

Canada's Gun Laws and How They Apply to Hunting Clients

Laws governing the importation of firearms into Canada took effect on January 1, 2001 and have been amended since the date. The system that has been put into place allowing a hunter to bring his/her rifle into Canada has worked very well since its introduction.

Each hunter completes a form that is available from your guide outfitter in advance and then presents it to the officer at the Port of Entry at the time of entering Canada. A small fee is also paid at the Port of Entry.

Fraser River Outfitters Ltd has prepared this general Q & A sheet to address those questions that are most often asked by hunting clients.

If you still have questions after reading this document, please contact your Guide Outfitter or Fraser River Outfitters Ltd. Contact info below.

1. on my next hunting trip to Canada, what procedure should I follow when I arrive at the border or an airport into Canada?

Answer: You will inform the Canada Border Service Agency Officer that you are bringing a firearm and/or ammunition into Canada and explain to the Officer the purpose of your trip. You will then provide the Officer with the Non-Resident Firearms Declaration form. If you have not received one from your Guide Outfitter, copies of the form are available at your Point of Entry.

2. What kinds of questions does the form ask?

Answer: The form requires the usual name and addresses information and then asks you for information about the rifle(s) that you are bringing into Canada (i.e. type of firearm, make, serial #, gauge, barrel, length, etc.) There is also a signature line for you to declare that the information is all true.

3. If I get the form in advance, can I fill it out beforehand and then present it to the Canada Border Service Agency official when I arrive at the point of Entry?

Answer: Yes, you can complete everything in advance, but you MUST sign the declaration in front of the official.

4. Will I be subject to a background check at the Point of Entry?

Answer: Background checks will be done randomly, but no more frequently than before. Such checks are at the discretion of the Canada Border Service Agency officer.

5. I'm planning to bring more than one rifle with me. How many forms do I need?

Answer: Each form has room for three firearms. If you are bringing more than that, you need a Continuation sheet which is available from the Government of Canada's Canadian Firearms Centre at 1.800.731.4000.

6. How much is the fee that I have to pay at the border?

Answer: The fee is \$25.00 CAD per Declaration form (not per rifle) and must be paid at the Point of Entry. It can be made in cash (US or CAD) or by credit card.

7. Will I have to pay the fee each time I come to Canada to hunt?

Answer: You will only have to pay the \$25 fee once in any 60 day period regardless of how many times you come to Canada during that period. You can renew your declaration at no additional fee, if you renew it before it expires, by contacting the Chief Firearms Officer of the province or territory where you are staying.

8. What happens if I bring a different rifle on my next trip within 60 days?

Answer: You won't have to pay again, however you must declare the firearm(s) and the Canadian Border Services Agency will add them to your Declaration form.

9. Can I borrow a rifle from my Guide Outfitter instead of bringing my own?

Answer: Yes you can borrow a rifle from your Guide Outfitter or your licensed

guide but you must always be within his/her immediate company at all times while in possession of the rifle.

10. I am planning to bring my son or daughter with me to go hunting. Can they bring their own rifle into Canada with them once they have declared it at the Point of Entry and completed the form?

Answer: No they can't if they are under 18 years of age, but you as their parent or guardian can. You will simply add their rifle to your Declaration form.

11. What happens if I bring a rifle to Canada and leave it with my Guide Outfitter before I depart?

Answer: If you are leaving it with the Guide Outfitter for safe storage only, no problem, but if you are giving it to him/her as a gift, you will have to use a different form. You can obtain that form by calling the Canadian Firearms Centre at the number noted in #5.

12. I have a custom-made rifle that I want to bring with me when I come hunting in Canada. Is that handled the same way at the Point of Entry?

Answer: Custom-made rifles are treated the same as any other rifle. As long as it does not fall into the category of a restricted or prohibited firearm you should be ok. If in doubt, contact your Guide Outfitter or the Canadian Firearms Centre (Their website is www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca)

13. My custom-made rifle does not have a serial number on it. Is that going to present a problem?

Answer: No it shouldn't. Complete all the other information on the form, but draw a line through that box on the Declaration form.

14. I applied for and received a Possession and Acquisition License (PAL) from the Canadian Firearms Centre. Can I use that instead of the Declaration form when I come to Canada to hunt?

Answer: Yes you can. It lasts for 5 years and costs \$60.00 (CAD). Most Canadians owning firearms have a PAL and indeed non-residents can also take the Canadian Firearms safety Course and obtain a PAL. You will have to register with the Canadian Firearms Centre the rifle that you plan to bring to Canada to

hunt with. For more information, contact the Canadian Firearms Centre.

15. Two of us are going to Canada to hunt, but my partner is driving while I'm flying. Can my partner take my rifle and declare it at the Point of Entry?

Answer: Each of you must bring your own rifles into Canada and complete the Non-Resident Firearms Declaration form at your respective Point of Entry.

16. How much ammunition can I bring with me?

Answer: Non-residents can import up to 5000 cartridges for hunting for hunting purposes, but you will have to pay duty on anything more than 200 rounds that you bring into Canada.

17. Do you these gun laws apply to all provinces and territories in Canada?

Answer: Yes they do.

18. if I have other questions about Canada's gun laws, who can I contact?

Answer: The Canadian Firearms Centre at www.cfc-cafe.gc.ca or phone 1.800.731.4000.

Border Entry Information-Old DUI'S or DWI'S

The laws governing visitors coming to Canada have been tightened up considerably since September 2001. The Immigration and Refugee Protection Act became a law in June 2002 and contains provisions that allow Canadian officials to bar certain individuals from entering Canada. While intended to primarily stop terrorists and others of that type from entering Canada, it also had its implications for some other visitors.

Residents of other countries who have at some point in the past been convicted of anything considered a criminal offence in Canada and are now planning to visit Canada should be aware that certain of these old convictions could pose a problem.

For example, if someone was convicted of a Driving While Impaired (DWI) or Driving Under the Influence (DUI) charge in another country, that person may encounter a problem at the Point of Entry into Canada because impaired driving is an indictable offence in Canada.

A client with such conviction in his/her background who is en route to hunting and/or fishing trip to Canada, can be delayed or even turned back at the border.

There are steps that can be taken well in advance of a trip to Canada to address the matter. Please contact Fraser River Outfitters Ltd for further information.

Fraser River Outfitters Ltd is working with other Guide Outfitters Associations in Canada to have the Act amended given that it is our belief that the legislators of the day never intended it to extend to old driving offenses in another country.

If you have any questions about this provision, contact Fraser River Outfitters Ltd. Contact info below.

Liability Insurance Waiver Information

All clients hunting and/or fishing with Fraser River Outfitters Ltd are required to sign a liability insurance waiver form that will be provided by your Guide Outfitter.

This is a requirement of our insurance underwriter, and is becoming more common in many outdoor recreation activities and pursuits throughout North America. Without implementing the waiver, it would be far more difficult, it not virtually impossible to find insurance companies willing to offer affordable insurance coverage.

The information contained in this document is based on the latest information available to Fraser River Outfitters. If you have any questions about the information provided, please contact:

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