

July 22, 2011

Dear FFAW Member:

I recently became involved in an advisory capacity with the people campaigning to make the public aware of the growing problem of our moose over population.

The Island of Newfoundland has at least 125,000 moose. Some knowledgeable people say that could be 150,000 – the largest, by far, moose population per square kilometre in the world.

New Brunswick (where our moose came from) has approximately 43,000 square kilometres with a moose population of 50,000 (1.16 moose per km). The island of Newfoundland has approximately 68,000 km but has been 1.8 and 2.2 moose per kilometre.

That means compared to New Brunswick, we have a between 40,000 and 60,000 extra moose. This is a hazard to the environment and a greater danger to the public.

Why is this?

For one thing, the underlying belief of those responsible for wildlife management is to let nature take its course.

The southern Avalon caribou herd, of which I have some historical knowledge, was allowed to drastically overpopulate – a significant contributing factor to its ultimate decline.

What is to be done?

There has to be a change in attitude. Most other jurisdictions don't buy into the "let nature take its course" approach. This has to change. Then we can develop a plan to reduce our moose population to more normal levels.

...../2

Letter to FFAW Member - Page 2

How is this to be done?

First, a significant increase in moose licenses.

Second, a cull of the herd with the cull to be focussed on particular areas, areas of greater concentration of moose, and areas particularly close to the highways and population.

In my view, successive governments - both Liberal and PCs - have been help captive by their bureaucracies. In my past life as your President, I dealt first hand with that problem. Thankfully from time to time we had a minister (not enough) who could challenge this thinking.

We will not address the present moose problem unless enough of our citizens become engaged. By doing that, we can liberate our politicians to use some common sense and challenge the unseen ones who have so much authority.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Cashin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Cashin