

Beloved species from Canada's wetlands

MOOSE

Alces alces

- ✦ The moose is the largest and heaviest extant species in the deer family.
- ✦ It's estimated there are between 500,000 and one million moose in Canada.
- ✦ Bulls grow antlers each spring, shed a layer of tissue called "velvet" in the fall, and as winter begins, their antlers fall off so that they can conserve their energy.
- ✦ Cows choose their mates based on antler size – and those antlers can grow to more than two metres wide.
- ✦ Calves are born in the late spring and stay with their mothers until they are around 18 months old. Otherwise, moose are solitary animals.
- ✦ Moose are excellent swimmers and can dive more than five metres to reach food (water plants) on the bottom of a lake.
- ✦ Their scientific name means "eater of twigs". In the winter when greens are hard to find, moose survive by eating up to 20 kilograms of twigs each day.
- ✦ The eyesight of moose is extremely poor, but its senses of smell and hearing compensate.

