



Patricia Leson
presncwc@gmail.com

Dear Patricia Leson:

Thank you for your correspondence of December 6, 2021, in which you express your support for the re-introduction of former Bill C-21. I am responding on behalf of the Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety, in my capacity as Assistant Deputy Minister of the Crime Prevention Branch. Please accept my apologies for the delayed response.

The Government of Canada takes the issue of gender-based violence and femicide seriously, and is committed to addressing firearm-related violence through legislative and program measures in order to strengthen gun control in Canada and help keep Canadians and our communities safe.

In 2019, there were over 107,000 victims of police-reported intimate-partner violence (IPV) in Canada, and firearms were present in over 660 of these incidents. Women accounted for almost 8 in 10 victims of all IPV incidents and they were even more likely to be the victim in incidents where a firearm was present.

As you recognize, Former Bill C-21, *An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)*, which was tabled on February 16, 2021, and reached 2nd reading before dissolution of Parliament, proposed an approach to combat IPV, gender-based violence and self-harm involving firearms. The former bill would have created red and yellow flag laws that would help to limit access to and remove firearms from individuals who may pose a risk to themselves, their partners or kids, or others. The Government of Canada remains committed to re-introducing this important legislative change in an effort to better protect women and other vulnerable populations from firearms-related violence.

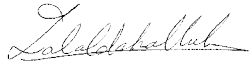
The Government of Canada continues to implement other measures to control firearms that can help combat violence against women. On July 7, 2021, the Government brought into force expanded background checks for licence applications to cover the entire lifetime of an applicant's history and the Chief Firearms Officer must now consider whether the applicant has a history of harassment or restraining orders, or poses a danger to any other person. These changes will prevent people with a history of violence from owning a firearm.

The Government of Canada has also committed to completing the implementation of former Bill C-71 at the earliest opportunity. Proposed regulations on licence verification will make certain that only those individuals with a valid firearms licence may purchase non-restricted firearms. This will keep firearms out of the hands of those that should not have them. The regulations would also require businesses to keep sales and inventory records on non-restricted firearms for at least 20 years. Law enforcement needs these records to investigate and trace crime guns.

The Government of Canada recognizes that firearm-related violence is complex and must be addressed comprehensively. We will continue to work collaboratively with stakeholders to enhance public safety and reduce gun crime by focusing on prevention, effective law enforcement and strong community partnerships. The support of your organization is appreciated.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Talal Dakalbab', written in dark ink.

Talal Dakalbab
Assistant Deputy Minister
Crime Prevention Branch
Public Safety Canada