

INFORMATION FOR HUNTERS AND FIREARMS LICENSE APPLICANTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What must I do to acquire firearms or keep the ones I presently own?

The federal **Firearms Act** requires that every individual who owns firearms, or who uses firearms in their lawful occupation, to be in possession of a valid firearms license. Individuals are required to be continuously licensed as long as they own a firearm.

If you want to own firearms and have not met these requirements, then the first step you must take is to apply to take the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (shotguns &/or rifles) and/or the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course (hand guns). Once you have passed the written & practical tests you may then apply for your firearms license.

2. What are my options if I decide to dispose of my firearms?

You may dispose of your firearms by selling or giving them to an individual or business (including a museum), that is the holder of a valid firearms license that permits them to acquire that class of firearms. As well, you may turn over your firearms to a Firearms Officer at the Provincial Firearms Office for destruction or donation to the firearm safety program. They can be reached at 902-368-5536. The other alternative is to have the firearms deactivated by a licensed gunsmith. For additional information on this alternative, please contact the Firearms Office

3. I have never owned firearms and I wish to buy one. What are the steps I must take to achieve the above?

You must register for a Canadian Firearms Safety/Hunter Education Training Course. You can do this at the Prince Edward Island Wildlife Federation or at any Access PEI Centre. The fee to register is **\$60** for adults. Your registration form will be forwarded to the Prince Edward Island Fish and Wildlife Section office and kept on file. When a course becomes available in your area, you can call 368-4683 and your name will be added to the list of participants.

The Firearm Safety/Hunter Education & Safety Training is divided into two parts. Upon successful completion of part A, you can apply for a Firearms Possession and Acquisition License (**PAL**), which is required if you wish to acquire a firearm. You apply for a **PAL** by completing the application form and mailing it to the Central Processing Site in New Brunswick. There is a 28 day waiting period to process your application for your first PAL and it is valid for five years.

If you wish to hunt on PEI, you must also successfully complete part B, the Hunter Education Training. Upon successful completion you will be issued a Firearms Safety Certificate (**FSC**). The **FSC** is a wallet size orange card which you must have, while in possession of a firearm in game habitat.

4. I want to buy a new firearm for target shooting but I never intend to hunt. Must I take the safety training course?

Yes. You must complete Part A, the Canadian Firearms Safety Course which meets the firearms safety requirement for a Firearms Possession and Acquisition License. If you wish to hunt then you must also complete Part B - the Hunter Education Training. You may use a firearm that belongs to someone else provided you are under their direct supervision they can legally possess the firearm. If you are in game habitat you are still required to have a **FSC**.

5. I took the Gun Safety Course fifteen years ago and received a green card. Does this qualify me to apply for a Firearms Possession and Acquisition License?

No. The Canadian Firearms Safety Course

(**CFSC**) became a requirement on **01 January 1994**. You must have taken the **CFSC** or challenged and passed the tests after this date in order to meet the requirements for a **Firearms Possession & Acquisition License**.

6. What are the requirements if I want to buy a hand gun?

You will require a **PAL** that provides for acquisition of restricted firearms (**\$80**). In order to qualify for this class of **PAL**, you will require certification in firearms safety training in both **non-restricted** and **restricted firearms**. You do this by taking the **Canadian Firearms Safety Course** and the **Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course**, or by challenging the tests for both courses. The cost to challenge either course will be \$80. Challenges are held every Wednesday at the Forests Fish and Wildlife Office at 183 Upton Road in Charlottetown from 4 to 6 p.m. If you wish to take a challenge you must call 901 368-4683 one week in advance to make an appointment. If you fail the challenge you must register again.

7. Under what circumstances is a Minors License required?

When a minor, a person twelve (12) to seventeen (17) years of age is in possession of a shotgun or rifle and under the "direct supervision" of a person who can legally possess that firearm a Minors License under the federal Firearms Act is not required.

"Direct Supervision" means that the licensed supervisor is close enough to the unlicensed person to observe and influence their conduct. An example of this would be two hunters in a blind, one licensed and one not.

Both hunters must be in possession of a Prince Edward Island **FSC** but only one needs to have a **PAL** (or Possession only license (POL)).

In order to **use** a non-restricted (shotgun or rifle) for instructional purposes, target shooting or hunting when alone a Minors permit is required. These would only be issued under exceptional circumstances and are always subject to conditions of set by the minor's parent or guardian and the Provincial Firearms Office. For example, the province of Prince Edward Island allows minors who are at least sixteen years of age to hunt by themselves (no supervision). In such a circumstance, the minor would require a Minors License.

FIREARMS SAFETY AND HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINING COURSE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. You need a Firearms Possession & Acquisition License (PAL) if:

- You wish to buy a firearm or receive one as a gift, including by way of inheritance, or if
- You wish to work for a firearms business and you have access to firearms in your job, or
- You work as an armed guard.

2. You require certification in firearms safety if: You want to apply for a PAL, or a Minors License or to hunt in PEI.

3. To apply for your PAL you need to demonstrate that you are knowledgeable in firearms safety. You can do this in either of two ways:

- Take the firearms safety course and pass the written and practical tests, or
- By studying the student manual, then challenging and passing the tests alone. Your chances at successfully passing the test will be greatly increased by having taken the course. If you challenge the tests and fail, you will have to then register for a course and the course fees

will again be applicable. **Successful completion of the course and/or the tests is valid for life anywhere in Canada.**

4. If you are a first time hunter in PEI or a hunter born after 01 September 1968, you require certification in **hunting related firearms safety and hunter ethics** by passing an approved hunter education training program. In Prince Edward Island the successful completion of the **CFSC** with the additional hunter education training offered by the Prince Edward Island Wildlife Federation is recognized by the province. Producing evidence of having successfully completed a course that meets the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) guidelines from another province, territory or State is also acceptable.

5. FEES:

License Fees: The license fee for a **PAL** is **\$60.00 for non-restricted firearms** or **\$80.00 for both non-restricted and restricted firearms**. A **PAL** is valid for five years. The applicable fee is payable to the **Receiver General for Canada**.

Safety Training Fees: The fee to be certified in **firearms safety and/or hunter education** is **\$60**. Included in this fee are the applicable course, the student handbook and the tests. Minors (persons under 18 years of age) need only purchase the course book for **\$10** and may take the courses free. The **course fee** is payable to the Provincial Treasurer at any of the Access Centres throughout PEI.

6. Course & Test Scheduling: Courses and testing are conducted on weekends at scheduled dates and when a sufficient number of interested candidates are registered. There are also other courses throughout the year which you may .

It is recommended that you read, study, and review the manual(s) which you have received.

The classroom portion consists of lectures, questions and answers, review of reference material, and practical handling of firearms. There will be two tests administered; one written and one practical. The pass mark for each of these tests is **80%**.

Class schedules are as follows:

Friday: 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. CFSC

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CFSC & Testing Session (Sat evening)

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Hunter Education and Practical Testing

Saturdays and Sundays, there will be a one hour lunch break from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

7. How to Register?

To register for a course and/or test, please complete a registration form and make your payment at your local PEI Access Centre. Forms can be picked up at a PEI Access Centre or downloaded from <http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/CFSCregisform.pdf>

Mailing & Contact Information

Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division
183 Upton Road

PO Box 2000

Charlottetown, PE

C1A 7N8

Telephone Number: 902-368-4683

Fax Number: 902-368-4713

Upon receipt of the completed registration form and fee, a student handbook will be provided to you. Please contact the office for a test session or course. The instructors do not collect registration fees or issue receipts. Your receipt from the PEI Access Centre must be produced for verification of payment when you arrive for the course or tests.