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Matt Jeneroux

Member of Parliament
Edmonton Riverbend

EDMONTON

October 26, 2022

Honourable Marco Mendicino
Minister of Public Safety
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Mendicino:

I am writing to you today regarding the national handgun freeze announced by the Prime Minister on October 21, 2022 on the sale, purchase, or transfer of handguns by individuals within Canada, and bringing newly acquired handguns into Canada.

This national freeze on handguns was made effective immediately while we as legislators still debating the passage of Bill C-21. It also is a reminder that in January 2021 the government blocked a Conservative bill to toughen consequences for gun smuggling, which is the true source of gun violence in Canada.

Violent crimes in our cities have gone up steadily each year since 2015 under this government's watch. The fact is, hobbyists, collectors, sport shooters, and hunters are not the ones to blame for the rise in gun crime in Canada – gangs, criminals, and the guns they illegally smuggle from the United States are.

We have, and will always, support common-sense firearms policies that keep communities safe and guns out of the hands of dangerous criminals. We believe the government should, on top of increasing penalties for gun smuggling, focus on supporting grassroots community organizations that prevent our youth from joining gangs in the first place, and investing in Canadian Border Services and police anti-gang and gun units to provide law enforcement with the resources they need to stop illegal firearm smuggling and gun violence at its root. We also urge the government to reconsider its actions to reduce sentencing requirements for serious gun crimes. Hardened criminals should be kept behind the bars for longer instead of the other way around.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I'm looking forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Matt Jeneroux, MP
Edmonton Riverbend