

## TRANSPORT

### FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL STRATEGIC HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM—NOVA SCOTIA AGREEMENT— RETURN OF FUNDS TO DEATH VALLEY HIGHWAY PROJECT— GOVERNMENT POSITION

*(Response to question raised by Hon. Gerald J. Comeau on May 23, 1995)*

Highways are a provincial responsibility. The priorities are established by the province and almost every province has sought and obtained amendments to its highway agreements.

## JUSTICE

### GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION—AVOWAL BY THE PROVINCES NOT TO FINANCE REGISTRATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

*(Response to question raised by Hon. Jean-Claude Rivest on May 24, 1995)*

The Minister of Justice tabled the "Financial Framework for Bill C-68" document with Parliamentary Committee on April 24, 1995 which details the cost and revenue estimates to support the development and the implementation of the firearms legislation.

In a recent letter to his provincial colleagues responsible for the administration of the Firearms Control Program, the Minister of Justice reaffirmed the federal government's commitment to the provinces to cover the cost of the design, development and implementation of the Canadian Firearms Registration System.

The federal government is also committed to the principle of cost recovery with respect to the Firearms Control Program. The continuing administrative costs of the registration system will be funded from the revenues of the fees for the firearms licences, registration certificates and authorization permits.

The fees will be modest but sufficient to defray the operating costs of the firearms legislation. The actual fee levels will be set by regulation and subject to Parliament's review.

The administrative costs actually incurred by provinces with respect to processing firearms licences, registration

certificates and authorization permits, as well as the operation of the Canadian Firearms Registration System will be recovered through the Federal-Provincial/Territorial Firearms Financial Agreements. The authority is set in legislation (section 93 of the *Firearms Act*, Bill C-68).

Every effort is being made in designing the registration system to achieve easy accessibility to the public and cost efficiency. Federal officials will work with provincial counterparts in arriving at the final design, and with the provinces and territories full participation in this cooperative process following the legislation being enacted.

### GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES PRIOR TO INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION— GOVERNMENT POSITION

*(Response to question raised by Hon. Lowell Murray on May 24, 1995)*

The consultation process was indeed widespread and significant. The Minister of Justice met with many firearms owners and users, and other interest groups, including health care and women groups, and police throughout Canada. These direct consultations by the Minister took place in every jurisdiction of the country. The government is currently engaged in formal consultations with aboriginal people on how to best implement the new law.

The Minister of Justice launched his proposals to develop firearms control legislation with his provincial and territorial colleagues at their annual meeting in Victoria, in January 1995.

Ongoing meetings between the Chief Provincial and Territorial Firearms Officers with the Firearms Control Task Group, Department of Justice, on the administration and general policy proposals of the Minister of Justice began in March 1994 and continued up to the Action Plan tabling in the House of Commons. The registration system was a focus of these meetings.

Gun control legislation issues were also agenda items of meetings of Assistant Deputy Ministers and, separately, of the Deputy Ministers. Further to these consultations, there have been exchanges of written communication on this subject between the Minister of Justice and the provincial and territorial Ministers.