



**NEW BRUNSWICK WILDLIFE  
FEDERATION INC.**

**P.O. Box 549  
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Honourable Bill Blair  
Minister, Border Security & Organized Crime Reduction  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

November 15, 2018

**SUBJECT: POSSIBLE BAN ON HANDGUNS & ASSAULT WEAPONS**

Dear Mr. Blair:

The following are the concerns of the New Brunswick Wildlife Federation (NBWF) with a potential handgun and assault weapon ban.

The NBWF consists of Branches/Clubs throughout the province. Although these branches are mostly concerned with fish and wildlife issues members of the NBWF engage in hunting and recreational shooting on a regular basis. In addition, many of our branches have shooting facilities where handguns and long guns are used on a recreational and/or competitive basis.

Therefore, a potential ban on firearms is of great interest to our membership.

**QUESTIONNAIRE:**

First of all, we believe the online questionnaire to be seriously flawed. We had heard rumours of these flaws but wanted to be certain of these rumours before commenting. At the Moncton Roundtable it was reported that the Director General of Public Safety stated that the rumours were correct. The Director General also stated that the questionnaire was open not only to Canadians but to people from other countries and that the questionnaire could be replied to by the same person as many times as they desired. This, in itself, greatly affects the credibility of the questionnaire and its usefulness in this exercise.

In addition, the questionnaire itself appears to have been manipulated in order to obtain a desired result.

The NBWF is most definitely in favour of limiting access to handguns by the criminal element but we would not be in favour of limiting access to lawful citizens who either shoot handguns for recreational and/or competitive purposes or perhaps are collectors. Since the questionnaire doesn't put forward a Canadian definition of "assault weapon" it has left a great number of us confused. This is especially the case when we know that the Criminal Code and the regulations made pursuant to it already identify prohibited weapons. Perhaps the objective is to ban our semi – automatic duck hunting shotguns which might even be black in colour?

**SUMMARY:**

1. The NBWF is very concerned with the online poll and the irresponsible manner in which it has been put forward. How the results of this questionnaire will be used is definitely troubling.
2. The NBWF is also concerned with the definition of "assault weapon" as explained in the questionnaire. Should the definition of "assault weapon" include our semi-automatic rifles and shotguns that we use to compete in competitive and recreational shooting events or for hunting then we will have major concerns. A firm Canadian definition of "assault weapon" would have added greatly to this exercise.
3. The NBWF believes that a handgun and/or an assault weapon ban that affects only licensed firearms owners will do absolutely nothing to curtail serious firearm crimes, The NBWF has previously indicated that we do not support Bill C-71 and we are again indicating our non - support for the record.

We have not made recommendations regarding the root causes of violent firearm crime since we do not feel we have expertise in this matter.

However, it has been said that drugs, illiteracy, lack of meaningful employment and mental health issues are possibly to blame. We assure you that punishing the legal firearms community will not reduce violent firearm crime.

Sincerely  
Charlie Leblanc  
President, New Brunswick Wildlife Federation