

THE ALBERTA FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION
POLICY ON FIREARMS CONTROL

Passed Unanimously at the 1976 Annual Conference - Calgary

GENERAL VIEWS

The Alberta Fish and Game Association is a federation of more than one hundred local Fish and Game Associations and Rod and Gun Clubs in the Province, comprising generally over 20,000 individual members. This group is the only united voice of the some 125,000 resident hunters who buy licenses annually in Alberta. A considerable number of our members are also firearms collectors, and engage in various forms of target shooting, whether with shotguns, handguns or rifles. There is no question that the members of our organization and gun owners generally in Alberta have become concerned over the past ten years or so with the outcry - generally for universal firearms registration - that results whenever some demented person commits an offence with some firearm anywhere in Canada. We are a group of western Canadians and find it difficult to understand why the way of life in eastern Canada necessitates that all Canadians must be subjected to universal firearm registration.

Recently, Albertans have been subjected to a new aspect of registration grafted onto the existing provisions for handgun registration in the form of Policy Guidelines issued by Alberta's Solicitor-General to, in effect, the police who administer handgun permit applications in Alberta. If there had been any lessening of the distrust of gun owners in Alberta for the element of arbitrariness inherent in any registration scheme, the Policy Guidelines now in force in Alberta have convinced Alberta gun owners