

The Honourable Marco Mendicino  
Minister of Public Safety  
269 Laurier Ave. West  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0P8

May 17, 2022

Dear Minister Mendicino:

I am writing to express grave concern regarding your May 11 announcement that certain provisions of Bill C-71 requiring verification of Possession and Acquisition Licences (PALs) for non-restricted firearms transfers and increased record-keeping by businesses will become effective on May 18, 2022. This deadline provides a totally inadequate lead time given the scope of these changes and their profound impact on law-abiding firearms owners and businesses.

The Alberta Chief Firearms Office has been inundated with enquiries since word of this deadline emerged on May 6. Distressingly little has been done to prepare individuals, businesses or chief firearms offices for the serious compliance challenges posed by these measures.

This lack of information has led to intense concerns about the potential return of a federal long gun registry. This concern has been heightened by your government's plans under the May 2020 order-in-council to use the existing registry of restricted firearms to confiscate the property of owners who acquired firearms in full conformity with the law at the time of acquisition.

In view of the magnitude of these changes, I call on you to immediately announce a moratorium on their introduction for at least one year to allow for an intensive period of consultation to help refine these processes or, preferably, abandon the entire project.

My staff and I remain, as always, at your disposal to provide the expertise needed to carry out this consultation and analysis. I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future.

Sincerely,  
*Original signed by*

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