

April 10, 2018

To the members of the **Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security**

I am writing to you today express my opposition to proposed legislation presently before you for consideration, known as: **An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms - C-71** introduced to Parliament on March 20, 2018 by **The Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, The Honourable Ralph Goodale**.

This legislation does nothing to enhance public safety by hindering criminal from using firearms and instead:

Part 1 merely provides additional inhibitions to those citizens who have already indicated their law-abiding nature by voluntarily complying with the increasingly convoluted and complicated Laws and Regulations mandated by the existing Criminal Code and Firearms Act.

The firearms that are to be returned to the Prohibited Firearms list have not been used for illicit purposes during their history in Canada, let alone since the previous government returned them to the category the RCMP had originally placed them. There is not now, and never has been any reason or justification for this reclassification.

While the mandating of reviewing of only a five-year portion of ones' history may be insufficient to uncover all contra-indications that a person won't be a threat to public safety by being permitted to possess firearms, the open-ended extension of this examination to ones' whole life is clearly an overreach and violation of peoples' privacy and hope to outlive their past transgressions.

The removal from the Automatic Authorization to Transport of the inclusion of repair and appraisal, gun shows, and the Canadian border does nothing to enhance safety, but merely impose additional impediments to the most law-abiding citizens in Canada society, Restricted Possession and Acquisition Licence holders.

The Government and the Minister may deny that the resurrection of the requirement for the Registrar of Firearms to issue a Reference Number for the transfer of possession of Non-Restricted Firearms is not the reintroduction of a firearms registry, but everyone knows Section 23 is actually exactly that, bureaucrats always maintain a list of their actions, this is proven by clause 23.1 (c) the reference number is still valid. What is a Registry other than a list of where things are and who has possession?

Part 1 also removes from the elected representatives of the people of Canada direct control over classification of firearms and transfers that responsibility to The Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This is an abdication of one of the key responsibilities that Canadians elect parliamentarians for, to determine the laws and define exactly what is legal and illegal.

Part 2 provides retroactive clemency to bureaucrats for choosing to ignore their oaths and direct instructions from the elected representatives of the people of Canada. These actions were an affront to democracy and a direct challenge to the supremacy of Parliament and should never be allowed to be flagrantly participated in a Democracy.

These proposed changes cause me to think this legislation and all of its possible consequences have not been particularly well thought out and your committee should recommend that it be abandoned by the Government and the Minister.

Thank You for taking my concerns with this legislation into consideration,

Michael Fowler