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The Newsletter of the Canadian Firearms Centre  
Issue 2 - Spring 1997

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**In Sight Bulletin No. 2(PDF format 110 KB). Try the [Adobe download page](#) if you do not have a PDF reader!.**



### The CFC Logo **Many Partners, a common goal**



We are pleased to introduce the CFC logo, a symbol of partnership between the federal government, the provinces and territories, and other stakeholders. This logo, which will be used on all CFC publications, represents all of the partners working towards a common goal of firearms safety in Canada.

### Lights, Camera, Firearms

When appearing before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, representatives of the film and theatrical industries asked, in effect, "Why might it become harder for us to use fake guns than some real guns?" This question was prompted by proposed restrictions on the manufacture and use of replicas, and on the additional costs that would result.

One representative from the film industry pointed out that actors use replicas in all stunt scenes, and in other scenes where appropriate. "We might have to manufacture 10 to 15 copies of a single gun for one stunt sequence," he explained. "The cost of licensing a film company as a supplier, and of increasing our supervisory responsibilities for replicas could increase production cost by thousand of dollar". A representative of the theater industry noted that the additional cost imposed by the restrictions on replicas would be a burden for an industry that operates on small budgets, especially for community theater that do not produce profits.

The Members of Parliament listened intently to the views of all who appeared before them. In their report to the House of Commons, presented on February 21, 1997, they recommended changes to several of the proposed regulations, including those dealing with the use of replica firearms in the movie industry. The Minister of Justice will consider the Standing Committee's recommendations and will announce the government's response to them shortly.

### We Hear You

In developing the firearms regulations, a major priority has been to ensure that they meet the needs of firearm users, administrators, businesses, and others with an interest in firearms. To this end, CFC officials began meeting in March 1996 with groups such as provincial and territorial Chief Firearms Officers, the Coalition for Gun Control, theatrical and movie suppliers, the User Group on Firearms, the firearms industry, and a number of Aboriginal groups.

Officials also sent drafts of the regulations to 1,000 Aboriginal organizations across the country, and invited them to discuss the proposals. Forty-eight Aboriginal groups accepted this invitation and provided valuable input used in the first set of regulations.

Interested groups and individuals had another opportunity to provide input when the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs and the Senate Justice Committee held public hearing on the first set of regulations. Groups as diverse as the Quebec Semi-automatic Firearms Association, Victims of Crime International, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the armoured car industry, the film industry, and shooting clubs, took advantage of this opportunity.

'We appreciate the time and input of these various groups', says **Gordon Parry**, Director of the CFC's Policy and Programs Directorate. 'By appearing before a Parliamentary committee, these individuals are sharing their great expertise with us and helping the government improve the regulations to make them as effective as possible while responding to real needs in the community.'

### Minister of Justice Tables Regulations

Over the past year, officials at the CFC have been busy developing the regulations needed to bring the *Firearms Act* into effect. The Minister of Justice tabled the first set of proposed regulations before the House of Commons and the Senate on November 27, 1996. Among other things, they set out the requirements for firearms licenses and establish all fees payable under the *Act*. A second set of regulations will be tabled later in 1997. They will address such issues as registration certificates, the import or export of firearms by individuals, and requirements for the operation of gun shows, shooting clubs and shooting ranges.

### Chief Firearms Officers

#### The Link Between the Community and Law Enforcement

*In preparation for the coming into force of the Firearms Act, the Chief Firearms Officers (CFO's) of each province and territory have been meeting in Ottawa each month or so over the*

*past year, to discuss the practical aspects of implementing the new law.*

This process will help to ensure that federal policies and regulations are compatible with administrative procedures and capabilities across the country. Each CFO brings a unique set of experiences and a wealth of practical understanding of what the provisions of the *Firearms Act* mean in his or her community.

For example, **Guy Asselin**, the new CFO from Quebec, has more than 20 years' experience with the Quebec provincial police force. He has also been a sport shooter, winning a Canadian team championship in 1988.

Asselin appreciates the opportunity to exchange views and ideas with his colleagues from across the country. 'It is important for the CFO to work with his provincial and federal partners to achieve a vision for the best possible application of the *Act* in Quebec,' he says. 'We must have an efficient and flexible administrative system. We have at heart the adequate control of firearms, and public safety.'

Other members of the CFO group shared their expertise with the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, as it considered the regulations supporting the *Firearms Act*.

**Hank Mathias**, the group's Chair spoke about the kinds of impacts that the regulations will likely have in the 'real world' of shooting clubs, athletics, hunting, commerce, crime prevention and gun collecting. 'My goal,' he says, 'is to help ensure that the regulations are effectively implemented. We want to promote public safety without burdening legitimate firearms users.'

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