



Office of the Minister
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

March 4, 2026

Hon. Gary Anandasangaree
Minister of Public Safety
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Via email: gary.anand@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Anandasangaree,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me on February 26 to discuss the federal Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program. I appreciated the opportunity to speak directly, to share the Yukon's perspective and to continue advocating for Yukoners on this issue.

However, I left the meeting disappointed that there appears to be little willingness to meaningfully incorporate or consider a northern perspective. Specifically, this includes an unwillingness to review the firearms list itself, which captures many firearms that are lawfully owned and relied upon in everyday northern life.

During our discussion, I reiterated the Government of Yukon's opposition to the program in its current form and proposed reasonable alternatives for your consideration:

- Extending the amnesty period to avoid criminalizing law-abiding Yukoners.
- Revising the prohibited firearms list following meaningful consultation with Northerners and to remove firearms in conjunction, which has not occurred.
- Further consultation with Northerners prior to implementation with a view to finding alternative solutions that consider Northern realities.
- Other alternatives to prevent the criminalization of Yukoners who legally acquired these firearms in good faith and use them safely and for legitimate purposes.

As you are aware, our government strongly opposes the Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program. While we share a strong desire to make communities safer, we agree with police and public safety experts across Canada that a program targeting licensed, trained, vetted, and responsible Yukon firearm owners will not accomplish this goal.

The program also fails to reflect the realities of life in the Yukon or other northern and rural Canadian regions. Thousands of affected firearms makes and models that have been legally owned, responsibly used, and relied on for subsistence hunting, sport, and predator protection have been arbitrarily prohibited.

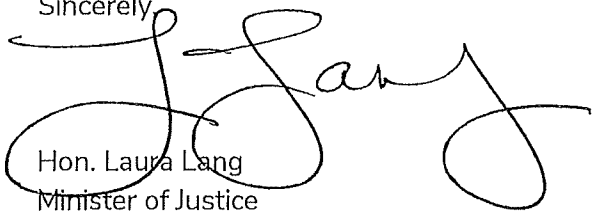
There is also a growing number of jurisdictions and police services who agree that the significant resources put into the program would be better used on alternative initiatives with a stronger basis in evidence, such as efforts to target the criminal use of illegal firearms, illegal drug smuggling, and organized crime.

Further, there are serious implementation concerns, including uncertainty around compensation levels, lack of clarity regarding fair market value, and the absence of compensation for related equipment and accessories. The impact this may have on Yukoners who have lawfully acquired private property is unacceptable and deeply concerning.

Discussions about firearms policy must be grounded in evidence, respect for Indigenous rights, and an understanding of life in the North. I have also been in contact with my counterparts from Nunavut and the Northwest Territories to share the Yukon's perspective and will continue to discuss this issue with them moving forward.

I remain committed to dialogue and hope future discussions will allow for a more constructive consideration of northern realities and perspectives.

Sincerely,



Hon. Laura Lang
Minister of Justice

cc: Hon. Rebecca Chartrand, Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs
Hon. Rebecca Alty, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations
Hon. Mandy Gull-Masty, Minister of Indigenous Services
Hon. Brendan Hanley, Parliament Secretary to the Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs,
Member of Parliament for Yukon
Hon. Jay Macdonald, Minister of Justice for Northwest Territories
Hon. George Hicke, Minister of Justice for Nunavut
Hon. Ruby Sahota, Secretary of State for Combatting Crime
Tricia Geddes, Deputy Minister of Public Safety Canada
Michael Sabia, Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary of the Cabinet
Mike Duheme, Commissioner of the RCMP