

On 2 December 1997, a Select Committee of the House of Assembly was appointed to enquire into the arming policy of the RNC. The Committee tabled its report to the House of Assembly on 31 March 1998 and included the recommendation that the arming policy be reviewed at the end of five years, i.e. March 2003.

As at November 2004, no Select Committee had been established to review the arming policy of the RNC.

2.35 Fire Commissioner's Office

The Fire Commissioner's Office needs to do more in inspecting and evaluating the firefighting capabilities of the 297 fire departments throughout the Province and in providing training to the approximately 6,100 firefighters. In particular:

- Over the last five years, only 5 of the 297 fire departments had been formally inspected. The Office does not have a schedule to ensure all fire departments are inspected over any particular period of time. Officials at the Fire Commissioner's Office indicated that inspections performed at 5 fire departments were considered to be representative of many fire departments in the Province and had serious deficiencies relating to breathing apparatuses, vehicles, number of firefighters responding, and training.
- Since 1991, only 700 firefighters have received training to the level of Firefighter I. The Office does not keep information as to how many of the current 6,100 firefighters are trained and how many of the 700 trained firefighters are still in the system.

The Office's database was not Y2K compliant and therefore, data and information could not be captured. As a result, no annual report has been prepared since 1999 and the Commissioner does not have all of the information necessary to monitor fires in the Province including an assessment of the firefighting capabilities of fire departments.