



July 7, 2020

Via Email ps.ministerofpublicsafety-ministredelasecuritepublique.sp@canada.ca

Minister of Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Attention: Honourable Bill Blair

Dear Minister Blair:

Re: Criminal Code Amendment

At the City of Cold Lake's regular Council meeting of June 23, 2020, City Council debated and passed a motion regarding concerns relating to the criminal code amendments approved under an "Order in Council" on May 1, 2020. The City of Cold Lake is calling upon all municipalities in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba to voice their concerns along with their respective provincial governments.

The following resolution has been passed:

"that Council lobby 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.

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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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.

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The City feels that the federal government's gun ban will be an expensive exercise that will only serve to take law abiding people's property, while doing nothing to reduce crime. Municipalities are the level of government closest to the people, and a large part of our budget and operations is focused on providing safe and healthy communities. We see forecasts of hundreds of millions of federal dollars to be spent to buy guns back from people. As these are people who went through the necessary education, background checks, and licensing to purchase them, it seems to be a poorly thought out plan, especially if its aim is to reduce crime.

Respectfully,

Craig Copeland,
Mayor

cc: Council

Chief Administrative Officer K. Nagoya
Right Honourable Justin Trudeau Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable David Lametti, Attorney General
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

KN/cjr