

Acts of the General Assembly of His Majesty's Province of New-Brunswick passed in the year 1786. Saint John, NB: J. Ryan, 1786.

26 George III – Chapter 39

An Act for the Preservation of Moose.

Whereas the wanton destruction of moose has been carried to an alarming degree by persons who kill the same in great numbers, taking only the skins and leaving the carcasses in the woods, and as such proceedings must be extremely detrimental and would if not timely prevented go near to extirpate that useful animal, on which the remote settlers in this province in a great measure depend for their subsistence, for remedy whereof and to preserve to the inhabitants of this province so valuable a support.

I. Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly, That if any person or persons, after the first day of March next, shall kill or destroy any moose, taking away only the skin or skins, leaving in the woods the carcasses or carcase or a quarter thereof, until the same become putrid and unfit for food, or shall kill moose in such quantities and at such distances from the several settlements of this province that it shall appear evident that such person or persons had no probable means to bring the meat either to market or to convey it home, for their own or the sustenance of their neighbours.

Such person or persons shall for every such offence forfeit the sum of forty shillings for every such moose so killed, as also all the skin or skins of such moose wantonly and illegally destroyed, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, the one half of which forfeitures shall be to him or them who shall inform and sue for the same before any one of his Majesty's justices of the peace in such county where the offence shall have been committed, who is hereby empowered to hear and determine the same upon the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses; and the other half to the poor of the county where the offence shall have been committed; such sum to be levied by warrant of distress and sale of the offenders goods; and in default of such distress the offender to be committed to the county gaol for two calendar months, or until payment be made. Provided, That any offence committed against this act shall be sued for within four calendar months after the same shall have been committed. Provided also, That nothing contained in this act shall be construed to extend to persons travelling upon their lawful occasions, and not for the purpose of hunting thro' uninhabited parts of this province, and who may have occasion to kill moose merely for support on their journey. Provided also, That this act shall continue and be in force for two years, from the said first day of March, and no longer.