

*The National Firearms Association and a growing number of firearms, hunting and shooting organisations have been working very hard on this issue.*

*Here is the link on our website on this issue.*

*<http://www.nfa.ca/NFAresponse2.html>*

*Through October, we have been in communication with both Chris Watson, the Director of the Explosive's Branch and the Minister, Hon. John Efford MP.*

*Here is the text of the letter we sent to Minister Efford;*

06 October 2004

Hon John Efford MP

Minister of Natural Resources

Via Fax...

Dear Sir,

The Department of Natural Resources -- Explosives Branch is in the process of reviewing the regulations regarding personal reloading of ammunition, and is apparently intending to amend the regulations.

This is an area of concern for the National Firearms Association, as many of our 150,000 members across Canada are also reloaders.

The Explosives Branch has placed this information requesting public input on their website. So has the National Firearms Association.

Having read some of the several hundred letters that we have received on this matter, I am concerned.

There appear to be two issues here.

First, what is really needed is not new regulations, but education regarding the existing regulations. Reloaders are, as a whole, people who are very safety conscious. In reloading, the National Firearms Association, and every manufacturer of reloading equipment and supplies, including smokeless powder, have published safety guidelines and manuals on the subject.

Second, it appears from my discussions with Dr. Christopher Watson is that in the specific area of reloading the Department of Natural Resources -- Explosives Branch is not following the same procedures they use with other user groups.

Last Saturday, I had a telephone discussion with Dr. Watson -- yes, he was working on Saturday -- about this. I proposed a solution to him on this, and would like to share it with you.

I have invited Dr. Watson to join an existing user-group of industry professionals and organizations, the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities (WFSA) Manufacturers Advisory Group (MAG).

The MAG can provide far greater expertise than a public survey of random individuals ever could. This group already meets annually and includes industry professionals and user groups, and should include a representative of the Explosives Branch.

I have taken the liberty of making contact with the Secretariat of the WFSA (of which the National Firearms Association is an Executive Member) regarding this matter, and I have been informed that such a representative would be welcomed.

The National Firearms Association believes that the MAG will serve as a better sounding board and that contact with professionals in this area will ensure that the latest and best information is available to the Department.

The National Firearms Association, working with industry groups and professionals, would work with the Department of Natural Resources --Explosives Branch to produce safety training materials and advertisements. These materials should be available to expand public awareness in this area.

The results of these efforts will increase awareness of public safety issues among re-loaders.

I suggest that this is a "win-win" proposition for all involved parties.

Sincerely,

James M. Hinter

National President

Cc: Dr. Christopher Watson, DNR - Explosives Branch