents (for more information, see the grid at the start of this quick reference)
- A basic BCeID to sign on to the BC Hunting online service

**NOTE:** A BCeID is an account that provides secure electronic access to online government services, including the BC Hunting online system. If you don't have a BCeID, you will be prompted to register for one when you sign on at [www.gov.bc.ca/hunting](http://www.gov.bc.ca/hunting).

- To access the BC Hunting online service, visit the BC Hunting homepage at [www.gov.bc.ca/hunting](http://www.gov.bc.ca/hunting) and select **Sign in to BC Hunting** from the right side of the screen



# Apply for credentials – Adult



Welcome to BC Hunting

Register for your Fish and Wildlife ID (FWID), obtain your resident hunting credentials, or apply for Limited Entry Hunting.

**Hunter Identification**

To access your profile, enter your 6-digit Hunter Number OR your 9-digit FWID, plus your Last Name and Date of Birth. If you do not have a Hunter Number or Fish and Wildlife ID, you can create a profile [here](#).

Hunter Number / FWID:  (Do not use spaces, decimals or dashes between numbers)

Last Name:

Date of Birth:  (mmm dd, yyyy e.g., Jan 1, 1990)

[I forgot my number or I'm not sure if I have a number.](#)

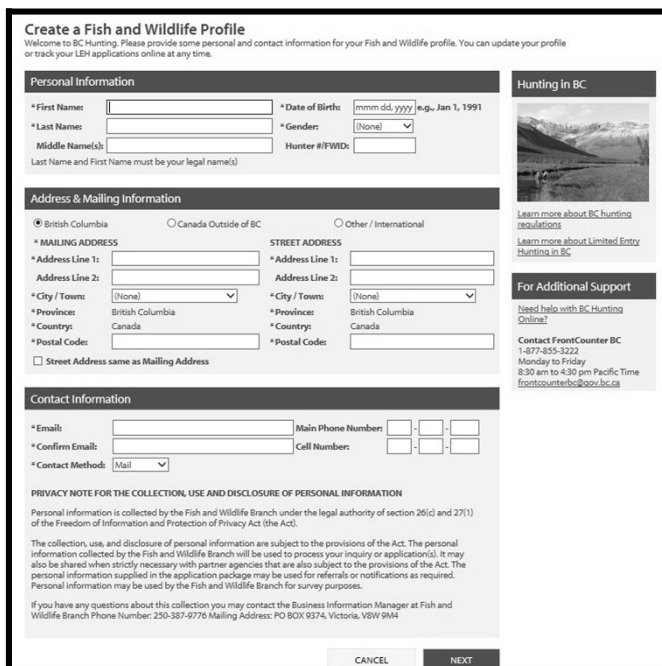
**SEARCH**

## Step 1 – Check for an existing profile

If you have hunted in BC before, you may have an existing profile.

- To search for your profile, enter the following:
  - Your Hunter Number or FWID
  - Your last name
  - Your date of birth (mmm, dd, yyyy)
- Then click on **SEARCH**
- Review/update your profile information and click **NEXT** to continue at Step 2

**NOTE:** If no profile is found, but you have a hunter number or FWID, please call the FrontCounter BC Contact Centre before you create a new profile. See Step 1a to create a new profile.



Create a Fish and Wildlife Profile

Welcome to BC Hunting. Please provide some personal and contact information for your Fish and Wildlife profile. You can update your profile or track your LEH applications online at any time.

**Personal Information**

\* First Name:  \* Date of Birth:  (mmm dd, yyyy e.g., Jan 1, 1991)

\* Last Name:  \* Gender:  (None)

Middle Name(s):  Hunter #/FWID:

Last Name and First Name must be your legal name(s)

**Address & Mailing Information**

British Columbia  Canada Outside of BC  Other / International

\* MAILING ADDRESS

\* Address Line 1:  \* Address Line 1:

Address Line 2:  Address Line 2:

\* City / Town:  (None) \* City / Town:  (None)

\* Provinces:  British Columbia \* Provinces:  British Columbia

\* Country:  Canada \* Country:  Canada

\* Postal Code:  \* Postal Code:

Street Address same as Mailing Address

**Contact Information**

\* Email:  Main Phone Numbers:  -  -

\* Confirm Email:  Call Number:  -  -

\* Contact Method:  Mail

**PRIVACY NOTE FOR THE COLLECTION, USE AND DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Personal information is collected by the Fish and Wildlife Branch under the legal authority of section 26(c) and 27(1) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act).

The collection, use, and disclosure of personal information are subject to the provisions of the Act. The personal information collected by the Fish and Wildlife Branch will be used to process your inquiry or application(s). It may also be shared when strictly necessary with partner agencies that are also subject to the provisions of the Act. The personal information supplied in the application package may be used for referrals or notifications as required. Personal information may be used by the Fish and Wildlife Branch for survey purposes.

If you have any questions about this collection you may contact the Business Information Manager at Fish and Wildlife Branch Phone Number: 250-387-9776 Mailing Address: PO BOX 9374, Victoria, V8W 9M4

**CANCEL** **NEXT**

## Step 1a – Create a new profile

If you do not have an existing Fish and Wildlife profile, you must create a new profile:

- Fill out the mandatory information fields (marked with a red asterisk)
- Click **NEXT**

# Apply for credentials – Adult

**Proof of Age**  
A person is required to be at least 10 years of age to register for a Fish and Wildlife ID. If your residency document proves age, you are not required to upload an additional document.

**Residency Type**  
\* Select residency type: (None)

**Proof of Residency Document(s)**  
Upload documentation for proof of residency. You can upload more than one document, if necessary.

File Name	* Description
[UPLOAD DOCUMENT]	

**Proof of Age Document(s)**  
Upload documentation for proof of age. You can upload more than one document, if necessary.

File Name	* Description
[UPLOAD DOCUMENT]	

## Step 3 – Choose residency

Click the drop down bar for options and select the residency type you have:

- BC Resident
- Non-Resident
- Non-Resident Alien

*NOTE: If you are unsure which residency you need, read the descriptions at the top of the page.*

**Proof of Age**  
A person is required to be at least 10 years of age to register for a Fish and Wildlife ID. If your residency document proves age, you are not required to upload an additional document.

**Residency Type**  
\* Select residency type: (None)

**Proof of Residency Document(s)**  
Upload documentation for proof of residency. You can upload more than one document, if necessary.

File Name	* Description
[UPLOAD DOCUMENT]	

**Proof of Age Document(s)**  
Upload documentation for proof of age. You can upload more than one document, if necessary.

File Name	* Description
[UPLOAD DOCUMENT]	

## Step 4 – Upload proof of residency

- Upload the appropriate proof of residency document
- Provide description of document uploaded
- If you have already provided proof of age in your residency document, click **NEXT** to skip the next step

Province or State that issued Hunter Safety Training Course: [ ]

**Hunting Credential Document(s)**  
Upload documentation for proof of hunting credential. You can upload more than one document, if necessary.

File Name	* Description
[UPLOAD DOCUMENT]	

[BACK] [CANCEL] [NEXT]

## Step 5 – Proof of hunter qualification

- Depending on which hunting products you plan to buy, you may require a hunting credential.
- Provide province or state that issued your Hunter Safety Training Course
- Upload the appropriate document and description and click **NEXT**
- IF Hunting Credential is not required click **NEXT** and skip to step 6.

*NOTE: If you are a BC resident, registered under the Indian Act (Canada), you are exempt from hunter safety training. To obtain hunting credential, you must provide proof of your status.*

# Apply for credentials – Adult

**Review Your Document(s)**  
Please check to ensure you have included all supporting documents before you submit your application for credentials.

**Proof of Residency Document(s)** ▶ Edit

Uploaded documentation for proof of residency. You can upload more than one document, if necessary.

File Name	* Description
HunterDocument.jpg	Drivers Licence

**Proof of Age Document(s)** ▶ Edit

Uploaded documentation for proof of age. You can upload more than one document, if necessary.

File Name	* Description

**Hunting Credential Document(s)** ▶ Edit

Uploaded documentation for proof of hunting credential. You can upload more than one document, if necessary.

File Name	* Description
HunterDocument.jpg	CORE

## Step 6 – Review and submit your application

- Review your document(s)
- If all documents have been uploaded, click **SUBMIT**

**Application Submitted**

Thank you for submitting your credentials application. It may take up to 3 business days to review and confirm your documents. When the review is complete, you will receive an email advising you to check your FWID profile.

- Click **Return to Profile** to view your Fish and Wildlife Profile

**Fish and Wildlife Profile**

PERSONAL	CONTACT	CREDENTIALS
<b>Name:</b> Forrest Hunter	<b>Main Phone Number:</b> - -	
	<b>Cell Number:</b> - -	
<b>FWID Status:</b> Active	<b>Email:</b> ForrestHunterTest555@gmail.com	
<b>FWID:</b> 200 173 368	<b>Address:</b> 555 Main St	
<b>Gender:</b> Male	Victoria BC V9A 0A8	
<b>Date of Birth:</b> Jan 1, 1990		

▶ Profile Options    Profile History    Hunting in BC

Submit Name Change	Transaction ID	Type	Date	Status
Profile Information	417192996	Credentials Review	Feb 6, 2019	In Review

## Step 7 – Credentials review

**NOTE:** Your Profile History will display your credentials application status as "In Review." The documents you uploaded will be reviewed. It may take up to 3 business days to review and confirm your documents. Your Profile History will change when your documents have been reviewed and your credentials have been activated. You will receive an email notification that your profile has been updated.

## Need help or have questions?

Visit [www.gov.bc.ca/hunting](http://www.gov.bc.ca/hunting)

OR

Contact the FrontCounter BC Contact Centre  
at 1-877-855-3222

# Metis Hunting in BC

- Unfortunately, there is no Metis Traditional Territory currently recognized in BC.
- No aboriginal rights to hunt in BC
- Must abide by all regulations which requires you to purchase species licenses, follow bag limits, seasons, etc...
- Metis Nation Harvesting Card
  - *May only be used to replace Federal Migratory Bird License*



# Special Thank You

- Stephen MacIver (Regulations and Policy Analyst)
- Sarah McKinnon

