



Ottawa, May 30, 2022

The Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights (CCFR) offers the following comments on the Liberal Government's revised bill C-21.

National "Freeze" on Handguns :

The Liberal's focus on banning firearms from exclusively (licensed) firearm owners is divisive and unproductive. This measure divides Canadians by implying that firearm-related violence originates from licensed handgun owners, and the solution is to ban (only) their firearms. Licensed firearm owners are responsible for virtually no handgun-related violence in urban centers or rural communities. Though, this is the solution the current government is selling to the public. Criminals and smugglers will continue their activities undeterred. Chief of Police James Ramer and Acting Deputy Chief Myron Demkiw of the Toronto Police Service declared licensed gun owners as a non-issue in Toronto's handgun problem. This is an unfair targeting of precisely the wrong people.

New Red & Yellow Flag Provisions :

The CCFR does not oppose any regulation that has a demonstrable benefit to public safety and places responsibility for criminal acts on criminals. The New Red and Yellow Flag provisions are likely redundant as these types of laws already exist. The CCFR is concerned about abuse of these laws and looks forward to learning more about how they are to be implemented.

Expanded Licence Révocation :

The CCFR does not oppose these measures granted there are safeguards to prevent misuse of these provisions against a potentially innocent gun owner.

Trafficking and Smuggling Provisions :

Increasing the maximum penalty for trafficking is meaningless. We are not aware that the current maximum of 10 years is being placed on anyone convicted of this offence as it is. In fact, the Liberal government has made it easier for the crown to request even lighter sentences for serious gun crimes via their shameful Bill C-75 (2019) and C-22 (2021) and C-5 (2022). The proposed magazine provision is an aimless duplication of the existing regulation on over capacity magazines.

Prohibition of Mid-Velocity Airguns :

This is a provision to prohibit airsoft and paintball guns. This provision is absurd. If the concern is potential confusion with real firearms, a modest national education campaign in concert with industry would solve this problem. The absolute last measure is to use government force to ban property from citizens. This is clearly the Liberal's first choice. The CCFR believes that this provision is irresponsible and immoral.

Canadian Coalition
for Firearm Rights



Coalition canadienne pour
les droits aux armes à feu

Conclusion :

While the CCFR acknowledges there may be valuable provisions in Bill C-21, we are concerned about privacy issues and misuse. Other aspects of the bill should be objectionable to most Canadians whether they own firearms or not. The handgun ban, clearly targets the wrong people and shows a distinct contempt for roughly 650,000 Canadians who maintain their licenses, comply with regulations, and own and use their firearm responsibly. The ban should offend victims as it will do nothing to stop the violence that concerns every Canadian.

We suggest this bill is a result of political calculation, for these reasons the CCFR will vigorously oppose this bill.

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