



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-02610**

BY: **Ms. HARDER (LETHBRIDGE)**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 19, 2018**

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

To keep communities safe, the Government is strengthening Canada's firearms laws in a common-sense, focused and effective way.

Bill C-71 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.

During consideration of Bill C-71 at the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security, the following amendment was proposed and subsequently adopted in the House of Commons: "for greater certainty, nothing in the *Firearms Act* shall be construed so as to permit or require the registration of non-restricted firearms".

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. Beginning in late 2018, a little over \$214 million over five years will be made available to provinces and territories in order to respond to their specific needs.

In addition, as of March 2019, organizations serving vulnerable populations at-risk of joining gangs and becoming involved in gun violence will also be able to access an additional \$2 million annually through the Youth Gang Prevention Fund managed by Public Safety Canada. A Call for Applications was launched over the summer of 2018 and it is anticipated that the first contribution agreements could be in place as early as April 1, 2019.

Furthermore, \$51.5 million over five years will be invested in CBSA to help prevent illegal firearms and inadmissible travellers from entering the country. In addition, \$34 million will go 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.

The Government will continue working to enhance public safety by focusing on prevention, effective law enforcement and strong community partnerships.