



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-00292**

BY: **MR. ZIMMER (PRINCE GEORGE—PEACE RIVER—NORTHERN ROCKIES)**

DATE: **MAY 13, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE RALPH GOODALE, P.C., M.P.**

Response by the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Firearms

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government thanks these petitioners for their representations.

The Government believes in balanced, effective measures with respect to firearms that prioritize public safety while ensuring that law-abiding firearms owners are treated fairly under the law. The Government has committed to getting handguns and assault weapons off our streets and to strengthening controls on such weapons.

The Government is committed to putting decision-making authority about weapons classification back into the hands of police, not politicians. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police is responsible for the technical determination of the classification of firearms in accordance with the criteria stipulated by Parliament in the Criminal Code.

The Criminal Code Regulations Prescribing Certain Firearms and Other Weapons, Components and Parts of Weapons, Accessories, Cartridge Magazines, Ammunition and Projectiles as Prohibited, Restricted or Non-Restricted list the Armalite Rifle (AR)-15 as a named variant of the restricted M-16 rifle. The AR-15 is restricted because of its lineage to the military-issued M-16 assault rifle.

The Government has no intention of using section 117.15 of the Criminal Code to change the classification of the AR-15