



## How the Law Applies to Me If...

### I AM A MINOR TARGET SHOOTER

The *Firearms Act* brings about changes that will affect firearms owners and users.

This fact sheet is of interest to you if:

- you are 12 to 17 years old, and
- you use firearms for target shooting.

#### MINOR'S POSSESSION LICENCE (Form JUS 671)

A minor's possession licence will permit you to use non-restricted firearms (rifles and shotguns) for:

- target practice,
- instruction in the use of firearms, and
- taking part in organized shooting competitions.

A minor's licence will not permit you to acquire (buy, inherit, receive as a gift, or take in trade) firearms. You may, however, acquire ammunition with a minor's possession licence.

A minor's licence will allow a minor 12 to 17 years of age to use non-restricted firearms. All licenses will be subject to conditions, which may include supervision. In some situations, you may be permitted to use restricted and/or prohibited firearms under supervision (see below).

You and/or your parent or a person who has custody of you will be interviewed by a firearms officer. Your parent or guardian must agree to

the conditions under which you may use firearms, and must give their consent, before a minor's licence will be issued to you.

Your minor's licence will expire on the earlier of:

- the day you turn 18 years old, or
- on the expiry date shown on your licence.

The cost for a minor's possession licence is \$10 for up to one year, \$20 for one to two years and \$30 for over two years.

If you have a minor's permit now, you may continue to use it until it expires.

#### USING FIREARMS WITHOUT A MINOR'S PERMIT OR LICENCE

Under certain circumstances, the *Firearms Act* allows a young person who does not have either a minor's permit or possession licence to still take part in activities where they handle and shoot firearms.

This provision affects cadets or members of other youth organizations who receive instruction in the use of firearms or take part in target practice. It also applies to young people who use restricted or prohibited firearms in organized shooting competitions.

The law states that if you don't have a minor's permit or possession licence, you can still use firearms so long as you are under the **direct and immediate** supervision of a licensed adult. This means that the licensed adult must be physically close enough to you to be able to take any action necessary to prevent you from doing anything with the firearm that is unsafe or against the law.

### **CANADIAN FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE**

To get a minor's possession licence, the general rule is that you will have to successfully complete the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC) **and** pass the CFSC test.

If you have already taken the CFSC and passed the test, you will not have to repeat it unless a court order has prohibited you from possessing firearms. If this is the case, you will be required to re-take the Canadian Firearms Safety Course **and** pass the test before you may apply for your minor's possession licence.

If you only use firearms under the direct and immediate supervision of a licensed adult, you do not have to take the Canadian Firearms Safety Course or pass the test.

If you want to acquire firearms as an adult (18 years of age or over), you have to pass the Canadian Firearms Safety Course test.

### **REGISTRATION**

Under the new *Firearms Act*, all firearms have to be registered by January 1, 2003. Only people who are 18 years of age or older may register firearms. This means that any firearm(s) that you use after that date will have to be registered to an adult who has either a valid firearms licence or FAC.

### **SHOOTING CLUBS AND RANGES**

Regulations for the approval of shooting clubs and ranges have now been finalized. Anyone wanting to start or operate a shooting club must first get the approval of the provincial or territorial Chief Firearms Officer (CFO). The club must operate from an approved shooting range, be insured for liability and keep track of its membership and guests. Existing operating approvals are valid until December 1, 1999.

Ranges must also comply with safety standards, obtain CFO approval and ensure that insurance prerequisites are met. Range operators will be responsible for safety.

For more information, call our Enquiries Centre toll-free at 1 800 731-4000.

### **COMING INTO FORCE**

The *Firearms Act* is being phased in from December 1, 1998 to January 1, 2003.

### **INFORMATION**

For more information, or to order a copy of the *Firearms Act*, its regulations, application forms and other CFC publications, contact us at:

1 800 731-4000 (Toll Free)

Web site: [www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca](http://www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca)

e-mail: [canadian.firearms@justice.gc.ca](mailto:canadian.firearms@justice.gc.ca)

**This fact sheet is intended to provide general information only. For legal references, please refer to the *Firearms Act* and its regulations.**

**Provincial, territorial and municipal laws, regulations and policies may also apply.**

*Le présent feuillet d'information est également disponible en français.*