

Dear Members of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security,

Thank you for serving in your important role in the democratic process.

I am opposed to the recently tabled Liberal *Bill C-71: An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to Firearms*, on the basis that this Act:

1. Does nothing to effectively address, reduce or specifically target gang- or drug-related gun crime.
2. Specifically targets legal gun owners in place of criminals by imposing additional regulatory burdens on a safe, law-abiding group. Law-abiding gun owners are not the problem. These new regulations will not affect criminals or curtail criminal activity in any way.
3. Relies on a surface-glance interpretation of statistics that does not stand up to a proper, in-depth, comprehensive analysis of the data.
4. Places unchecked power in the hands of unelected bureaucrats by allowing RCMP officials to make unilateral, arbitrary decisions on firearm classification with no accountability to the public or to elected officials.
5. Establishes a de facto national long-gun registry by requiring firearms vendors to keep records and create reference numbers for the sale of non-restricted firearms.
6. Hands over information to the Quebec government from the previously discontinued national long-gun registry. This information was ordered destroyed by a legislative act of a previous government, and should not even exist today. This action opens the possibility for similar information transfers to other provinces, creating precedence for another official national long-gun registry in the guise of provincial registries.

In the interest of a complete consultation process and a thorough examination of the issues at hand, the Committee would do well to seek out the expert testimony of the National Firearms Association, the Canadian Coalition for Firearms Rights, and the Canadian Shooting Sports Association. These organizations represent the interests of law-abiding Canadian firearm owners, as well as the firearms, hunting and shooting sports industries in Canada.

I know that I am not alone in voicing these concerns, as they have all been examined and written about at length by various media outlets and organizations since this proposed legislation came to light. It is also noteworthy that Parliamentary Petition E-1608 (Firearms) has garnered nearly 65000 signatures in just two and a half weeks, and is growing every day. I am calling on this Committee to recommend scrapping Bill C-71. It must at least propose amendments to remove the useless regulation of law-abiding citizens that will have no effect on criminal activity. Proposed amendments should focus on effective crime-fighting measures against criminals, combat the proliferation of gang and drug culture, and prevent the illicit trade in firearms fueled by gang and drug smuggling activity. These are the real problems that need solving.

Sincerely,

Ben Rempel