

The Department of Justice has carried out an in-depth review of the possibility of using the Hazardous Products Act to regulate tobacco and has confirmed that it is not an appropriate legislative vehicle for this purpose.

Current drug enactments are not designed to control tobacco. Basically, under the Food and Drugs Act, a drug is defined as anything intended for use for medical purposes. Tobacco does not meet this criteria since it has no medical use.

There already exists a comprehensive legislative framework and strategy to deal with tobacco under the Tobacco Products Control Act and the Tobacco Sales to Young Persons Act (TSYPA). With respect to modifying the Tobacco Products Control Act, since its constitutionality has been challenged before the Supreme Court, it would be inappropriate to modify it until the Court's decision is rendered.

The government will have an opportunity to review tobacco policy options once the decision from the Supreme Court has been made.

HUMAN RIGHTS

ESTABLISHMENT OF CANADIAN RACE RELATIONS FOUNDATION— GOVERNMENT POSITION

(Response to a question raised by the Hon. Noël A. Kinsella on June 20, 1995)

The official proclamation date of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation Act has not yet been determined. Several implementation activities are required before proceeding with proclamation. These include appointing an Executive Director, selecting the Board of Directors, strengthening the accountability regime of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation Act and developing some operating guidelines for the Board.

While selection for the Board of Directors and the Executive Director have begun, the process has yet to be completed.

CANADIAN HERITAGE

CATALOGUE OF NATIONAL SPORTS EVENTS—FAILURE TO PUBLISH IN FRENCH—GOVERNMENT POSITION

(Response to question raised by Hon. Pierre Claude Nolin on June 21, 1995)

The contribution agreement issued by Sport Canada, which is the contract outlining the obligations of recipient organizations, includes the requirement to provide equitable service to the public in both official languages.

Officials of the Sport Canada branch of the Department of Canadian Heritage have contacted representatives from the

Canadian Sport and Fitness Administration Centre (CSFAC) to remind them of their contractual obligations, as recipients of federal financial support, with respect to the publishing of materials in both official languages.

CSFAC officials have translated the Canadian Sport Guide — summer edition into French, and it was released to the media and the public on July 24, 1995.

Although the cuts in support to the CSFAC over the 1994-95 and 1995-96 fiscal years have been major, the CSFAC made an error in judgement in stating that the guide could not be published in French because of the cuts.

Sport Canada officials have met with CSFAC management, reminded them of their contractual responsibilities as a federally supported institution, and resolved the situation — the guide will be produced in French.

HEALTH

USE OF BOVINE GROWTH HORMONE SOMATOTROPIN—DELAY IN INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN HEALTH RISKS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

(Response to question raised by Hon. Mira Spivak on June 21, 1995)

Health Canada is the regulator of this product and makes scientifically-based decisions that result in the issuing or not issuing of a Notice of Compliance. Until the review is completed, rBST cannot be sold or distributed in Canada. The review by Health Canada is independent of any moratorium.

The moratorium was a voluntary undertaking on the part of the manufacturers of BST. Health Canada must remain as an independent regulatory body. As such, Health Canada is not in a position to call for a voluntary moratorium.

The scientific and procedural information provided to the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food was correct. Under the Access to Information Act, this could not include confidential, proprietary data contained in the manufacturers' submissions.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS

CUTS IN DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET—DEMISE OF WINNIPEG FRESHWATER SCIENCE TEAMS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

(Response to questions raised by Hon. Janis Johnson on June 21, 1995)

The Freshwater Institute (FWI), one of the world's leading research centres for freshwater fisheries research, is the regional headquarters of the Central and Arctic Region