

# Bill C-21

## Information Overview: Firearms Legislation

Committee of Council  
March 31, 2021



# Bill C-21

- On February 16, 2021, Bill C-21 was introduced in the House of Commons.
- Proposed amendments to:
  - *Criminal Code*
  - ***Firearms Act***
  - *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, and
  - *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*



# Classes of Firearms

## Non-restricted Firearms

- Shotguns and rifles



## Restricted Firearms

- Predominantly handguns



## Prohibited Firearms

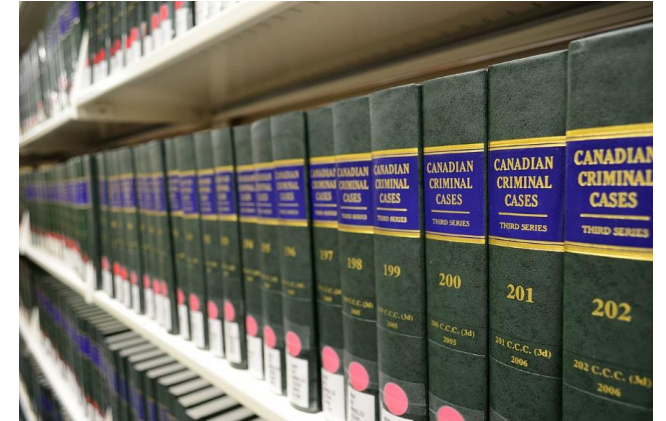
- Certain handguns, fully automatic or converted automatic firearms, modified “sawed off” shotguns or rifles



Proposed changes of Bill C-21 apply to handguns

# Firearms Licensing and Regulation

- Firearms regulated under:
  - *Firearms Act*, and
  - Part III of the *Criminal Code of Canada*
- Canadian Firearms Program (CFP) – RCMP:
  - Firearms Licensing (individual) and Registration Certificate (firearm)
  - New and Renewed Registrations – processed by RCMP
    - Issues reviewed by OPP and/or Municipal Firearms Officers



# Firearms Licensing and Regulation

## Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL)

- Submit application to Central Processing Site (CPS)
- Issue licence if application is cleared
- Forward application to provincial Firearms Officer for further review if required
- If required, send application to Area Firearm Officers (e.g. OPP or PRP) for further investigation to determine applicant eligibility

## Firearm Registration Certificate

- Individual seller / buyer can initiate the transfer over the phone
- Business can initiate the transfer via the Business Web Service portal
- Transfers are forwarded to the buyer's province for processing by Firearms Officers.
- Transfers of prohibited firearm are forwarded to the Canadian Firearms Registry (CFR) for verification and final approval.

# Firearms Licensing and Regulation

## Individual firearms licences by type in Canada and Ontario

Jurisdiction	PAL	Minor's Licence	Total
Canada	2,209,906	9,438	2,219,344
Ontario	624,939	3,775	628,714

## Firearms registered to individuals or businesses by class in Canada and Ontario

Jurisdiction	Restricted	Prohibited	Total
Canada	1,057,418	178,496	1,235,914
Ontario	401,319	72,446	473,765

Data Source: 2019 Commissioner of Firearm Report

**PAL:** Possession and Acquisition Licence, issued 18 years and older

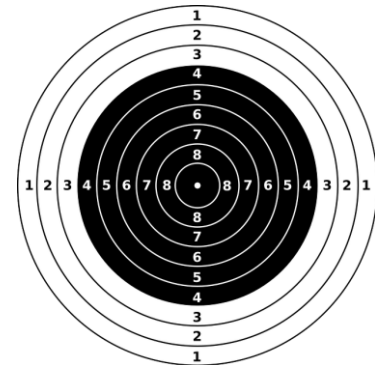
# Proposed Amendments to *Firearms Act*

- Any municipality would have the ability to pass a by-law that:
  - Prohibits storage of a handgun at home;
  - Prohibits storage of a handgun anywhere within municipal boundaries;  
and
  - Restrict transportation of the firearm, with exceptions (e.g. amnesty programs)

# Proposed Amendments to *Firearms Act*

## Exceptions:

- Conditions **would not apply** to a handgun:
  - a) for training for a prescribed sporting competition;
  - b) for which an individual holds an authorization to carry; or
  - c) in the prescribed circumstances or for a prescribed purpose (yet to be defined).





# Proposed Amendments to *Firearms Act*

- Compliance:
  - Licence holders be notified by Registrar of Firearms
  - 180 days to comply
- Non-compliance:
  - Maximum penalty of two years imprisonment
  - Revocation of a firearms licence or a registration certificate

# Proposed Amendments to *Criminal Code*

- Increase maximum penalty from 10 to 14 years imprisonment for:
  - Possession of prohibited or restricted firearm with ammunition
  - Possession of weapon obtained by commission of offence
  - Firearm trafficking
  - Possession for purpose of firearm trafficking
  - Unauthorized import and export of firearms



# Municipal Implications

- Enforcement:
  - Federal Regulation – outside of Municipal By-law officer jurisdiction
- Impact:
  - Conditions apply to licensed firearm holders – does not address illegal firearms

Thank you!

