

## *A study on cadmium in moose organs* Do not eat moose offal!

Rouyn-Noranda, October 2nd, 2019 – The *Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue* recommends to not eat moose offal. Along with numerous hunters of the region, the CISSS collected 70 moose kidneys during the 2013-2014 hunting season for the purpose of updating the recommendations regarding the consumption of moose offal extracted within a 50 km radius of Rouyn-Noranda.

The study reveals that the concentration levels of cadmium found in the samples were significant enough to recommend that moose offal should not be consumed. For information, the average level of concentration noted was 177µg/g. In other words, for a single meal, this equals 1.7 times the maximum annual dose of cadmium that should not be exceeded in order to avoid any health issues. Generally, the population absorbs the maximum acceptable daily equivalent of cadmium even before eating animal offal. For this reason, caution is recommended.

Cadmium is toxic to human beings and animals. Once in the body, it stores mainly in the kidneys and, to a lesser degree, in the liver. Considering the concentrations observed, we do not anticipate any immediate effects. Possible risks, which are more of a concern, are long term health issues, specifically kidney problems.

Other organs such as the heart, the tongue and muscles (meat) are not contaminated with cadmium and can be consumed without restrictions. However, in order to avoid exposure to lead it is recommended to remove 10 cm of meat around the area impacted by the bullet, and thereby to remove a maximum amount of the lead particles. Of course, if you use lead-free ammunition or hunt with a bow or crossbow, then these recommendations do not apply.

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