

will require a licence, valid for five years, to be issued only if the licensing officer is satisfied the applicant has nothing in his background that would render him unfit to possess a firearm. The application must be supported by two guarantors, from a selected list, who have known the applicant for more than two years.

Persons under the age of 18 will require special permits, to be issued only for target practice, game hunting or firearms instruction.

Their application will have to be signed by two guarantors, one of whom must be a parent or legal guardian.

All firearms and ammunition dealers (wholesale and retail), traders, importers and manufacturers will be required to have permits and keep records of all transactions.

Careless handling and storage of firearms may make a gun-owner liable to a criminal offence, carrying a penalty of up to five years imprisonment.

The implementation of the measures relating to the licensing of possessors of long guns will take time and the Government expects they will be phased in over three years.

Special crime inquiries

Measures are proposed to authorize provincial governments to create special commissions of inquiry into organized crime. The powers of the Commissions will include: summoning witnesses from anywhere in Canada to testify under oath before the Commission; and authority to order witnesses to furnish documents; authority to issue warrants to search premises.

Electronic surveillance

The legislation proposes several changes to increase the effectiveness of police use of electronic surveillance in their fight against organized crime while at the same time maintaining the fundamental protection of the individual's right to privacy adopted by Parliament in 1974.

The changes proposed include:

Courts will be empowered to grant authorization to intercept communications in relation to all indictable offences.

Any offence, whether indictable or otherwise, may justify an authorization where it appears to form part of a

pattern of criminal activity of an organized nature.

The actual transcript of an unauthorized surveillance will not be accepted as evidence but evidence arising from the information received in the transcript will.

Court authorizations will be valid for 60 rather than 30 days.

The requirement to notify the person under surveillance within 90 days after completion of the surveillance will be repealed. Reporting by the media of an intercepted communication that has been revealed in open Court will not constitute an offence.

Dangerous offenders

The proposed legislation will repeal the existing provisions of the Criminal Code dealing with habitual criminals and dangerous sexual offenders, and enact new provisions that would enable the Courts to impose an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment in the case of all dangerous offenders, including dangerous sexual offenders.

The Court may impose such a sentence if the offender has been found guilty of an indictable offence, for which he may be sentenced to ten years or more and which involved: the use or attempted use of violence; or conduct endangering or likely to endanger the life or safety of another person or likely to inflict severe psychological damage on another person.

An indeterminate sentence may be imposed if the offender has been found guilty of a serious sexual offence, such as rape or attempted rape, and the Court is satisfied that there is likelihood that the offender will cause injury or other evil to other persons through failure in the future to control his sexual impulses.

Custody and release of inmates

The following are some of the measures designed to provide better control in penitentiaries and to strengthen the process whereby inmates are released into the community. They include:

Statutory remission in federal and provincial institutions is abolished and is replaced by an equivalent measure of earned remission; as a result there will be a greater onus on inmates to earn time off their sentence and

greater pressure to behave responsibly.

Remission may be earned at the rate of one day for every two served.

Earned remission can be forfeited and, once forfeited, cannot be restored.

It is proposed to provide a greater degree of security and safety in prisons by: improving and strengthening the training of correctional staff; establishing emergency response or "crisis" teams; instigating a revised construction program that will accelerate the replacement of large, obsolete maximum security institutions by smaller, more manageable institutions and the reduction of population in the existing medium institutions.

Escape penalty doubled

The maximum penalty for escape or attempted escape from a prison will be increased from five to ten years.

Offenders convicted of certain types of offence involving violence, who have, in addition, a history of violent crime, will not be eligible to be considered for parole until they have served one-half of their term. The National Parole Board will no longer have the power to parole by exception — this means that all inmates will have to serve one-third of their sentence or seven years, whichever is the lesser, before being eligible for parole consideration. Regulations will be developed to provide some procedural safeguards to applicants for parole and those being considered for parole revocation. These will be introduced gradually over the next three years.

The new program is a continuation of the Government's efforts to afford greater protection against violent crime.

In making public the Government's peace and security program, the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General stated they did not share the views of those who seem to see capital punishment as the "cure-all solution" to the problem of crime, and especially violent crime, in our society. They expressed their conviction that the problem of violent crime in Canada can be better met by providing for firm but humane punishment in cases of murder and other violent offences, by correcting the weaknesses of the criminal justice system and spending more efforts in crime prevention, as proposed in the peace and security program.