

officers, but we are also concerned that arming customs officers may not be appropriate. We would urge the federal government, however, to take a serious look at these issues, both from the point of view of protecting customs officers and in regard to ensuring effective controls on the smuggling of firearms into Canada.

The Special Committee believes that this is not an area in which we can afford to take risks. Therefore, controls on the illegal entry of firearms are essential to protect public safety, and sufficient resources must be provided to allow customs officials and officers to do the best job possible.

RECOMMENDATION 31

The Special Committee recommends that the federal government undertake a comprehensive review of all issues affecting the ability of the Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise, to provide effective protection against the illegal entry of firearms into Canada. Such a review should include, as a minimum, a consideration of the issues of sufficient staff levels and of the training of customs officers in regard to firearms laws. It is the government's responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of adequately trained and equipped customs officers to provide effective border controls on firearms.