



Minister Bill Blair
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
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Sent To: Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Blair

I find myself again writing to your office in the hope that you will recognize the importance of the Shooting Federation of Canada (SFC) as the National Sport Organization for the Olympic and Paralympic target shooting sports. Our role is to promote the target shooting sports in Canada and the safe use of pistols, rifles and shotguns in target shooting.

As the President of the SFC, it is my duty to inform you that your latest proposed firearm legislation Bill C-21 is harmful to the Olympic and Paralympic disciplines, our cultural heritage, and a blow to the many aspiring athletes that have dedicated thousands of hours in the hope of representing Canada on the international sport stage.

We have issues with much of the bill but in my role as President of the SFC, we must caution you that subsections: 58.01(1)(a), (b) and (c) and the competition exemption in subsection 7 are severely flawed.

I ask you to consider Target Shooting in the light of any other sport. For instance, consider if you made owning a baseball bat illegal in a city unless an individual took part in a "prescribed sporting **competition**". How would baseball teams recruit into their sport? How could the fundamentals of the sport be obtained by urban people? How could competitive athletes be found if there is no pool of recreational participants to pull from?

Any person involved in sport will tell you that recreational opportunity and access to the sport is what funds the sporting facilities and allows Canada to pull from the masses to produce the few world-class athletes. Similar to baseball, having other related disciplines like slow pitch, fast ball, T-ball, soft ball, and even cricket, the Olympic and Paralympic target shooting sports (ISSF and IPC) also pull from other handgun disciplines. These include but are not limited to Cowboy Action, Muzzle Loaders Association International Confederation, International Practical Shooting Confederation, and most importantly just local clubs that offer safe target shooting instruction and experiences. Our sport needs these disciplines with and without formal competition to be available in urban centers and we need them to equally flourish as part of high performance athlete recruitment and development as well as provide opportunity for lifetime sport and ParaSport.

Target shooting sports are unique in that people of all ages, sizes, shapes, physical abilities/disabilities and genders are able to take part recreationally or competitively. Imagine the joy of a competitive person unable to physically keep up with their peers on the track, on the field or in the pool; finding a sport in which they can excel and maybe even represent

their country. With the components of C-21 listed above, you will fundamentally choke our sport off at the roots, causing the sport to become so expensive and elitist that only the rich will be able to participate and burying a sport that many Canadians feel is a part of our culture.

Recreational non-competitive handgun opportunities absolutely need to be allowed in **all** parts of Canada. Target shooting as a sport needs to be supported and held far away from the violence perpetrated by illegal handgun wielding violent criminals. I don't think I need to remind you that legal handgun owners already have to prove worthy and qualify to safely own and handle their firearms. They also have to belong to a range or club. You already know the personal information of legal restricted firearm owners. They already pass the test so allowing municipalities to further control the ownership of handguns is redundant and not useful in your pursuit to reduce violent crime in this country. Allowing municipalities to ban handgun ownership to all but those participating in "prescribed competitions" will only damage legitimate target shooting and fail to combat violent criminals. Please do not allow municipal governments to strangle a legitimate Olympic and Paralympic sport and leave the handgun restrictions you have in place for legal firearms owners.

Sincerely,

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