



The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree
Minister of Public Safety
Government of Canada
HOUSE OF COMMONS
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A6
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April 02, 2026

Dear Minister Anandasangaree;

We are writing to convey our significant concerns with the impact of federal firearm policy on the Northern way of life. Our communities have deep connections with our land and we believe the federal prohibitions have not considered the unique circumstances of Northern Canadians. That is why we see it as critical that the federal government pause the Firearms Compensation Program and take the step of consulting with us to ensure that there is a balanced approach, considering the Northern way of life. We'd like to discuss how to work together on tackling public safety issues, using a facts-based approach, tailored for Northerners.

Traditional activities like hunting, trapping, and spending time on the land are not only recreational in nature, they are core parts of our culture, livelihoods, and in many communities are essential to meeting even our most basic survival and nutritional needs. The negative impact of firearm prohibitions on these activities will be much more significant than in the South. These activities provide healthy, family-centred, Northern alternatives to the drugs and criminal influences that are entering our communities. As drugs and crime can disproportionately devastate our communities, taking away the tools used in positive, pro-social activities that help us heal on the land will not keep our communities safe and will likely cause more harm.

We applaud your goal to make improvements to public safety, which is a key Northern concern. However, we agree with the many police services and public safety experts across Canada who have clearly said the Firearms Buyback Program targeting licensed, trained, and vetted firearm owners will fail to accomplish that goal.

It is critical that the federal government seriously consider our unique Northern context. To practice traditions and sovereignty, as Northerners have done for generations, the proper tools are needed. We have heard from Northern hunters and trappers that the federal prohibition is limiting these tools, and many Indigenous governments, organizations, and individuals have shared these serious concerns. Representatives of Nunavut Tunngavik testified to the Senate and House that bans on semi-automatic firearms will risk the lives of hunters in remote areas where predators are a real concern and where help can be days away. The same concern applies to large calibre bolt action or single-shot firearms such as those chambered in .460 Weatherby, firearms used for hunting walrus and wolves, firearms used for bear defense, and even some small-calibre rimfire firearms used for small game and to teach new hunters (which appear to be banned solely due to their appearance).

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The presence of Northerners in the Arctic and Subarctic regions serves our national interest as a fundamental basis for Arctic sovereignty, especially in remote areas. Northerners also assist national institutions and initiatives through our unique expertise on the land, which can only be maintained if we continue to have the tools to be safe in remote areas.

Consideration of a Northern exemption for this Program would lend us all the opportunity to work together on the development of more evidence-based public safety options suitable for the North. We are committed to working with you on these matters.

We ask that the federal government listen to the shared concerns of our three Territories and work with us to chart a path forward. We are confident that together we can support our Northern lifestyle while enhancing our shared public safety, sovereignty, and security objectives

Sincerely,



Hon. Laura Lang
Minister of Justice
Government of Yukon



Hon. Jay Macdonald
Minister of Justice
Government of the Northwest Territories



Hon. George Hicke
Minister of Justice
Government of Nunavut

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