



Government
— of —
Saskatchewan

Minister of Corrections,
Policing and Public Safety

Legislative Building
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

September 27, 2022

Rhonda Blackmore
Assistant Commissioner
Commanding Officer "F" Division
6101 Dewdney Avenue, Bag Service 2500
REGINA SK S4P 3K7

Dear Assistant Commissioner Rhonda Blackmore:

As you are aware the federal government is implementing a variety of processes related to the "buy back" of firearms that were declared "prohibited" by Order in Council (OIC) on May 1, 2020. The OIC banned nine (9) types of firearms, by make and model, and their variants, firearms with a bore of 20 mm or greater, and those firearms capable of discharging a projectile with a muzzle energy greater than 10,000 joules. This in total has banned nearly 1,500 models of firearms some of which many citizens of Saskatchewan currently lawfully own and have in their possession.

As the federal government continues to plan for their confiscation program, it is important to make it clear to you, the Commanding Officer of our provincial police service, that the Government of Saskatchewan does not support and will not authorize the use of provincially funded resources for any process that is connected to the federal governments proposed "buy back" of these firearms.

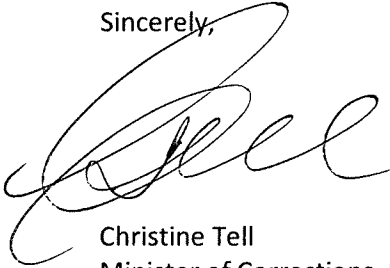
Primarily, I would indicate that the OIC, and most recently the "handgun freeze" announced by the federal government this summer does not and will not impact in any significant way actual crime committed with firearms within our province or in Canada itself. We know that the vast majority of these crimes are not committed by legal firearms or their owners but rather with illegally smuggled guns and those with a criminal history. This was most recently and poignantly confirmed in a tragic shooting event in Toronto in which a police officer was killed. Chief Tanner from the Halton Police Service established that the suspect was not a legal gun owner. In fact, the shooter had a long criminal history and would never have been able to possess a firearm legally in Canada.

Additionally, RCMP in "F" Division have been indicating for several years that they are extremely burdened with calls for service and lack the ability to be proactive. It has also been indicated that additional provincial resources are required to meet this demand.

The ministry has been presented with several documents that would seem to confirm this is the position of the RCMP. That being the case, it would seem to be counterintuitive to take our front-line resources from our provincial policing service to carry out a federally mandated administrative program. The Government of Saskatchewan nor the ministry feel that using our already precious and highly trained, heavily tasked police resources assigned to providing policing in our province is an appropriate use of resources, enhancing public safety in any way or in the best interest of the people of Saskatchewan.

In closing, the Government of Saskatchewan fully supports anti-crime initiatives that truly focus on the issues related to the criminal use of illegal firearms, preventing and combatting gang violence and addresses the issue of illegal or smuggled guns in our province. We do not and will not support initiatives that only impact the law abiding, RCMP vetted, hunters, sport shooters, ranchers, farmers and others who use firearms for lawful and good reasons. That said, we will not authorize the use of provincially funded resources of any type for the federal governments "buy back" program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Tell', written in a cursive style.

Christine Tell
Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety

cc: Dale Larsen, Deputy Minister, Corrections, Policing and Public Safety
Rob Cameron, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corrections, Policing and Public Safety
Bob Freberg, Chief Firearms Officer, Corrections, Policing and Public Safety