

### Preparation of Bill C-83 and Consultation

The S.W.F. seriously questions the manner in which the Government prepared this legislation. It appears the legislation has been under consideration for over a year. Although the main feature of the firearms section is to impose a Federal firearms licensing scheme upon over two million Canadians, there has been absolutely no meaningful consultation with the citizen groups representing the firearms users in this country. Although the S.W.F. has over 24,000 members, the majority of whom use firearms, we were NEVER consulted prior to the introduction of this legislation. We object strenuously to this lack of consultation.

It appears to us that the firearms controls in Bill C-83 are based almost entirely on recommendations from several sources in Ontario who are pro gun control.

Furthermore, we wish to point out that in a letter sent to the Honourable Ron Basford from our Attorney General, Mr. Romanow, on February 17, 1976 (a copy of which is attached to our brief), Mr. Romanow explained that he had distributed the proposals on the firearms controls to the chiefs of police in the province to solicit their views. Mr. Romanow also stated that he had received their opinions and was in a position to provide the Justice Minister with an assessment of the proposals which he proceeded to do in the letter.

The point we would like to make is that before our Attorney General had the opportunity to obtain and assess the views of the Saskatchewan police chiefs, the legislation was approximately one week away from being presented to parliament. We therefore suggest there was not adequate consultation with the law officers or Attorney General of our province in the drafting of Bill C-83.

### Presentation and explanation of Bill C-83

We object to the manner in which major changes in firearms legislation were lumped together in one Bill with other amendments to the criminal code. We sincerely believe that the firearms legislation should be debated separately from the other sections of Bill C-83.

We object to the manner in which the legislation has been explained to the public by mailing thousands of fancy multicolor packages containing explanatory notes and pamphlets on the program, while at the same time seldom sending copies of Bill C-83. It appears to us that the government is trying to deliberately camouflage the contents of Bill C-83, in an attempt to confuse a great block of law-abiding Canadians who will have no real opportunity to understand the proposal, much less to respond.

There is a tremendous resentment all across Saskatchewan towards the government for proposing such misleading, useless and costly firearms legislation. To our knowledge, no other legislation has ever disturbed so many people and created the possibility of such a disrespect for the law and the legislators.

### General Conclusions

The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation is firmly opposed to a "Federal Firearms Licensing Scheme" and is committed to use every resource at our disposal to defeat such a scheme while at the same time continuing our support to those people who will oppose it.

The S.W.F. sincerely believes that there are alternatives to the proposed legislation as