



June 1, 2022

## Bill C21

### Open Letter to the SFC Membership

Shooting Federation of Canada (SFC) is the Government funded and recognized National Sport Governing Organization for the Target Shooting Sports in Canada and we are an active member of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) which is the International Olympic Committee recognized sport federation.

The ISSF oversees many target shooting disciplines involving air rifle, air pistol, small caliber rifle and pistol and shotgun target shooting sports. These are more than just the Olympic and Paralympic events.

Bill C21 is an attempt to manage criminal violence; however, it has components that impact law-abiding sport enthusiasts and the grassroots of our sports. It is a shame that the SFC was not consulted to allow the lawmakers to understand the negative impact the limited exceptions to handgun purchases will have on our Olympic hopefuls.

I am concerned that components of Bill C21 will strangle a large portion of our sport's resources. We are a group of sports that is competitively practiced by people 13 years of age to well into their 80s and 90s. I would challenge you to find a more inclusive sport as body size, body shape, physical limitations, age, and gender identity do not hinder a person wanting to achieve excellence in the target shooting sports.

Bill C21 Section 43 proposed subsection 97.1 "exceptions" only allows the participant in the Olympic or Paralympic shooting disciplines to purchase a handgun from enactment going forward. The "exceptions", as currently written, essentially strangles all our "feeder" pistol sports by not allowing any new non-Olympic target sport pistols to be purchased in this country.

There are numerous highly competitive and exceedingly fun target shooting sports that use pistols which are not in the Olympics. The SFC depends on these sports to identify talent and they help to create a pathway for our athletes to become Olympians and long-term sport participants. Few successful athletes in any sport start out in the highly disciplined Olympic sports. (Think of cyclists learning to ride a bike in a Velodrome or young person jumping in the 50 m lane pool before they know how to swim). I fear that we will lose the critical mass of competitors to find those with Olympic potential in the pistol sports as a direct result of this bill in its current state.

These very limited "exceptions" in Bill C21 create an economic hardship on law abiding and often volunteer-run shooting ranges in Canada that host multiple pistol target shooting sports. This offering of multiple sports ensures a large enough membership to be economically feasible. Loss of places to train will result in further exsanguination of our sport.

I urge every member of the SFC to contact their MP to explain to them the unfair limitations this version of Bill C21 includes and ask them to rethink the rules governing legal law-abiding pistol ownership. More importantly ask them to consult the SFC to develop exceptions that make sense for the target shooting disciplines in Canada.

Dr. Sandra Honour DVM, MSc  
President - Shooting Federation of Canada

I draw your attention to this section of Bill C21

*"43 The Act is amended by adding the following after section 97:*

**Exception — handguns**

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**97.1** Sections 12.2 and 19.1 do not apply in respect of an individual who

- **(a)** holds an authorization to carry in respect of a handgun; or
- **(b)** meets the prescribed criteria and provides a letter to a chief firearms officer from a provincial or national sport shooting governing body indicating
  - **(i)** that they are training, competing or coaching in a handgun shooting discipline that is on the programme of the International Olympic Committee or the International Paralympic Committee,
  - **(ii)** the disciplines in which they train, compete or coach, and
  - **(iii)** that the handgun in question is necessary for training, competing or coaching in those disciplines."