

# As Safe As Our Cargo

## In Brief

### The Issue

Public safety, and the safety of armoured car employees, is increasingly jeopardized by the lack of comprehensive industry regulation. New entrants to the industry and established firms are engaging in heightened price competition on the basis of lowered security standards, resulting in a higher risk of gun crime through armed robbery and providing easier targets for organized crime. Since 2000, there have been more than 70 attacks on armoured cars in Canada, including three fatalities and two serious injuries.

Safety standards and regulations for the armoured car sector in Canada have fallen behind other jurisdictions. The patchwork of current rules is ineffective, over-lapping and at times contradictory. It has resulted in minimal regulation.

Canada needs a comprehensive federal regulatory framework to enhance safety and prevent crime by establishing minimum standards in employee training, vehicle specifications, crew compliments and safety equipment requirements.

### Our Recommendation

For the Minister of Public Safety to establish a taskforce on the armoured car and secure logistics industry that would undertake comprehensive policy research, gather stakeholders' views and develop recommendations and legislative guidance.

### Our Views on Improving Safety

- ✓ **Eliminate the incentive for firms to compete by lowering safety standards.** Standardize firearms, use of force and heavy vehicle training, across the Canadian armoured car industry, including requirements for: 40-hour hand gun range time (and 10-hour shot gun range time) for new hires; twice annual gun re-qualification requirements; use of force training; heavy vehicle licensing (with air brake ticket) and the successful completion of an appropriate defensive driving course.
- ✓ **Minimize the risk for armoured car guards by standardizing work practices,** including: Mandatory 3-person crews, with driver in vehicle, for higher-risk public areas, ATM night bags, cash changes and emergency cash loads; 2-person crews with driver in vehicle for lower-risk and non-valuable calls; requiring all crew to be armed for the movement of valuables and that site risk categories are developed and determined by police.
- ✓ **Establish minimum safety requirements for vehicles, standardized across the armoured car industry.** Ensure all vehicles are equipped with proper communications and emergency equipment and undergo regular maintenance.
- ✓ **Require all armoured car guards wear protective bullet-proof vests** that are replaced regularly and that adhere to the latest police standards.



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