

Mandatory Waiting Period (1st-time Applicants)

The Special Committee has recommended, in addition to the mandatory training program, a 28-day mandatory waiting period before anyone could receive a Firearms Acquisition Certificate.

The purpose of the mandatory training program is to provide an extensive course, based on national standards, on the safe use and storage of firearms. Such courses cannot be completed quickly if one is to be provided with an extensive training program. Therefore, the so-called "cooling-off period" is automatically built-in to the training program. Furthermore, the requirement to provide the names of two references will allow authorities to conduct a proper investigation which will be enough to ascertain whether the applicant should be given a Firearms Acquisition Certificate.

In the more rural areas of the country, where training programs will be scarcer than in the urban areas, this will mean an individual could wait months before he or she can purchase an FAC. The mandatory waiting period as proposed by the Special Committee will go well beyond 28 days. I therefore recommend the following:

Recommendation 2

It is recommended that the legislation provide that an FAC be issued after a 28-day waiting period or after the successful completion of the implemented mandatory training course, whichever comes first.

Chapter 3 - Types of Firearms

I agree with the Special Committee recommendations which would prohibit all firearms manufactured as fully-automatics but have been converted to fire in the semi-automatic mode.

It is the recommendations respecting military and para-military firearms which I cannot support. During its hearings, the Special Committee heard from many collectors and from many international and national shooting organizations who would be affected by the recommendations of the Special Committee. It is generally accepted that certain restrictions must apply, but to prohibit them entirely would put an end to Canada's participation in international shooting competitions and it would put an end to collectors in the longer term.