



May 9, 2019

Respecting Public Health, Voting for Bill C-71

Dear Senator,

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC). We fully support the Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns, “to urge you to pass Bill C-71, An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms, in its original form.” See the below attached Letter.

I want to reiterate that there must be consideration given to enacting and enforcing laws and regulations regarding the possession, sale and control of firearms of all types in this country. In 1991, NCWC and previously, urged the government of Canada to enforce gun control. [RESOLVED,] NCWC urges the Government of Canada to:

- 1) Ban private ownership of semi-automatic weapons;
- 2) Provide for national firearms safety training on a user-pay basis;
- 3) Require a 28-day waiting period between application for and the issue of a permit of a gun;
- 4) Provide for mandatory testing of gun owners;
- 5) Ensure that the legislation is applied equally across Canada;
- 6) Ensure that the legislation already in force is implemented.

Further, it urges the Government to encourage the governments of the Territories to enact legislation similar to that of the Government of Canada. (Provincial and Local Councils of Women will encourage their respective provincial governments to do the same.)

In only the last few days there have been instances where it is evident that more regulation is needed. The issue of the risk factors underlying gun violence, in particular the impact of gun violence on women, mental health support/screening, as well as how the lives of young people are affected must be significantly addressed.

Our members urge you to continue your examination of this scourge on the lives of Canadians, and heed the words of those who have direct experience with the death and injury caused by guns in our society.

Sincerely,

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The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) has been the leading national voice of women for the past 126 years. A plaque has been erected in Allan Gardens in Toronto recognizing the establishment of NCWC as a National Historic Event. NCWC's initiatives have contributed significantly to the establishment of Canada's social welfare system, and the Council continues to work to improve the lives of women, children and society