

# Public Service Announcement

October 5, 2007



## ATTENTION HUNTERS AND ANGLERS

### *Levy Increase - Open house information sessions*

In 2008, fees for hunting and fishing licenses/tags will increase as a result of a requested levy increase from the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA).

To allow hunters and anglers an opportunity to learn more about the levy increase and provide input into Alberta Conservation Association's 2008-09 programming priorities the Alberta Conservation Association will be holding open house information sessions in your area (please see the attached schedule).

ACA depends on levy revenues to meet its delegated responsibilities to Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) under the negotiated Program Agreements and Memorandum of Understanding. Since ACA's inception in 1997, the only increase in levy revenue has come from a 3% increase on angling licenses in 2003/04. At the same time, cumulative inflation over the last 10 years is 22%. The inflation rate has eroded ACA's ability to meet its obligations to ASRD and is beginning to impact the level of programming ACA can supply. This challenge is further compounded by the ever increasing number of conservation-related issues that ACA is being asked to be involved with. While ACA is prepared to provide its expertise wherever possible, funding is beginning to limit our involvement in important conservation programs.

To offset the inflationary pressures which have occurred over the last 10 years, ACA has made a request to the Minister of ASRD to increase the levy portion of hunting and angling licenses/tags/permits by 20%. This increase is expected to come into effect in 2008. While the 20% levy increase sounds large, the impact to the overall cost of a license will be relatively small, generally 5% (see attached levy and license comparison data).

In 2006-07 ACA collected approximately \$8.2 million in levy funds. As a result of leveraging these funds for partner dollars we were able to spend \$8.11 million on fish, wildlife and land projects. These expenditures account for 98.9% of the levy value collected. With the increase in levy revenue, ACA anticipates focusing the funding into its key program areas – fish, wildlife and lands – for the benefit of hunters, anglers and other conservationists.

For more information on the ACA and the levy increase please go to [www.ab-conservation.com](http://www.ab-conservation.com), or call Lisa Monsees, Manager of Communications (780) 410-1994.

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