



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-04844**

BY: **MR. CASEY (CHARLOTTETOWN)**

DATE: **JUNE 20, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE WILLIAM BLAIR, P.C., C.O.M., M.P.**

Response by the Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Firearms

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

To keep communities safe, the Government is strengthening Canada's firearms laws in a common-sense, focused and effective way.

The Government introduced Bill C-71, *An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms*, which has now been adopted by Parliament. This upholds the commitments the Government made to Canadians to enhance background checks and licence verification; standardize existing best business practices among retailers; ensure that classification decisions will be made impartially; and bolster safeguards related to the transportation of restricted or prohibited firearms.

In addition, as part of its commitment to keep communities safe, the Government of Canada launched an engagement process on reducing violent crime and banning handguns and assault-style firearms, in October 2018, to help inform policy, regulations and legislation to reduce violent crime involving firearms. The department engaged with a wide range of stakeholders with polarized views on a potential ban and limiting access.

The engagement summary report, *Reducing Violent Crime: A Dialogue on Handguns and Assault-Style Firearms* was made public on April 11, 2019.

Throughout this engagement process, which included in-person roundtables, an online questionnaire, and written submissions, the government heard from stakeholders with a wide-range of viewpoints and experience.

The feedback received will assist the government in determining if any changes are required to firearms legislation.

The Government will continue working to enhance public safety by focusing on prevention, effective law enforcement and strong community partnerships.