British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police
P.O. Box 48034 Victoria RPO
Uptown, BC
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January 20, 2026

Dear Members of the British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police,

I am writing on behalf of 40,000 **BC Wildlife Federation members and 350,000 licensed firearms owners in British Columbia**, who share a strong interest in effective public safety policy and evidence-based policing priorities.

Recent public reporting regarding the BCACP's concerns about the readiness and implementation of the federal firearms buyback program has raised important questions — not only about logistics and software readiness, but about whether the program itself meaningfully contributes to crime reduction or violence prevention.

Law-abiding firearms owners, hunters, and sport shooters in British Columbia are among the safest and most heavily regulated individuals in the country. They undergo continuous eligibility screening, background checks, and licensing requirements, and they are statistically **not the drivers of gun crime**. As a result, many in this community are deeply concerned that the buyback program directs limited policing capacity toward individuals who already comply with the law, rather than toward criminal activity that demonstrably threatens public safety.

From this perspective, I respectfully request clarification from the BCACP on the following matters:

1. Policing Priorities and Resource Allocation

Police services across British Columbia consistently face staffing shortages, rising response times, and increasing complexity in addressing organized crime, gang violence, repeat violent offenders, property crime, and mental-health-related incidents.

How does the BCACP reconcile support for — or engagement with — the buyback program when it requires significant police time, training, and administrative capacity, yet appears disconnected from the sources of gun crime police routinely confront?

2. Effectiveness in Reducing or Preventing Crime

Has the BCACP assessed or reviewed evidence demonstrating that confiscating firearms from licensed, vetted owners reduces violent crime, firearm trafficking, or gang-related shootings?

3. Distinction Between Legal Ownership and Criminal Misuse

Many firearms owners and conservation organizations have long argued that illegal firearms — often smuggled or already prohibited — pose the greatest threat to public safety.

How does the BCACP ensure that its public policy positions clearly distinguish between lawful ownership and criminal misuse, so that policing efforts are focused where they can produce measurable safety outcomes?

4. Role in Representing the Public Interest

As a respected voice in public safety policy, the BCACP's positions carry significant weight with governments and the public.

How does the Association define its responsibility to represent the *public interest* when endorsing, or operationalizing federal initiatives — particularly those that affect large segments of the population who are compliant with the law and contribute positively to rural economies, conservation funding, and community life?

Many British Columbians support strong, focused policing that prioritizes **crime prevention, victim protection, and the disruption of illegal firearms networks**. Clear explanations of how current positions align with these priorities would help build confidence that public safety policy is being guided by outcomes rather than optics.

While Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Yukon governments, as well as numerous Police Associations have come out against parts of Bill C-21 and the buyback, it appears the BCACP is supporting the Government of Canada's flawed legislation and buyback scheme.

We appreciate the difficult work undertaken by police leadership and thank you for your consideration of these questions. I look forward to your response and to continued public dialogue grounded in evidence, accountability, and effective use of policing resources.

In Conservation,

Glenn Flynn   Jesse Zeman

BCWF President   BCWF Executive Director