

The Special Committee's recommendations do not address a number of potential FAC screening mechanisms. These include: interviews with the applicant's spouse, who is in all likelihood the closest potential victim of firearm misuse; neighbours; employers or, where an applicant is a member, gun clubs might be consulted. I believe through more careful screening the FAC process may prevent some misuse of guns and save lives.

### Ammunition

The Special Committee rejected the suggestion made by a number of witnesses that a FAC be shown in order to buy ammunition. According to the Canadian Police Association such a proposal would make it much more difficult for criminals to obtain ammunition for stolen guns "and it might add 30 or 40 seconds to the time of the legitimate gun owner."

I understand the concern that this requirement would transform the FAC into a possession certificate as well as the difficulties of enforcing such a law. I still see the proposal as worthy of further consideration. I suggest that the Canadian Advisory Council on Firearms study the practicality of controls on ammunition and make the appropriate recommendation to the Minister and the House of Commons.

### Criminal Misuse of Firearms

The Special Committee proposes much stiffer penalties for criminal misuse of firearms. For example, it is recommended that the minimum term for the use of a gun in the commission of a crime be tripled.

I agree with this recommendation. However, I believe the Special Committee mistakenly sees longer sentences as a trade-off for weakening the controls on firearms of Bill C-80. The focus on jail terms for criminals is an easy one for politicians. In some ways, it is an extension of the oft-heard phrase, "guns don't kill people, people kill people." We need strong controls on firearms and tough penalties for those who misuse them. People with guns kill people.

### The Canadian Advisory Council on Firearms

The Canadian Advisory Council on Firearms has been assigned responsibility in 9 of the Committee's recommendations. While the Council can play a useful role in developing gun control policy, we must guard against two developments.

First, that this Council appointed by the Minister of Justice with no specific regulatory power should not become a dumping ground for gun control issues which require action.