

May 28th, 2020

Honourable Bill Blair
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Measures
Parliament of Canada
Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Blair

Re: Gun Control Measures

On behalf of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC), I wish to thank you for your efforts to address gun control in our country. Our members agree that there is no need, or place, for military style assault rifles in Canadian homes. These weapons have been used in some of the most devastating incidents of violence in recent times, including the attack in Nova Scotia. Anything and everything that can be done to restrict possession of these weapons is critical.

Research and gender-based analysis by your own department has shown that few women own guns but are twice as likely to be attacked with one. Since the attack at Ecole Polytechnique over thirty years ago, gun control advocates have petitioned for change. There is no doubt the time has come, and your recently introduced ban is an excellent start.

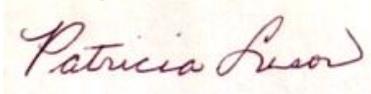
The NCWC urges you to continue your efforts to establish effective gun control measures that will work to mitigate the deadly incidents these weapons bring to our doorsteps. Handguns alone kill and maim increasing numbers of Canadians each year and illegally obtained weapons continue to find their way into the public domain.

As you continue pressing forward on this front, the NCWC encourages you to

- revisit the decision to delegate the regulation of handguns to municipalities,
- establish a broader definition of assault weapons to ensure that ALL such weapons are banned, and
- bring an increased focus on the purchase and sale of illegally acquired weapons, both internally and imported.

It is unfortunate the decision to discontinue the long gun registry in 2014 may impede any definitive assessment of the numbers of such weapons in circulation. The NCWC membership appreciates your strong leadership on this file to ensure every effort will be made to eliminate these weapons, and they will become a thing of the past. Thank you!

Sincerely



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