

REGINA, Saskatchewan,  
S4S 0B3  
February 17, 1976

The Honourable Ron Basford,  
Minister of Justice,  
Department of Justice,  
West Memorial Building,  
OTTAWA, Ontario.  
K1A 0H8

Dear Mr. Basford:

Re: Firearm Control.

I apologize for my delay in responding to the proposals for a more effective manner in controlling the use of firearms as presented by you at the meeting in Edmonton on November 14. As indication in my letter to you of December 10 I wanted to distribute the proposals to the chiefs of police of the major municipal police forces in the Province and solicit their views in respect to them. We have now received their opinions and I feel I am now in a position to provide you with our assessment of the proposals.

There is strong support for the suggestion to increase the maximum penalties for the offences identified in the memorandum. A number of chiefs of police expressed the view that minimum penalties should be provided, however, we recognize this has not been the practice in recent years, and a problem of inadequate sentences may be met through stronger representation to the court in the case of offences involving firearms.

One of the greatest concerns to the police is the lack of authority in the current provisions of the Criminal Code to search and seize for firearms and other offensive weapons when they encounter situations involving disturbed, or emotionally distressed individuals, or those under the influence of alcohol or drugs. One of the most common examples of this is the family dispute where husband and wife or other members of the family become involved in a domestic quarrel, which involves physical