

# BILL C-71

**AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN REGULATIONS  
IN RELATION TO FIREARMS**

***An information session co-sponsored by  
the PEI Rifle Association and Women Shooters of PEI***



# What's the stated rationale?

- ◎ *“....increased gun crime has caused too much violence and taken too many lives...”*
  - Hon. Ralph Goodale, 20 March 2018
- ◎ *“Gang-related homicides, a majority involving guns, are up by two-thirds.”*
  - Hon. Ralph Goodale, 26 March 2018
- ◎ *“The fact of the matter is that there has been a distinct increase in gun-related crime since 2013.... Gun homicides are up by two-thirds since 2013.”*
  - Hon. Ralph Goodale, 27 March 2018

# What's the reality?

## ● Firearm homicides are not increasing

- 2013 – the year selected for comparison – was an outlier. It had the lowest rate of criminal homicide in 50 years;
- Firearm homicides have steadily declined since the 1990s while stabbings have increased



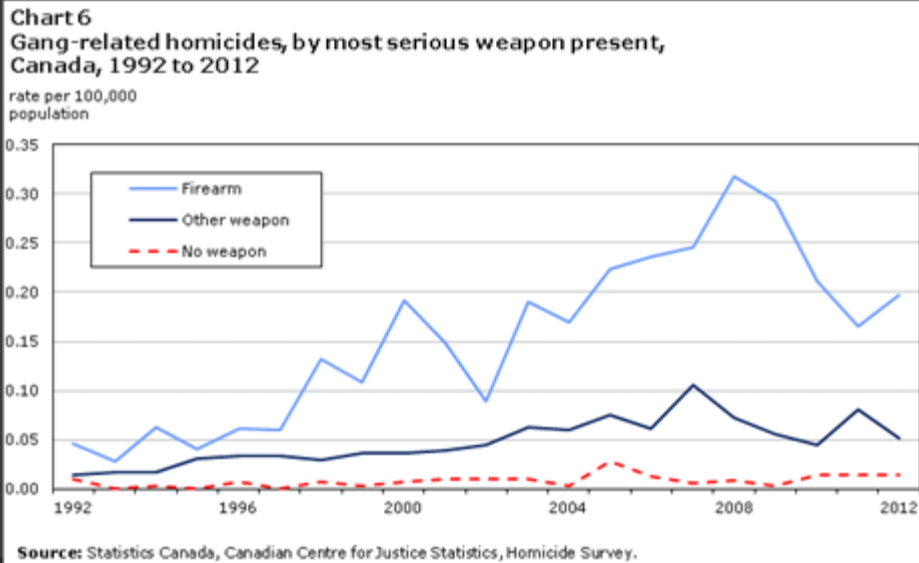
Source: Statistics Canada

	Homicide Rate	% Fatal Shootings	% Fatal Stabbings
1990-1999	2.2	32%	30%
2000-2009	1.8	31%	31%
2010-2016	1.6	30%	33%

Source: Dr. Gary Mauser

# What's the reality?

- Canada does not have a firearms problem, but it does have a gang problem
  - In 2016, 141 of 223 (63%) firearms-related homicides were gang related.
- C-71 targets gun owners, not gangs



Source: Statistics Canada

## Bill C-71 Text Analysis

WORD	MENTIONS	WORD	MENTIONS
Registrar	16	Crime	0
Registration	17	Gang	0
Record(s)	33	Violence	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>

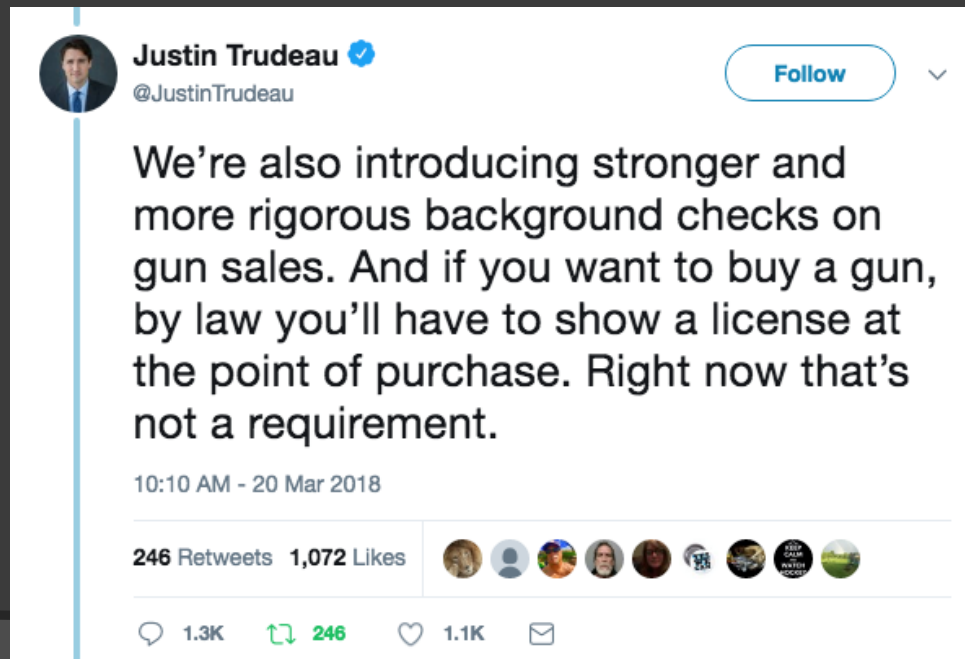
Source: @TheGunBlog

# What does C-71 do?

- License verification
- Point of sale registration
- Extended background checks
- Elimination of automatic ATTs
- Abdication of power to classify firearms from Government to RCMP

# What does C-71 do?

- Anyone selling or giving a non-restricted firearm, including private sellers, will be required to verify the validity of the firearms license of the recipient with the Canadian Firearms Program



# License verification

- Surprised? Apparently the RCMP was too:

## Telephone transfers

Transfers of non-restricted firearms can be conducted without contacting the CFP as registration is no longer required for this class of firearms. **The transferor is nevertheless required to verify** that the transferee has a valid PAL. The transferor can call the CFP toll-free number (1-800-731-4000) to confirm the validity of the transferee's licence before making a sale.

Transfers of restricted firearms by telephone can be carried out by calling the CFP and selecting the transfer option from the menu of services. Callers should have the following information ready when they call:

- Their full name, address and firearms licence number, if they are an individual transferor;
- Their business licence and identification number, if they are a business transferor;
- Their PAL number, name and address, if they are an individual transferee;
- Their business licence and identification number, if they are a business transferee;
- The registration certificate number and firearms identification number for the restricted firearms.

*RCMP web page  
prior to 5 April  
2018*

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- The registration certificate number and firearms identification number for the restricted firearms.

*RCMP web page on  
5 April 2018*



# What does C-71 do?

- ⦿ Requires a person to obtain permission and a reference number from the Registrar before transfer of a non-restricted firearm can be completed.
- ⦿ *“... it’s simply not a federal long gun registry, full stop, period. The requirement for retailers to maintain their own private record is just that, they’re private records of the retailers, and they will not be accessible to government. They would be accessible to police when they are investigating gun crimes, with the proper basis of reasonable cause and judicial authorization through a warrant.*

- Hon Ralph Goodale, 20 March 2018





# Point of sale registration

- Attaching an individual firearm to an individual person is, in essence, a registry.
- Despite Goodale's comment, the Act [s. 102(1)] clearly states an inspector may, at any reasonable time, enter any place where he believes there is a business, gun collection, prohibited firearm or more than 10 guns and examine or copy any records deemed relevant to the enforcement of the Act.

# What does C-71 do?

- In determining whether a person is eligible for a firearms license, authorities will be required to consider specific information from the person's life history, rather than the past 5 years.

Please fill out the following form. You can save data typed into this form. Highlight Existing Fields

5. c) City	5. d) Province/Territory	5. e) Country	5. f) Postal Code
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**C - Personal History**

If you answer **yes** to any of the questions in this section, you must provide details on a separate page. Add your name and licence number at the top of each page you attach. If details are not provided, your application cannot be processed.  
A **yes** answer **does not mean** your application will be refused but it may lead to further examination.

6. a) During the past five (5) years, have you been subject to a peace bond, protection order or an order under section 810 of the *Criminal Code*?  Yes  No

6. b) Is any member of your household prohibited from possessing any firearm?  Yes  No

6. c) During the past five (5) years, have you threatened or attempted suicide, or have you suffered from or been diagnosed or treated by a medical practitioner for: depression; alcohol, drug or substance abuse; behavioural problems; or emotional problems?  Yes  No


6. d) During the past two (2) years, have you experienced a divorce, a separation, a breakdown of a significant relationship, job loss or bankruptcy?  Yes  No

**D - Conjugal Status**

You must answer both questions 7. a) and b) or your licence application will be delayed

7. a) Do you currently have a spouse, common-law or other conjugal partner?  No  Yes. If selected, you must complete section E.

7. b) Within the last two (2) years have you lived in a conjugal relationship other than with the person you may have referred to in question 7. a)?  No  Yes. If selected, you must complete section F.

8.50 x 11.00 in RCMP GRC 5614e (2018-03-14) Page 1 of 3 



# Background checks

- Gun owners as a group have a lower homicide rate than the Canadian average:
  - 0.60/100,000 (gun owners) vs 1.81/100,000 (Canadian average) during the period 1997-2012 (*source: Dr. Gary Mauser*)
- License holders are currently subject to continuous eligibility screening
  - Daily automatic check to determine whether a license holder has been the subject of an incident report in Canadian Police Information Centre.( \$50 million/annum)
- Proposed checks unnecessary, and may unfairly discriminate against those who have been treated for mental health or other issues in the distant past.

# What does C-71 do?

- Removes automatic authorization to transport (ATT) for restricted or prohibited firearms for purposes including gun shows, gun smiths, appraisals, *etc.*
  - Automatic ATT for transport to and from approved ranges, and to the usual place of storage following purchase, remain.

# Authorizations to transport

- Gun owners as a group have a lower homicide rate than the Canadian average:
  - 0.60/100,000 (gun owners) vs 1.81/100,000 (Canadian average) during the period 1991-2012 (*source: Dr. Gary Mauser*)
- There has been no evidence to suggest that automatic ATTs are any risk to public safety, nor that any crime has been committed by a licensed firearm owners transporting a firearm under this provision.
- This measure has no possible effect on criminal behaviour.



# What does C-71 do?

- ⦿ Grants RCMP legislated authority to classify firearms
- ⦿ *“The new legislation proposes to...Ensure the impartial, professional, accurate and consistent classification of firearms as either "non-restricted" "restricted" or "prohibited" - by restoring a system in which Parliament defines the classes but entrusts experts in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to classify firearms, without political influence.”*

*- Public Safety Canada news release, 20 March 2018*

# Firearms classification by RCMP

- ◉ No oversight by elected officials
- ◉ No recourse for correction
- ◉ Violates the Government / police divide, a core principle of democracy:
  - Government makes the law, police enforce it



# Where did C-71 come from?

- A letter to MPs from Poly Remembers (“*students and graduates of Ecole Polytechnique calling for better gun control*”) dated 24 November 2017 has 8 recommendations:
  - Strengthen the screening process for new and renewed PALs;
  - Forbid marketing that encourages multiple registrations with respect to firearms safety courses;
  - Strengthen measures related to sale and transfer of firearms, including mandatory license verification;



# PolyRemembers reccs, continued

- ⦿ Reinstate discretion of CPFOS and RCMP with respect to granting of license and classification of firearms ;
- ⦿ Reinstate inventory controls and sale ledgers for non-restricted sales and the requirement to notify authorities of private sales;
- ⦿ Reinstate transportation permits;
- ⦿ Ban assault weapons;
- ⦿ Eliminate a loophole on large-capacity magazines and impose a real limit of 5 rounds for non-restricted and 10 rounds for restricted.

# PolyRemembers reccs, continued

- Reinstate discretion of CPFOs and POFs in respect to granting of license and sale of firearms ;
- Reinstate inventory control requirements for non-restricted sales and require sellers to notify authorities of private sales;
- Reinstate permit requirements;
- Reinstate restrictions on handguns;
- Eliminate a loophole on large-capacity magazines and impose a real limit of 5 rounds for non-restricted and 10 rounds for restricted.

Sound Familiar?



# Who is the Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee?

- Renewed in March 2017 to “...*provide advice on measures to reform Canada’s firearms policies, laws and regulations to ensure an up-to-date firearms regime that will keep Canadians safe.*”
- Members agree not to “*Engage in lobbying activities or work as a registered lobbyist on behalf of any entity making submissions or representations to the Government of Canada on issues relating to the mandate of this committee*”.
- Vice-chair is Nathalie Provost, co-author and signatory to the aforementioned letter to MPs from Poly Remembers on 24 November 2017

# Where is C-71 now?

- C-71 has passed second reading in the House of Commons and has been referred to the Standing Committee on Public Safety (SECU). The government called closure after one hour of debate.
- SECU will review the Bill, receive public submissions, and may make changes.
- SECU will report back to the House of Commons, likely this sitting.
- If C-71 passes third reading, it will be referred to the Senate for review.

# BILL C-71

## Bill C-71 Text Analysis

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@TheGunBlog

Do we wish to see the criminal use of firearms by gangs reduced? Absolutely! Bill C-71 does not address that issue.



# Bill c-71

- John Tory, mayor of Toronto “98% of gun homicides in the city are gang /drug related”.
- No criminologist has ever said that firearms laws/regulations have/will reduce criminal use of firearms.
- Law abiding firearms users do not require to be singled out for this kind of scrutiny by the government while criminal gang activity runs rampant.
- **THERE IS MORE!**



# What is Bill C-75?

- ⦿ *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other acts and to make consequential amendments to other Acts, tabled April 5<sup>th</sup>.*
- ⦿ It reduces penalties for crimes such as:
  - participation in gang activity,
  - recruitment into organized crime of minors,
  - importing and exporting of illegal firearms and
  - possession of illegal firearms.

# What can you do?

- Sign petition E-1608 (Firearms)

**Open for signature** : March 28, 2018, at 10:55 a.m. (EDT)

**Closed for signature** : July 26, 2018, at 10:55 a.m. (EDT)

 Signatures (66330) 

Province / Territory	Signatures
Alberta	16119
British Columbia	11726
Manitoba	2525
New Brunswick	2666
Newfoundland and Labrador	717
Northwest Territories	149
Nova Scotia	1523
Nunavut	39
Ontario	19270
Prince Edward Island	190
Quebec	7451
Saskatchewan	3657
Yukon	236
Other Countries	62



# What can you do?

- Write your MP. Find your MP here:  
<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>
- Make a submission to SECU. Find SECU here:  
<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/SECU?parl=41&session=1>
- Write your Senator. Find your Senator here:  
<https://sencanada.ca/en/senators/>
- Go to <http://oneclearvoice.ca/> and participate in its various campaigns

# What can you do?

- Get informed. Follow / join groups such as:
  - Canadian Coalition for Firearms Rights (CCFR)
  - Canadian Shooting Sports Association (CSSA)
  - Canadian Voters Against Bill C-71
  - National Firearms Association (NFA)
- Inform others. Help firearms owners become aware of C-71, and non-firearms owners understand the implications and costs.

## Sources:

Professor Gary Mauser

Ian Runkle-Attorney at Law

CCFR

CSSA

[http://polysesouvient.ca/Documents/STATS\\_18\\_03\\_08\\_Environics\\_Poll\\_Results.pdf](http://polysesouvient.ca/Documents/STATS_18_03_08_Environics_Poll_Results.pdf)

[http://polysesouvient.ca/Documents/PRSS\\_18\\_03\\_09\\_Sondage\\_ArmesAssaut\\_ControlesVentes.pdf](http://polysesouvient.ca/Documents/PRSS_18_03_09_Sondage_ArmesAssaut_ControlesVentes.pdf)

<https://ipolitics.ca/2018/03/09/canadians-supportban-on-semi-auto-assault-sport-rifles-environics-poll/> <https://s3.amazonaws.com/CSSA/PDF/CSSA2018-Semi-Automatic-Rifle-Survey.pdf>

References: • <https://dennisryoung.ca/2018/02/15/rcmp-fail-provide-statistics-dangerousfi-rearms/> • <https://dennisryoung.ca/2016/07/26/rcmp-report-police-info-on-cpic-whensearching-name-address-or-vehicle-licence/> • <https://dennisryoung.ca/2018/02/16/rcmp-doesnt-know-fi-rearms-trace/> • <https://dennisryoung.ca/2017/05/28/guess-who-cpic-tracks-and-who-cpic-doesnot-track-daily/>