

October 24, 2022

The Honourable Mike Farnworth, MLA  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
[Mike.Farnworth.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Mike.Farnworth.MLA@leg.bc.ca)

Dear Mr. Farnworth,

I am writing to encourage you to use your influence on the government of British Columbia to join with Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Yukon, and Manitoba in refusing to enforce Ottawa's plans to buy back hundreds of thousands of legally purchased firearms from licensed owners.

Ottawa's buyback scheme ignores gun-carrying violent criminals and by focusing on the property of law-abiding gun owners. This is irrational and unjust. Ottawa has arbitrarily decided to ban and confiscate hundreds of thousands of rifles – firearms that have never been involved in violence. Now Ottawa wants B.C. taxpayers to pay for the RCMP to dedicate valuable resources to carry out this ill-considered program.

Confiscating these lawfully owned firearms will cost Canadians between \$1 billion and \$5 billion, according to a Fraser Institute study. Plus, it will cost up to \$750 million in compensation to legal owners, according to the Parliamentary Budget Office. More than \$200 million will be spent to destroy the firearms. Taxpayers in British Columbia and other provinces that object to this plan should not be expected to pay for this waste of police resources.

Other provinces are refusing to take part in this program because it is aimed at firearms that are rarely used in the commission of a crime. Most of the legally obtained firearms that the federal government has classified as "assault-style weapons" are simply hunting rifles and are used as such.

If B.C. cooperates with this plan, the RCMP will be required to divert resources that are sorely needed to deal with pressing concerns, including rampant gang violence fueled by illegally obtained firearms, and the challenge of dealing with violent repeat offenders.

It is appalling that the government would place a higher priority on confiscating lawfully purchased and used firearms than it does on addressing these important problems.

In closing, I'd like to remind you that there are over 300,000 men and women who are licenced firearms owners in British Columbia, who are evenly split between urban and rural areas. Each licenced firearm owner has been vetted by the RCMP, and everyone is checked daily for any violation through the "continuous eligibility screening" program, which is administered by the RCMP to ensure that the owners of legally obtained firearms are not a threat to public safety.

Respectfully,



Chuck Zuckerman

**President,**

**B.C. Wildlife Federation**

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