



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-03629**

BY: **MR. OUELLETTE (WINNIPEG CENTRE)**

DATE: **MAY 6, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **Peter SCHIEFKE, M.P.**

Response by the Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Firearms

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada is also committed to combatting gun-related violence and gang activities. Specifically, to further strengthen firearms laws in Canada and to keep communities safe, the Government introduced Bill C-71, An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms which has been adopted by Parliament. This upholds the commitments the Government made to Canadians to enhance background checks and licence verification; standardize existing best business practices among retailers; ensure that classification decisions will be made impartially; and bolster safeguards related to the transportation of restricted or prohibited firearms, while not impeding the lawful use of firearms.

As well, the Government has also announced funding of up to \$327.6 million over five years, and \$100 million annually thereafter, to combat gun-related violence and gang activities, including by supporting law enforcement and community-led projects focused on prevention. The allocation of these funds has been informed, in part, by presentations and discussions at the Summit on Gun and Gang Violence held in Ottawa in March 2018. A little over \$214 million over five years is now available to provinces and territories in order to respond to their specific needs.

Furthermore, \$51.5 million over five years is being invested in CBSA to help prevent illegal firearms and inadmissible travellers from entering the country. In addition, \$34 million is going to enhance RCMP's capacity to conduct

investigations related to the criminal use of firearms as well as to provide law enforcement with enhanced access to training, technology and data to keep illicit firearms out of Canada and detect and report on criminal gang activities.

As part of its commitment to keep communities safe, the Government of Canada launched an engagement on Reducing Violent Crime in October 2018 to help inform policy, regulations and legislation to reduce violent crime involving firearms. The department engaged with a wide range of stakeholders with polarized views on a potential ban and limiting access to firearms. The engagement summary report, Reducing Violent Crime: A Dialogue on Handguns and Assault-Style Firearms was made public on April 11, 2019.

Throughout this engagement process, which included in-person roundtables, an online questionnaire, and written submissions, the government heard from stakeholders with a wide-range of viewpoints and experience.

The feedback received will assist the government in determining if any changes are required to firearms legislation.