



Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

Supporting police professionals through innovative and inclusive police leadership to advance the safety and security of all Canadians.

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CACP Statement: Canada's police leaders support the passing of Bill C-21 on firearms

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACAP) welcomes the news that Bill C-21 has passed and will soon receive royal assent thereby introducing essential provisions to the *Criminal Code* and the *Firearms Act* that address the issues of privately made firearms (ghost guns), replica firearms, as well as family violence and self-harm involving firearms.

It was critical that ghost guns be recognized as prohibited weapons, that restrictions apply to replica firearms, and that firearm parts be specified in provisions pertaining to prohibition orders, offences, and exemptions. These provisions are aimed at preventing criminals from using legal technology and/or parts to manufacture illegal firearms used to commit criminal offences.

The CACP is also a strong supporter of all provisions aimed at reducing gender-based violence, intimate partner violence, and self-harm by specifically limiting access to firearms by those who pose a risk of harm to themselves or others.

While Bill C-21 continues to improve Canada's strict and responsible gun ownership regime in Canada, the CACP will continue to advocate for legislative amendments specifically targeted at repeat violent offenders and those charged with offences involving a firearm. We will also continue to call for the mandatory tracing of all crime guns in Canada to help us better understand the pathways these guns take before they are seized as part of a criminal investigation in Canada. This is type of regulation that will allow us to truly target the criminals who are smuggling and trafficking guns in our country.

In Canada, ownership of a firearm is not a right, it is a privilege. Legislation like Bill C-21 aims to strike an appropriate balance between the rights of the accused and those of victims, survivors, communities, and officers to help mitigate the impact of the worst outcomes of firearms.