



## STAFF REPORT

**Title:** Notice of Motion - Criminal Code Amendment

**Meeting Date:** June 23, 2020

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### **Executive Summary:**

At Council's June 9, 2020 regular meeting of Council, Councillor Soroka put forward a "Notice of Motion" for debate at Council's June 23, 2020 regular meeting of Council recommending that Council consider lobbying the federal government to revoke the amendments to the criminal code on May 1, 2020 under an "Order in Council" titled and referred to as *"Regulations Amending the Regulations Prescribing Certain Firearms and Other Weapons, Components and Parts of Weapons, Accessories, Cartridge Magazines, Ammunition and Projectiles as Prohibited, Restricted or Non-Restricted: SOR.2020-96"*.

### **Background:**

An "Order in Council" was passed on May 1, 2020 titled *"Regulations Amending the Regulations Prescribing Certain Firearms and Other Weapons, Components and Parts of Weapons, Accessories, Cartridge Magazines, Ammunition and Projectiles as Prohibited, Restricted or Non-Restricted: SOR/2020-96"*

The following is a link to the federal gazette where the details of the order is posted:

- <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-05-01-x3/html/sor-dors96-eng.html>

A copy of the regulation amendment has also been attached for reference purposes.

For reference purposes the following are links to media articles relating to the Governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba's position in response to May 1, 2020 amendments:

- <https://thestarphoenix.com/news/local-news/sask-government-unhappy-with-new-gun-control-measures/>
- <https://globalnews.ca/news/6896583/new-assault-weapon-ban-alberta-jason-kenney/>
- <https://thepostmillennial.com/manitoba-rejects-handgun-ban-wont-make-any-difference-whatsoever>
- <https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/gunter-new-facts-prove-the-utter-uselessness-of-trudeaus-gun-ban>



- <https://www.thechronicle-online.com/opinion/columnists/lilley-police-dont-call-them-assault-weapons-why-should-you/wcm/58cc6293-5f03-4594-be33-f4b6c4285433>

I've also included a link to the Alberta Game Warden Association (AGWA) of which is opposing the Order in Council Firearms Ban:

- [https://www.facebook.com/AlbertaGameWardenAssociation/posts/1808037609337723?\\_tn=\\_K-R](https://www.facebook.com/AlbertaGameWardenAssociation/posts/1808037609337723?_tn=_K-R)

Based on the AGWA website, *the Alberta Game Warden Association, (AGWA), is a nonprofit organization registered under the Societies Act of Alberta. Its membership is made up of field Fish and Wildlife Officers (Regular members), Officers that have transitioned into management (Associate members), and retired Officers and certain individuals with special recommendation (Honorary veteran members).*

Further to the motion there are 1,268 municipalities: broken down by Province as Alberta (352); Saskatchewan (779); and Manitoba (137).

#### **Alternatives:**

- Approve Councillor Soroka's motion as presented.
- Defeat Councillor Soroka's motion as presented.

#### **Recommended Action:**

That Council consider lobbying the federal government to revoke the amendments to the criminal code on May 1, 2020 under an "Order in Council" titled and referred to as "Regulations Amending the Regulations Prescribing Certain Firearms and Other Weapons, Components and Parts of Weapons, Accessories, Cartridge Magazines, Ammunition and Projectiles as Prohibited, Restricted or Non-Restricted: SOR/2020-96

The City of Cold Lake supports initiatives to end violence; however feels very strongly that the Government of Canada is wasting valuable resources and taking the wrong approach to gun control that will have zero effect on gun crime.

The following outlines the specific motion for consideration:

**WHEREAS** on May 1, 2020, the federal government amended the Criminal Code by ordering regulations prescribing certain firearms, components and parts of firearms, accessories, cartridge magazines, ammunition and projectiles as prohibited or restricted;

**AND WHEREAS** the Government of Canada is planning a buyback program to get the guns out of circulation, which is expected to cost between \$400 million and \$600 million, and if the history of federal estimating repeats itself, will likely be in excess of \$1 Billion;



**AND WHEREAS** the City of Cold Lake supports the Government of Canada's commitment to end violence, whether firearms are involved or not, by taking the opportunity to be more engaged and to collaborate with the public and local stakeholders to develop more effective solutions on the issue;

**NOW THERE BE RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Cold Lake urges the Government of Canada to revoke the amendment, and instead institute the following:

Target crime, and focus on enforcement through enhanced enforcement capacity for law enforcement and border services, as well as harsher punishments for firearms trafficking and crimes involving firearms. The current ban targets law-abiding owners, rather than the holders of illicit firearms, and would not greatly impact crime reduction;

Collect and share relevant data on crime involving firearms through improved collection and sharing of data on crimes involving firearms, particularly in terms of sources of illicit firearms, and the types of crime being committed. This data is critical for supporting law enforcement and border agencies efforts, as well as informing policy and legislation;

Collaborate with the firearms community and industry to support communication, training and public education regarding firearms to create a multi-faceted approach rather than implementing a ban in isolation;

And that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau Prime Minister of Canada; the Honourable David Lametti, Attorney General; the Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness; the Honourable Andrew Scheer, Leader of the Official Opposition; David Yurdiga, MP Fort McMurray - Cold Lake; the Honourable Jason Kenny, Premier of Alberta; the Honourable Doug Schweitzer, Solicitor General; Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA); Rural Municipalities Association of Alberta (RMA); and all municipalities within the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

**Budget Implications (Yes or No):**

No

**Submitted by:**

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer