



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

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PETITION No.: **421-02636**

BY: **MR. PAUL-HUS (CHARLESBOURG-HAUTE-SAINT-CHARLES)**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 21, 2018**

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

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Response by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Firearms**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

Protecting Canadians from gun violence is a priority for the Government.

When a weapons prohibition order is imposed on an offender at the time of sentencing, the prohibition order is entered into the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC). A search of the individual's name in this system would tell law enforcement of the existence of the order and its conditions. Individuals are not required to advise law enforcement of a change of address, but this does not prevent police from being able to search the person's name on CPIC.

With respect to the recommendation that individuals who are subject to a weapons prohibition order be required to report any change of address, the criminal justice system does not generally keep track of a person who is not serving a sentence. A weapons prohibition order is a preventive measure to protect public safety from the commission of future crimes. However, the fact that a person is subject to a weapons prohibition order is flagged on a person's police record. Should the breach of a weapons prohibition order, which is a criminal offence, come to the attention of law enforcement, the person's most recent address would be noted at that time.

The Government is supporting other measures to better protect Canadians from firearms violence. Bill C-71, *An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms*, which is currently being studied in the Senate, 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. Together, these measures provide additional tools to law enforcement while respecting law-abiding firearms owners.

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 Government of Canada has committed to get handguns and assault rifles off our streets. The Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction was tasked with leading the examination of a ban on handguns and assault weapons, while not impeding the lawful use of firearms by Canadians. The Prime Minister has publicly committed to examining all options relating to a handgun ban.