

consent for the issuance of possession permits to minors under the age of 16 in specified circumstances. Therefore, the Special Committee sees a need only to deal with access to FACs by persons between the ages of 16 and 18 years.

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Special Committee recommends that all future FACs must bear the photograph of the holder.

RECOMMENDATION 3

The Special Committee recommends that the requirement that all new FAC applicants provide the firearms officer with the names of two references be adopted as proposed by the government, provided that the makeup of the prescribed class is constructed to ensure that everyone has a reasonable opportunity to fulfill the requirement.

RECOMMENDATION 4

The Special Committee recommends that the proposed \$50 fee for the issuance of a first-time FAC be adopted subject to confirmation by the Canadian Advisory Council on Firearms that such a figure is justified.

RECOMMENDATION 5

The Special Committee recommends that all FAC applicants between the ages of 16 and 18 years have the consent of a parent, or person having custody or control of the applicant, before there is any processing of the application.

B. Competency and Safety Training Courses

i) The Present System

According to the present legislation (section 106(2)(c) and (3) of the Criminal Code), the applicant for an FAC must provide evidence of having passed a course or test, approved by the provincial Attorney General, in the safe handling and care of firearms. The provision, however, was to have been proclaimed province by province as courses and tests became available. It has never been proclaimed in any province. Failure to make any progress on the implementation of the training course requirement appears to have been the result of a number of factors, the principal one being the matter of cost. While the federal government after 1977 prepared some resource materials and went to work on developing national standards for such courses, the provinces were apparently unwilling to undertake responsibility for administering a federally-mandated program without the federal government underwriting the costs.

ii) Bill C-80 Proposal

Bill C-80 would substitute for the present provision a virtually identical one. The only additional requirement would be that the course or test include knowledge of gun control laws. The requirement that it be implemented province by province would remain.