

Date:

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I am writing to you today to express my unease with actions your government is taking to curtail gun violence, actions which ultimately and unfairly target lawful gun owners while having little effect on the intended target. Your Prime Minister's mandate to the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness states "I expect us to work with Parliament to deliver on our commitments", and continues "We are committed to evidence-based decision-making that takes into consideration the impacts of policies on all Canadians and fully defends the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*."

Minister Blair has stated publicly that the current government would be using an Order in Council (OIC) to ban firearms acquired legally by lawful owners, and that a buy back program would be implemented. The OIC approach clearly bypasses parliamentary procedure and in fact ignores parliament completely, in direct contravention of your own mandate. These measures constitute a disturbing overreach of executive authority.

Further, there is no evidence that banning firearms improves public safety. Current research from the University of Western Ontario states "Concerning the impact of firearm legislation on crime rates, there is not one independent, peer-reviewed, empirical study on Canadian firearm legislation that demonstrated a significant decreasing effect on firearm crime.". Of most interest to an evidence-based proponent such as yourself, this study concluded that "...information highlighted in this paper ... contradicts the suggestion that policy restricting firearm ownership may be the answer to curtail firearm-related harms."

A poll conducted by your own government earlier this year found that over half the respondents opposed further firearms bans or restrictions. In addition, police forces across the country, who work on the front lines each day and witness gun violence first-hand, have indicated that your proposals concerning firearms will have no impact on public safety. Despite claiming to work with parliament to achieve your goals, and your stated commitment to evidence-based decision-making, you are apparently planning a course of action that ignores both parliament and evidence, as well as the opinions of those with knowledge of such matters. I respectfully request that you adhere to the guidelines you yourself have established before proceeding on this issue.

Yours Truly,

cc: Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

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Yours Truly,

cc: Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

On each letter do the following:

Put the date at the top left

Fill in your address at the top right

Print and sign your name after Yours Truly

Add your MP's name at the bottom under Blair's name (if you want to send this one)

Send each letter in its own envelope to Ottawa.

The 3 separate addresses would be as follows:

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON

K1A0A6

Send the second letter to:

Bill Blair

Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON

K1A0A6

Send the third letter to:

Your Member of Parliament's name

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON

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