



JOINT STATEMENT

December 11, 2024

Collectively, we are deeply concerned with the latest attack on licensed firearms owners in Canada.

Canada has a rich history of hunting, trapping and sport shooting. We know that the law-abiding, RCMP vetted licensed gun owners are not the source of the rising crime on the streets across Canada, crime that is committed by criminals and gangs who are often repeat offenders out on bail. The government has continuously failed to address the root causes of violence that plague our society, while simply continuing to pull their easiest firearms policy lever which is to unnecessarily burden legal Canadian licensed firearm owners.

The Government of Canada's continued attacks on the more than 2.3 million gun owners have had zero impact on stopping crime, and not only continues to put at risk the safety of all Canadians, they continue to jeopardize the livelihoods and treasured pastimes of hunters, trappers and gun owners from coast-to-coast-to-coast. The banning of use of certain firearms in the middle of hunting and trapping seasons, as well as the promise of additional bans to come, provides even greater uncertainty to our outdoors men and women (i.e. 139 of the 324 makes/models of firearms had a classification of non-restricted prior to this new firearms ban).

What's even more alarming is how the government continues to circumvent the traditional classification process simply to fit their own narrative. The continued lack of transparency in the development of the prohibited firearms list, which was developed by an unidentified "Expert panel", is deeply disheartening. There was no mechanism for input by provincial and national stakeholder groups, industry and firearms experts. The only consultation was with gun-control advocacy organizations. Firearms should be classified through a rigorous process and by form and function, not based on appearance and colour.

We stand together today against this move by the Government of Canada, and ask them to reverse their bans. The government should be focusing their efforts on utilizing and creating policy measures that will have measurable impacts on the issues that terrorize our communities such as gangs and gang-related criminal activities, illegal firearm use, cross-border smuggling, and mental health/drug issues, rather than continuing to place further restrictions on Canada's most vetted population.

Sincerely,

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