



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-03421**

BY: **Ms. DZEROWICZ (DAVENPORT)**

DATE: **APRIL 11, 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 committed to combatting gun-related violence and gang activities. To further strengthen firearms laws in Canada and to keep communities safe from gun violence, the Government introduced Bill C-71, *An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms*, in March 2018. This bill 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. Currently, the bill is being considered by Parliament.

As well, the Government has 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.

Our Government is committed to implementing effective measures with respect to firearms that prioritize public safety by keeping firearms out of the wrong hands, strengthening measures for firearms safety that are fair and reasonable for legal firearms owners and supporting a variety of initiatives that will help reduce gun crime and criminal gang activities.

Furthermore, \$51.5 million over five years will be invested in Canada Border Services Agency to help prevent illegal firearms and inadmissible travellers from entering the country. In addition, \$34 million will go to enhance the Royal Canadian Mounted Police'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 process in October 2018 to help inform policy, regulations and legislation to reduce violent crime involving firearms. On April 11, 2019, after hearing from Canadians across a range of issues, the Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction released the engagement summary report: *Reducing Violent Crime: A Dialogue on Handguns and Assault-Style Firearms*.

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 the next steps as to any possible changes to firearms legislation.