



**Report on operations
to monitor and control
chronic wasting disease
in cervids 2018**

Following detection in autumn 2018 of the first cases of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Québec, on a red deer farm in the Laurentides region, the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) acted rapidly by implementing all necessary measures to protect wild cervid herds against this disease.

Results of the analyses done in 2018 have generated an important observation: if the disease is present in wild animals, few have been affected and the disease can still be eliminated. While no case of CWD has been detected in wild cervids, it is impossible to exclude beyond any doubt the presence of the disease in the wild since: 1) it is very difficult to detect CWD when few deer are contaminated and 2) tests are not usually effective for detecting the disease in animals that have been infected for less than 12 months.

Chronic wasting disease of cervids

CWD is a contagious disease of cervids that provokes the fatal degeneration of the central nervous system.

No treatment or vaccine is currently available to fight this disease.

When well-established in wild cervid populations, CWD is impossible to eliminate.

Results as of December 31, 2018

3,622 wild cervids analyzed: no positive cases

Culling by MFFP in the control area:
750 deer, including 534 adults

Sampling from animals taken in sport hunting:
447 deer and 21 moose in the enhanced monitoring area,
2,584 deer and 11 moose elsewhere in Québec

Sampling of diseased animals or animals found dead near the affected farm:
24 deer, 1 moose





Highlights

In autumn 2018, 11 cases of chronic wasting disease of cervids were found in a red deer farm in the Laurentides region.

All animals at the infected farm were slaughtered by order of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

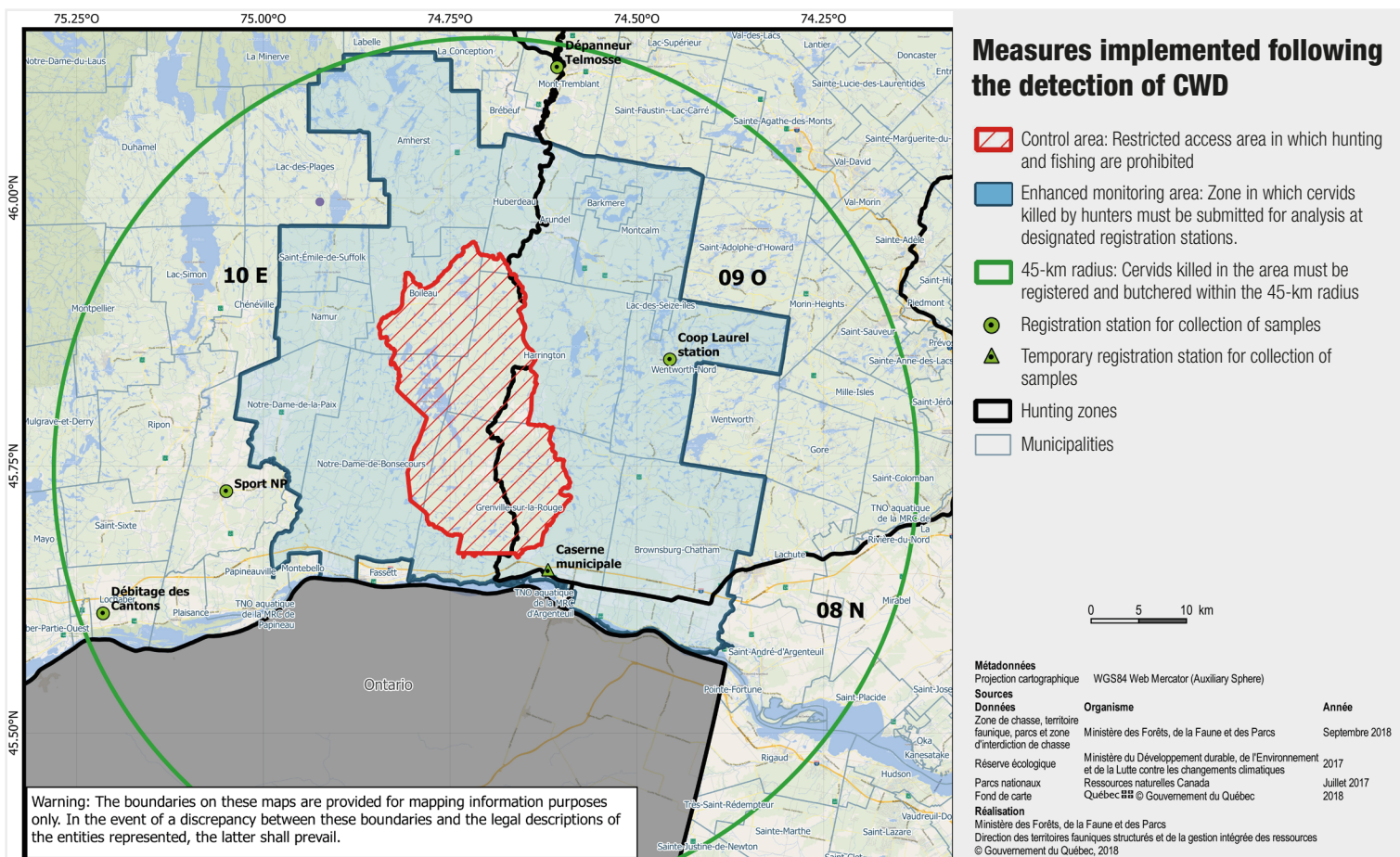
Given the urgency, the Ministère quickly deployed significant efforts to detect the presence of the disease in wild cervids near the contaminated farm and to reduce the risk of it spreading to wildlife.

- The MFFP applied the regulations in effect:
 - Restrictions on import of whole carcasses and certain anatomical parts of cervids killed outside of Québec.
 - Restrictions on the possession of whole carcasses and certain anatomical parts of cervids killed within a 45 km radius of the affected farm.
 - Prohibition on the transport of a cervid kept in captivity within a 100 km radius of the affected farm.
- Within a 400 sq. km Control Area around the contaminated farm, intensive culling efforts were done by the Ministère from September 22 to December 15, 2018, with the support of an external company with specialized expertise in the reduction of cervid populations. This operation was necessary in order to 1) eliminate animals that could have been in contact with deer infected on the farm; and 2) to reduce the density of

deer near the affected farm so as to reduce contact between the animals and therefore reduce the risk of transmission of CWD. In the interests of optimizing efforts and public safety, sport hunting and trapping were prohibited in this area from September 21, to November 18, 2018.

- An Enhanced Monitoring Area (EMA) was implemented around the Control Area. It included the following municipalities: Amherst, Arundel, Barkmere, Boileau, Brownsburg-Chatham, Grenville-sur-la-Rouge, Harrington, Huberdeau, Lac-des-Seize-Îles, Montcalm, Namur, Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours, Notre-Dame-de-la-Paix, Saint-Émile-de-Suffolk and Wentworth-Nord. In this area, all white-tailed deer and moose killed in sport hunting had to be submitted for analysis at one of the designated registration stations. In these stations, samples were also taken from cervids harvested outside of the EMA.
- Elsewhere in Québec, participation of several butchers made possible enlargement of the existing CWD monitoring and detection network, which has been concentrated since 2007 in the Estrie and Montérégie regions. Several white-tailed deer harvested during hunting, in particular in the Capitale-Nationale, Chaudière-Appalaches and Centre-du-Québec regions, were analyzed.

As of now, no CWD cases has been detected in any of the wild cervids analyzed.



Map of measures implemented in the different areas defined for the operations of autumn 2018.

MFFP actions

Particular measures were deployed rapidly and massively by the MFFP once the first case was confirmed to ensure that the disease was truly absent from wild animals and avoid the transmission of the disease to the rest of the province if cervids currently carrying the disease in its incubation period were present in the natural environment. Once established in wild populations, CWD is impossible to eliminate. That is why it is important to take all necessary measures to avoid such a situation. In provinces and states where the disease is present, major, irreversible reductions in cervid populations have been observed, causing impacts on hunting activities and associated economic benefits.

In the coming years, the MFFP will continue its actions to: 1) maintain low densities of deer in the sector where the disease was detected in order to reduce contact among wild animals so as to limit transmission of the disease if it is present in the natural environment; 2) maintain enhanced monitoring of the disease in order to detect any emergence in the natural environment and intervene rapidly and 3) improve measures to prevent a new introduction of the disease and its transmission.

Learn about procedures and restrictions implemented to your hunting area.

For all the details:

Quebec.ca/cervidsdisease

Photos: Pierre Parent, photographer.

Page 2: Baiting and sampling activities in the Control Area.

Page 3: Sampling at a station in the Enhanced Monitoring Area.

**Forêts, Faune
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Québec

