



The Coalition News



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RESPONSIBLE FIREARMS OWNERS COALITION - April / May 2000

Licences

As you are probably aware, the Canadian Firearms Center, as an agent for the Federal government, is advertising heavily in the media. Canadian tax dollars are being spent for T.V. spots, and ads in major and community newspapers. **The Firearms Act requires that all firearms owners possess a licence by January 1, 2001.** This required licence may be either a Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC), a Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL) or a Possession Licence (PL). . The message that is being touted is "Don't Delay, Apply Now" It is important to note that one of the new licences **is not required for a holder of an FAC until the expiry date of the FAC.**

The RFOCBC is not opposed to the concept of licencing firearms owners but.... We are opposed to the costs, to the requirement to renew your licence every five years, and to the very intrusive nature of the questions being asked on the application form.

To date, very few gun owners have applied for a licence. As of March 31st, the CFC has reported that 409,631 individuals possess a licence. However, 267,307 licences are held by individuals under the previous FAC method. Of the approximately 187,000 applications received since December 1998, only 142,324 have been issued. Delays in the system are chronic; waits of six months are not uncommon. The three to seven million Canadian firearms owners are not rushing to licence themselves. As can be seen, the CFC is **processing less than nine thousand applications per month.** To complete this monumental task would require between 277,000 (based on 3 million owners) and 722,000 (based on 7 million owners) applications to be processed each and every month from March to the end of December. Is a 3,000% to 8,000% increase in productivity to be expected? **The Firearms Act is in trouble.**

As responsible firearms owners, the RFOCBC does not advocate breaking the law. We also do not, however, suggest that gun owners make the work of the CFC any less onerous. The Firearms Act Regulations state "*A chief firearms officer may not issue a licence referred to in subsection 3(1) (refers to a PAL) to an applicant until at least 28 days have elapsed since the application was made, unless the applicant holds, at the time for applying for a licence,*

- (a) a FAC that is deemed under section 120 of the Act to be a licence; or
- (b) a licence to possess and acquire firearms.

Applicants for a firearms licence should allow the CFC at least 28 days plus mailing time for their licence to be processed. November 15th 2000 should be sufficient.

Obviously, the CFC would have tremendous difficulty supplying all gun owners with a licence by December 31st. But, according to the law at present, anyone who possesses a firearm on January 1 and who does not also possess a firearms licence is committing a criminal act. What are they to do? Another amnesty? A temporary licence? A large whisky?

Obtain your application form from the Post Office and have it prepared for mailing (including your photograph). We suggest that all licence applications be mailed "double registered". Be sure to keep your receipts as proof of application.

REGISTRATION LEADS TO CONFISCATION

RFOC BC, P.O. Box 93052, LANGLEY, B.C. V3A 8H2

Phone: 604-532-8048

Web Site: <http://www.rfocbc.com>

Email: admin@rfocbc.com

Fax: 604-532-0380

Hollow Point Ammunition: Legal or Not?

A great deal of misinformation has been circulating about the legal status of the infamous "hollow point" ammunition (now identified as controlled expansion bullets). It has been commonly believed by the police (and us) that this type of pistol ammunition was illegal to possess or use by civilians. However, a search of the Firearms Act and the Explosives Act have turned up no references to hollow point bullets.

The Executive Director of **CILA**, Tony Bernardo, made some inquiries and received the following response from the Chief Inspector of Explosives, Mr. C.G. Watson.

"Hollow point handgun ammunition has been the subject of administrative controls since the early 1980s. As there were no domestic manufacturers of HP handgun ammunition, controls were placed on importation. Importation permits are only issued to law enforcement agencies and their suppliers for the HP handgun ammunition."

Although the Explosives Act supports the regulation making powers to determine who may possess certain types and classes of explosives, there are no regulations in place at this time prohibiting the possession and use of hollow point ammunition by the general public. There are also no restrictions on importing the projectiles (bullets)."

So there you have it. The only restriction on the ammunition is on the importation of the loaded cartridges. It is perfectly legal to bring in the bullets and load your own. It is also legal to have them in your possession for use at the range. We hope that this will clear up any questions you might have. (The full text of this letter is available on the **CILA** web site: www.cila.org)

The "Stick to your Guns 2000" dinner was another enormous success. Over 350 people crammed the Rembrandt Banquet Hall in Toronto for an evening of celebration March 25th. MC Rick Hamilton did his usual bang up job and auctioneer Keith Monk was extremely entertaining, delighting the crowd. Everyone was thrilled by the presence of little Dakotah Lynn Van Veen and over \$2500 was raised for the **Dakotah Fund**. Special congratulations to George Zuskan of Thamesville Ontario. He was the winner of the **CILA Second Anniversary Commemorative SAKO Rifle**. (sorry to all those folks who entered the draw...better luck next year!)

Powder Storage

As always, there exist government regulations that apply to our activities. The amount of gunpowder and small arms propellant that an individual may possess is limited to a maximum of 75kg (165 pounds). A person may possess up to 75 kilograms of gunpowder and small arms propellant if they are stored in accordance with Part XII of the Explosives Act. "Explosives" may be stored in either a "detached store" or a "suitable receptacle". Up to 75kg may be stored in a detached store and up to 10kg (22 pounds) in a suitable receptacle(s). Suitable receptacles will probably be the method of choice for most reloaders. A suitable receptacle means a "substantial box "or "substantial container" that conforms to the following paraphrased provisions.

- It shall be made of wood copper or other suitable material. (non-ferrous metals).
- It shall have a closely fitting lid secured by a lock, and hinges and fastenings, preferably of copper or brass
- The interior and all fittings therein shall be constructed to prevent the exposure of iron, steel or any hard gritty surface.
- The word EXPLOSIVES must be conspicuously displayed thereon.
- Brass cased ammunition, primers and powder may be kept in the same receptacle but due to the weight of ammunition and the aggregate limit of 10 kg per receptacle you are advised to store ammunition in a separate locked container.

This article is only a condensed version of the material concerning explosives storage that is contained in the Explosives Act. For those members that partake in reloading we suggest that you read the appropriate sections of the Explosives Act. The complete act is available on the Canadian government website.

The CILA Annual General Assembly held in Langley.

Representatives of the recreational firearms community came from across Canada to Langley, the birthplace of **the Canadian Institute for Legislative Action**, to discuss items of interest. After the meeting, **CILA** Executive Director **Tony Bernardo** began a swing through our province, making stops in **Kamloops, Nanaimo, Chilliwack, Langley and Coquitlam**. Tony discussed items of vital importance to the shooters of this province like the **United Nations Initiatives** and changes to the implementation of the Firearms Act. Many thanks to the many clubs for their invaluable assistance that made this visit possible.

NUMBER OF RESTRICTED FIREARMS IN CANADA 1,204,998 NUMBER OF RESTRICTED FIREARMS IN B.C. 161,000
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Ontario Handgun Association Changes Name and Mandate

The Ontario Handgun Association has changed its name, mandate, logo and slogan. The association has broadened its wings to encompass all of the shooting sports in Ontario. The OHA has now become the Canadian Shooting Sports Association (CSSA). The Ontario Smallbore Federation has voted to merge with the new expanded organization, and the Ontario Rifle Association (full-bore rifle) and the Ontario Arms Collectors Association have also voted to support the new group. Their new website will soon be available at <http://www.cdnsportingsports.org>

ATTs - The Saga Continues

Applied for a three year and only received a one year? The probable reason is the status of your club. The CFO is issuing three year ATTs to members of clubs that have been inspected and approved. Two year ATTs to members whose clubs have been inspected and approved with some conditions attached. One year ATTs are being issued to members of clubs that have not yet been inspected or approved.

You may obtain a Long Term ATT (to take your guns to the range) even if you do not yet have a Firearms Licence. The CFO will apply a condition that it expires on December 31, 2000.

Little Quiz True or False

_____ 1. Chapter 39, Statutes of Canada 1995 (known as Bill C-68) is divided into two parts, *The Firearms Act* and *Criminal Code Part III*.

_____ 2. Effective December 1, 1998, every firearm sold must be registered.

_____ 3. Before you register any firearms, you must first have a licence.

_____ 4. According to regulation, you must have a locking device on your firearm while you are transporting it.

_____ 5. In order to inherit a firearm, you must first obtain a Possession and Acquisition Licence.

_____ 6. The Possession Only Licence background check includes only a criminal record check.

_____ 7. You are required by law to cooperate during a firearm "inspection".

_____ 8. A Possession and Acquisition Licence entitles you to purchase any firearm which is not banned.

_____ 9. According to regulations, firearms must always be stored separate from ammunition.

_____ 10. A .22 rimfire magazine cannot legally hold more than 5 rounds.

Multiple Choice

_____ 1. The deadline for registering all your firearms is

- (a) December 1, 1998
(b) December 31, 2002

- (c) December 31, 2001
(d) January 31, 2003

_____ 2. If you wait until the deadline to register all your firearms at once it will cost you
(a) \$10 (b) \$25
(c) \$18 (d) \$60

_____ 3. The cost of the "administrative transfer fee" to register a firearm you buy is
(a) \$10 (b) \$25
(c) \$50 (d) \$100

_____ 4. The deadline for obtaining a firearms licence is
(a) December 1, 1998
(b) December 31, 2002
(c) December 31, 2000
(d) January 1, 2003

_____ 5. After December 31, 2000 you will need a firearms licence to purchase
(a) a hunting licence
(b) a range membership
(c) a fishing licence
(d) ammunition

_____ 6. In 1997 semi-automatic and pump-action firearms were banned and destroyed in what country?
(a) Sweden (b) France
(c) Canada (d) Australia

_____ 7. The federal government has gone far over-budget in implementing the new firearms legislation. It promises to pay for the system by
(a) cost-recovery through user pay
(b) a general tax
(c) extra health care premiums
(d) voluntary payments through lotteries

_____ 8. Firearms stored in the home must be:
(a) disabled by a locking device
(b) locked in a container
(d) locked in a room
(e) disabled by removing the bolt
(f) kept from immediate use by any one of the above.

_____ 9. The Alberta Supreme Court Challenge is about:
(a) eliminating gun control legislation in Canada
(b) who has the right to licence owners and register "ordinary firearms", provinces or the federal government
(c) whether provinces can make criminal laws
(d) the federal government's right to licence drivers

_____ 10. The following have not joined Alberta as interveners at the Supreme Court of Canada to challenge parts of federal firearms legislation:
(a) Saskatchewan and Ontario
(b) Quebec and British Columbia
(c) Manitoba and Yukon
(d) Nova Scotia and New Brunswick

Answers

True or False

- (1) T (2) T (3) T (4) F
(5) T (6) F (7) T (8) F
(9) F (10) F

Multiple Choice

- (1) B (2) C (3) B (4) C
(5) D (6) D (7) A (8) F
(9) B (10) B

Import / Export Permits

Although you'd never know it by the problems our distributors are having every day, handguns, rifles and ammunition are supposedly moving north again across the border. Apparently, the U.S. State Department lifted restrictions on weapons exports to Canada. "Everything is back to normal," Nathalie Dube, a spokeswoman for Canada's Foreign Affairs department, said yesterday. Earlier this year, the U.S. State Department, concerned by Canada's seemingly enormous appetite for handguns, announced it would not issue any more export licenses to firms seeking to bring weapons and ammunition into this country. The Americans became concerned when it was discovered that the U.S. had issued export licenses to Canadian firms for 115,000 handguns, 25,000 rifles and 200 million rounds of ammunition. In response, Foreign Affairs launched a review of the import certificates it issued since last April to Canadian gun dealers. The department wanted to ensure the weapons were destined for "legitimate" gun dealers and not the international black market. Ms. Dube said yesterday that the review has confirmed that most of the cross-border weapons trade involved only "paper guns." "It was a bit of a misunderstanding," she said. "There were, in fact, only 1,500 guns that actually crossed the border."

Be sure to visit:

PRINCE GEORGE OUTDOOR LEISURE AND GUN SHOW

Prince George Golf and Curling Club

(corner of Hwy 97N and Hwy
16W)

April 29 & 30 / 2000

Saturday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Support Those Who Support You

RFOC BUSINESS ALLIANCE MEMBERS

We wish to thank the following companies for their generous and loyal support

- C.Brown Transport and Leasing – Langley
- Fyfe Fire Sprinklers Ltd. - Victoria
- Grand Forks Glass Ltd. – Grand Forks
- Martlen Enterprises - Surrey
- Riverbend Metal (1997) Corp. – Surrey
- Coldstream Truck Parts – Vernon
- Fyfe's Well Drilling Ltd – Qualicum
- Northwest Guides and Outfitters- Smithers
- Rainbow Mechanical Ltd. – Surrey
- South Coast Signs Ltd.- Surrey

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

FOR THOSE LAPSED MEMBERS THAT RECEIVED A RED INSERT FORM:

This is your **FINAL NOTICE**. Renew now to continue receiving information on firearms issues.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

RESPONSIBLE FIREARMS OWNERS COALITION OF BC

Member No. _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____

Postal Code _____ Telephone _____

Age _____ Occupation _____

New Renewal Change of Address

\$15 One Year Membership Cheque

\$25 One Year Silver Membership Visa

\$50 One Year Gold Membership Master
Card

And/or Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Credit Card# _____

Exp.Date _____

Make Cheque Payable & Mail To:

RFOC BC PO Box 93052

LANGLEY, BC V3A 8H2 Telephone: (604) 532-8048 Fax (604) 532-0380

Yes I would like to be an RFOC Volunteer

BC Societies #S-32155 NL 04/00