



May 13th, 2020

Via email and mail

The Honourable Bill Blair
Minister of Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness
MP, Scarborough Southwest
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Blair,

Re: Order in Council Annexed Regulations to the Criminal Code of Canada

Registration SOR/2020-96
CRIMINAL CODE
May 1, 2020
P.C. 2020-298

“Whereas the Governor in Council is not of the opinion that anything prescribed to be a prohibited firearm or a prohibited device, in the Annexed Regulations, is reasonable for use in Canada for hunting or sporting purposes.”

We are writing to request that you reconsider your Order in Council that will inadvertently ban firearms that are used for sustenance hunting, used by Canada’s Olympic Teams, and used by law-abiding Canadian recreational target shooters.

Our members have advised that in section 95, it states, “Any firearm with a bore diameter of 20 mm or greater — other than one designed exclusively for the purpose of neutralizing explosive devices.”

This statement has generated a lot of concern as many 12- and 10-gauge shotguns, used in sustenance hunting and recreational shooting – such as skeet and trap shooting may also be banned. We recognize that section 95 also provides a long list of items that appear to be items such as grenade launchers and mortars, however, given the specific usage of the words “bore diameter of 20 mm”, we would like clarification. Our members are law-abiding citizens and very concerned that they may be inadvertently breaking the law because of this vaguely worded section.

According to a report by the Conference Board of Canada, there are 1.3 million hunters in Canada. Hunting spending totalled \$5.9 billion in 2018. The resulting contribution to GDP was \$4.1 billion. Hunting supported 33,000 jobs and generated just under \$2 billion in labour income. An estimated 1.4 million people in Canada partake in sport shooting, and a total of \$2.6 billion was spent on this activity in 2018. This spending boosted GDP by \$1.8 billion, supported 14,000 jobs, and generated \$868 million in labour income.

Canadian firearms owners are not averse to regulations, as we all want to live in a safer community and are willing to some restrictions, but those restrictions should be done in consultation with the firearms community and make sense.

The use of firearms in sport shooting is also part and parcel to learning the various firearms and becoming proficient in its safe use for ethical harvesting of wild game.

Conclusion

Our members shoot competitively, hunt or both. Canada must be cognizant of the interests of our younger generations and other non-traditional and traditional outdoor enthusiasts. Other cultures participate in harvesting our sustainable resources and shoot for target practice discipline and competitive events.

This needs to be encouraged and supported. Many of our competitive members travel throughout the world and take part in various competitions. These types of competitions are “family-friendly events” and can be a good form of outreach to keep our youth engaged in law-abiding activities.

All firearms need to be lawfully acquired, registered (where required), stored and utilized according to regulations that have been in place for decades. Why is it necessary to confiscate the property of law-abiding citizens and prohibit sports shooting? How will this specifically help public safety, and what evidence can you point to make such a claim?

Where will law enforcement practice conveniently and in a fiscally responsible way if shooting clubs are closed due to your current restrictions and future planned restrictions?

As Canadians, the spending of our hard-earned tax dollars should be to make Canada a safe place to live in and allow us to pursue our sustainable activities to feed our families and enjoy the recreational activities associated with legal firearm ownership.

Yours in Conservation,



Doug Bancroft
Chairman
Recreational Shooting Sports Committee
BC Wildlife Federation



Gary Mauser
Chairman
Firearms Committee
BC Wildlife Federation



Copies To:

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Premier of Canada

Mr. Joël Lightbound, Louis-Hébert, MP, Parliamentary Secretary of the Minister of Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Rob Stewart, Deputy Minister of Public Safety Canada

Mr. Pierre Paul-Hus, MP, Charlesbourg-Haute-Saint-Charles, Standing Committee on Public Safety & National Security

Mr. Glen Motz, MP, Medicine Hat-Cardston-Warner, Standing Committee on Public Safety & National Security

Mr. Bob Zimmer, MP, Prince George-Peace River-Northern Rockies, Standing Committee on Indigenous & Northern Affairs

The Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia

The Honourable Mike Farnworth, MLA, Minister of Public Safety & Solicitor General of the Province of BC

Executive Committee & Board of Directors of the BC Wildlife Federation

Gary Mauser, Firearms Committee Chair, BC Wildlife Federation

Doug Bancroft, Recreational Sports Shooting Committee Chair, BC Wildlife Federation

Alberta Fish & Game Association

Manitoba Wildlife Federation

New Brunswick Wildlife Federation

Northwest Territories Wildlife Federation

Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters

Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation

Yukon Fish & Game Association

Canadian Coalition for Firearms Rights

National Firearms Association

Canadian Shooting Sports Association