

Our Junior Rifle Committee operates as a very active committee of the Manitoba Wildlife Federation.

The Manitoba Wildlife Federation is comprised of 141 affiliates with over 15,000 members.

Almost 300 of these members are qualified Junior Rifle Instructors. Besides operating clubs within our Federation we also provide training to Boy Scout clubs, 4-H groups, and other community organizations.

Presently we have approximately 2,000 youngsters from age 12 to 18 taking our program. Junior Rifle instructors also are the basis of the Manitoba Hunter Safety Training Program sponsored by the Manitoba government. Over 30,000 students have received this training.

We support the views, concerns, and recommendations presented to your Committee by the Canadian Wildlife Federation. However, there are parts of Bill C-83 that we as firearm owners, users, and instructors would like to express disagreement with.

The principal areas of our concern are:

- (1) Section 106-11-12-13. We understand consideration has been given to lowering the age to 12 years from 14 to coincide with ages accepted by some provinces for purposes of firearms training.
- (2) Section 106-11 leaves discretionary powers to the local registrar under which the applicant must prove his need for a permit. In some cases this could deprive many young people from legitimate recreation and training if the registrar is opposed to issuance of said permits to this age class. We object strongly to the proposal "A permit "MAY" be issued by a local registrar of firearms if he is satisfied that the applicant therefore "REQUIRES".