

MEMORANDUM

It is recommended that the *Security and Investigative Services Act* should fundamentally be based on existing standards to the greatest degree possible. The rationale for this is that any other method will be very time-consuming, cumbersome, and will lead to a long period of uncertainty, without achieving the desired outcome of providing safety to the public.

If Nova Scotia adopts a currently recognized Canadian standard, we will achieve immediate results in public safety and save the province large amounts of money. If we do not do this, the legislation may have no value for some years.

Provisions can be made to achieve these results without any compromise to the intent of the bill that would follow in future regulations. An amendment that would have significant impact would be to base primary certification of security officers on an existing Canadian General Standards Board standard.

In particular, it is recommended that the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) standard CAN/CGSB-133.1-2008 be used as a base reference for compliance with the act. This base reference can be added to, or subtracted from, for specific categories of individuals who are affected by the act.

For example, security officers and security supervisors would be immediately addressed by this reference. If, for some reason, it was desired to add something to this training in the future, the regulations could provide for that. To accommodate other classifications of workers, variations to the CGSB program could be created for categories such as:

- a. security alarm service, sales, monitoring and/or response personnel;
- b. armoured car personnel;
- c. security consultants;
- d. locksmiths;
- e. bodyguards;
- f. bouncers;
- g. loss prevention personnel; and
- h. any other categories of individual to whom the registrar applies the requirement of training.

The training program for the above listed security professionals would be the CGSB Security Officer Basic Training Program, or any other program that the registrar may develop and prescribe in future regulations. Private investigators will take the training that the registrar specifies.

In the *Security and Investigative Services Act*, clause number 13(5), the following adjustment is recommended.

13 (5) An applicant for a security agent license must

- a. be trained by a recognized training provider of the Canadian General Standards Board in accordance with standard CAN/CGSB-133.1-2008; or
- b. meet any training requirements prescribed in the regulations for the class of license for which the applicant is applying.

The benefits of adopting this approach are as follows:

- the immediate adoption of an enforceable legislation;
- absolute clarity in the requirements as opposed to uncertainty and confusion arising in the process of developing new standards;
- cost savings to the tax payers of Nova Scotia by avoiding the exorbitant cost of producing new standards customized for Nova Scotia;
- less complicated regulations required; and
- a dramatic reduction in the cost for administration of the licensing because the licensing of training providers is done by the Government of Canada and the issuing of training certificates is carried out by the recognized training provider; there is no need for the province to replicate these administrative costs.

There are many cases in which National Standards are adopted by the provincial legislature. The national bridge code is but one example that affects most Nova Scotians.

The above alterations to the draft act would create an immediate improvement to public safety, minimize the administrative cost of the implementation of the legislation, and provide clarity in the process that the majority of those affected can understand.

The proposed approach will allow for future harmonization with other provinces based on a well known and accepted reference point. This harmonization of legislation, while desirable, will take many years to achieve and Nova Scotia can not afford to wait with no improvement.