

Bulletin #2021-53

AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Important Notice to Chief Administrative Officers

THE REDUCING RED TAPE AND IMPROVING SERVICES ACT, 2021

Bill 55 – *The Reducing Red Tape and Improving Services Act, 2021* (various acts amended or repealed) received Royal Assent and associated changes to *The Wildlife Act* came into force on July 1, 2021. The bill amends *The Wildlife Act* to allow the owner of private land, or a person authorized by the owner, to remove a beaver dam or beaver lodge, and any associated debris, subject to requirements established in the Beaver Dam and Lodge Removal Regulation.

The Beaver Dam and Lodge Removal Regulation specifies requirements that must be met prior to, and during, dam or lodge removal. This includes requirements for:

- Removing beavers associated with a dam or lodge, using specified trapping or firearms requirements, prior to the removal of a dam or lodge.
- Ensuring that any beavers removed under this provision are not sold or bartered unless a permit that authorizes these activities has been obtained.
- Preventing the alteration or modification of the bank or the bed of the water body.
- Removing only the material used to construct the dam or lodge, any food cache and any associated debris that has accumulated against the dam or lodge.
- Removing the downstream dam first, prior to removing any upstream dam(s) in situations where multiple dams are to be removed.
- Ensuring the removal of a beaver dam does not result in water flow exceeding the downstream channel capacity.

These provincial requirements are in addition to requirements that must be met under the federal Fisheries Act.

For the convenience of municipalities and landowners, a guidance document has been developed to compile the provincial and federal requirements, as well as additional beneficial management practices that are recommended for beaver dam removal. This document is attached for your convenience.

If you have any questions or concerns with regards to these changes, please reach out to the Wildlife, Fisheries and Resource Enforcement Branch by email at wildlife@gov.mb.ca.