

Introduction

The majority of the Special Committee's Report on the Subject Matter of C-80 (Firearms) is acceptable in terms of its recommendations regarding a national, mandatory training program for firearms users, the new requirements for a Firearms Acquisition Certificate for first-time applicants, the FAC renewal process, the FAC requirements for a photograph and references, the fee structure for the FAC process, amnesties, an expanded role for the Canadian Advisory Council on Firearms and the increased penalties for the criminal misuse of firearms. These recommendations are good ones which I support wholeheartedly.

The difficulties I have in supporting certain recommendations made by the Special Committee, lie with the mandatory waiting period, the types of firearms proposed to be prohibited and/or restricted, magazine capacity and the use of the definition "device" in the Criminal Code.

I do not believe these areas recommended by the Committee are workable both at the administrative level and at the judicial level and they will put severe restrictions on the legitimate users of these firearms. Furthermore, I believe that should all of the recommendations of the Special Committee be adopted by the federal government, new legislation drafted based on these recommendations will lead to the exact same situation we experienced with C-80.

Bill C-80, "An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Customs Tariff in consequence thereof"

During the many hours of testimony from witnesses on both sides of the issues, the Special Committee heard that Bill C-80, introduced in June, 1990, was unacceptable.

Based on the recommendations of the Special Committee, my own recommendations and the evidence heard by the many witnesses, the government cannot possibly proceed with Bill C-80 in its present form. I therefore put forward the following recommendation:

Recommendation 1

It is recommended that the Minister of Justice move immediately to withdraw Bill C-80 from the Order Paper and instruct her officials to begin a new process for a new piece of legislation which would include an extensive consultation process.