

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee;

The B. C. Wildlife Federation is a non-profit conservation organization legally constituted and registered under the laws of British Columbia. We are a provincial body representing some 18,000 individual members through 150 affiliated clubs. The vast majority of these members are hunters and fishermen, a factor which explains our historic concern and interest in firearms legislation and our present interest in Bill C-83.

We take pride in the fact that British Columbia today has just about the best firearms legislation in Canada, and a good deal of it exists because of our efforts. Contrary to what some of you may have been led to believe, this organization does not oppose firearms legislation as a basic principle. Our record speaks for itself. We always have supported and always will support and work for sensible, workable firearms legislation wherein the benefits provided society at large, outweigh the penalties imposed on that society. We have not and will not, however, as some do and would have us do, support legislation for legislation's sake. We repeat again, to gain our support, legislation must be sensible, workable and provide benefits to society at large. We see little evidence of this criteria in the changes Bill C-83 makes to present firearms legislation.

Here we stress that even if the forementioned factors were present in the firearms section of Bill C-83 (and we submit they are not), that legislation, without the will and desire of the government to carry it out and enforce it, is nothing more than words on paper. A close check of the records of any of our courts today will show conclusively that this will and desire