



**Bill 4 - the Firearms Violence Prevention Act
Key messages for BCWF members**

Contact your MLA. Immediately.

Bill 4 is bad legislation. We want the legislation [or clauses] dropped.

Don't wait for the regulations. That is just an excuse for us to do nothing.

This legislation was rushed through recklessly.

The government failed to consult BCWF as well as with First Nations.

Bill 4 hits responsible hunters sport shooters more than thugs

Why would thugs obey B.C. law when they don't obey federal laws?

<https://www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/legislation-debates-proceedings/42nd-parliament/1st-session/bills/first-reading/gov04-1>

The key problems are:

Unnecessarily attempt to duplicate current firearms legislation and Bill C-21

[see division 1. points 6 and 7].

Possession and transportation of firearms already illegal without PAL

Creates paperwork for Police as well as forces innocent to go through courts

Police overreach

Onerous rules — gun ranges, hunters, disabled hunters, low-velocity firearms

heavy-handed, invasive search and seizure rules

Definition of 'imitation firearm' – vague and unnecessarily overreach, will require expensive court cases to determine actual meaning.

Abandons professional confidentiality –Bill 4 protects professionals from legal liability for making false claims.

Heavy-handed intrusion on responsible firearms owners.

Hunters, sport shooters, gun ranges, firearms safety training

Impedes mental health by removing confidentiality, and

Discourages firearms safety training – low-velocity firearms

Seizure of vehicles unnecessary intrusive and invites corruption

invites corruption by allowing Police to choose impoundment companies

Specifics

Part 4 - Shooting Ranges

Imposes unreasonable and onerous requirements for Range paperwork. Bill 4 will have a strongly negative impact on firearms safety – both safety training and safe use.

These requirements will cause problems for smaller ranges. There are many small ranges in B.C. outside big cities. These requirements will force smaller ranges to close,

The new bill will require Shooting Ranges to update record keeping and require 2 pieces of I.D., as well as showing their PAL.

If the user is not a member, all the non-member information must also be collected. Regulations forthcoming will prescribe the information to be collected and held for a Prescribed period of time.

These regulations are likely to require a dedicated Range Officer who must be a second person to verify the I.D. and person.

Prohibition against discharging a firearm from vehicle or boat

Division 1, s. 5 A person must not discharge a firearm in, on or from a vehicle or boat.

Unnecessary conflicts with current hunting regulations

Many hunters, not just Indigenous peoples, hunt from boats—for example, duck hunting and big game hunting in Northern B.C. As well, disabled hunters use ATVs for hunting.

Part 8 – General

Power of authorized professional to notify Police despite confidentiality

Power of authorized professional to notify Police despite confidentiality. The B.C. Gov't now authorizes the breach of confidentiality and giving protection from liability for damages from false claims.

- If it passes, beware when you talk to your doctor or therapist: The law will "protect from civil liability social workers and health professionals who, in good faith, breach client confidentiality by reporting information to police to prevent gun violence."

(2) Despite any duty of confidentiality, an authorized professional may notify a police force if the authorized professional reasonably believes that a person to whom that authorized professional provides professional services intends to use a firearm or imitation firearm

(a) to cause harm to themselves or another person, or

(b) to threaten or intimidate another person.

73 (1) Subject to subsection (2), no legal proceeding for damages lies or may be commenced or maintained against any of the following because of anything done or omitted under section 72

(2):

an authorized professional;

This clause is unnecessary and removes vital safeguards. Current B.C. professions are already allowed to report anyone who poses an immediate threat. Bill 4 equates simple ownership of a firearm or even a toy that looks like a firearm with a dangerous threat.

Part 8 will exacerbate mental health problems. Firearms owners may be reluctant to talk to their G.P.s.

Social workers could become informers. Neither M.D.s nor social workers are knowledgeable about firearms or "imitation firearms" – which are toys that look like firearms -- or the shooting sports. This legislation increases the likelihood of spurious and possibly vindictive complaints. False alarms will multiply.

Counsellors work under

B.C. College of Social Workers' Standards of Practice, R

Registered Clinical Social Worker (RCSW)

as well as related British Columbia legislation,

the Privacy Act,

the Child, Family and Community Service Act,

the Personal Information Protection Act

the Adult Guardianship Act.

All research shows that it's very hard to predict who will be violent in the future. Unfortunately, nobody is good at predictions: not psychiatrists, psychologists, Police, bureaucrats — parents, spouses — none of them.

The news media trumpet the false negatives. Interviews with neighbours, family members say, I didn't think he'd do that!! But in real life, the false positives get their property confiscated, possibly spend time in jail or hospital, and are out megabucks to fight the problem in court. It may take years to resolve and is a real conundrum.

This legislation does not fix it.

Part 5 – Motor Vehicle Impoundment

Power of peace officer to impound a motor vehicle

Duplicates current firearms legislation and imposes additional problems.

Redundant. The Police can already do this because the vehicle was used in the commissioning of a crime. So at the very least, it's seized as evidence until they're done with it. Beyond that, if the vehicle was purchased from the proceeds, they can already use that law to confiscate the vehicle.

35 (1) A peace officer may cause a motor vehicle to be impounded and taken to a specified location if the peace officer reasonably believes that a person is operating or has operated the motor vehicle in contravention of

(a) section 6 (2) [prohibition against operating vehicle if certain firearms, ammunition or devices in vehicle], or

(b) section 320.17 of the Criminal Code.

(2) A motor vehicle impounded under subsection (1) must remain impounded for the prescribed period.

Impoundment means high impound fees that are imposed without conviction. Police suspicions are not always correct. Target shooters and hunters could be accidentally caught in this net.

Fees are a lien

Can't get it back until court decision – which could be years

An impounded car is likely to be confiscated.

B.C. is risking repeating the Ontario scandals with police and impound firms. Allowing the Police to choose an impoundment firm introduces opportunities for corruption, e.g., kickbacks.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-police-tow-truck-radios-1.5622069>