



ALBERTA
JUSTICE AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Acadia*

The Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino, P.C., MP
Minister of Public Safety

Dear Minister Mendicino,

Alberta is not legally obligated and will not offer any provincial resources to the Federal Government as it seeks to confiscate lawfully acquired firearms.

The decision to ban over 1,500 models of different firearms, simply because the “style” of the firearm was deemed to be aesthetically displeasing, is offensive and suggests to us that you are uninterested in meaningfully addressing gun crime.

We are also disturbed by reports that federal civil servants have indicated that the RCMP provincial police officers will be deployed to confiscate firearms under the buyback program. Alberta taxpayers pay over \$750 million dollars per year to fund the RCMP as our provincial police service. We expect that those dollars not be wasted to pay for a confiscation program that will not increase public safety. Pursuant to the *Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA)*, the RCMP cannot be required to perform duties or provide services that are inappropriate to the effective and efficient delivery of police services in the Province (Article 2.3). Requiring the Provincial Police Service to implement the confiscation program runs contrary to the PPSA.

Also further to the PPSA, the Commanding Officer of the RCMP in Alberta is to implement Alberta’s objectives, priorities and goals, and deploy personnel and equipment to reflect these priorities (Article 7.0). The federal government does not set provincial policing priorities. Pursuant to the authorities granted to the Solicitor General, I have written to the Commanding Officer of the RCMP in Alberta to formally advise him that the confiscation program is not an objective, priority or goal of the province or the Provincial Police Service (Article 6.0), and nor is such deployment “... appropriate to the effective and efficient delivery of police services...” as per Article 2.3(a).

Further, I am concerned that federal officials have indicated that they will direct the RCMP participate in the confiscation program. I am advising you that I am disputing such direction or intention to take such direction, as outlined in Article 23.0 of the *Provincial Police Service Agreement*.

Finally, preliminary estimates suggest that you will need to confiscate over 30,000 firearms in Alberta alone. We believe that Public Safety Canada does not have the capacity, wherewithal, or the resources to seriously attempt this effort. And, much like the long gun registry, we believe your efforts will fail in the face of opposition from the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Shandro', with a stylized, cursive script.

Honourable Tyler Shandro, KC
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General