

December 2020

Brian Sauve, President
National Police Federation
150 Metcalfe St.,
Ottawa ON, K2P 1P1

Dear Mr. Sauve

Re: National Police Federation (NPF) Policy on Semi-automatic Assault Rifles

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) is a non-profit non-governmental organization (NGO) currently composed of Local Councils in cities from Halifax to Vancouver, Provincial Councils in Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia, and several Nationally Organized Societies. For the past 127 years, the NCWC has worked to improve the quality of life for women, children, and families in Canada.

One of the greatest concerns of the NCWC is the continuing prevalence of violence against women, and much of it involves the use of guns. Canada has the 4th highest rate of gun deaths in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development countries (OECD), and this gun violence has a hugely disproportionate impact on women and girls. Guns are the most commonly used weapons in the murder of women and girls, particularly in rural areas.

On behalf of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC), I urge you to revisit your decision to not support a ban on semi-automatic assault rifles. These weapons are designed for death, and this has been demonstrated time and again in the carrying out of numerous crimes against property and persons across this country. Some have resulted in the tragic deaths of your own members.

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police agrees with us that there is no justifiable reason for the possession of this category of firearms by individuals. Assault rifles are not needed for either leisure purposes or the protection of farm/rural properties. There is only one purpose for them, and it results in the death of innocents.

Currently, support is being provided to various agencies and initiatives to limit the availability of illegal firearms by pledging funds to address social conditions that give rise to violence. We urge you to recognize these initiatives as positive steps to preventing violent deaths by those who would harm others. A ban on semi-automatic assault rifles is a necessary component of these initiatives.

There is a strong public desire for a ban on semi-automatic assault rifles. Please reconsider your decision and join us in support of a violence free Canada.

Sincerely
Patricia Leson, President
National Council of Women of Canada

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) works in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, acknowledging Canada is the traditional territory of Indigenous and Metis

People. We are grateful to join with others in peace and hope, advocating for an improved quality of life for women, children, families, and society.

C: Honourable Bill Blair, Minister Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
Brenda Lucki, Commissioner RCMP
Brian Larkin, President Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
Tom Stamatakis, President Canadian Police Association
Wendy Cukier, President Coalition for Gun Control