

On the basis of what we know about the records for the last eight years of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Lands and Forests in Edmonton, and what we know generally about the habits of hunters and gun owners, we would estimate there are 200,000 individual gun owners in Alberta owning an average of three sporting firearms each for an estimated total of 600,000 sporting firearms in Alberta.

Over three years ago, when Mr. Scammell became president of the Alberta Fish and Game Association, he was instructed by a resolution passed by the delegates to the Annual Conference to commence work with the C.W.F. and with the Canadian Government toward the passage of responsible firearms control legislation, the general feature of which would be a scheme to licence firearm users. To our knowledge the Alberta Fish and Game Association was the first large organization of responsible sportsmen in Canada to call for and work toward responsible firearms legislation.

While there are a number of matters that concern us about Bill C-83 which have been given to you in detail in our Policy Statement and in the brief of the Canadian Wildlife Federation which we support, we feel in our brief here we must state that fundamentally we support the concept of licencing of gun owners. This does not mean we support Bill C-83 in its present form, because we do not.

Our major concerns regarding the scheme of licencing of gun owners set out in Bill C-83 are that we would prefer to have the Federal Government merely require the licencing and establish guidelines and