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Dear Constituents,

I am writing today to share an important update on Bill C-21.

Reducing gun violence is something that all Canadians want to see, but it is equally important to ensure that we find the right balance, through consulting with Indigenous peoples along with Canadian hunters, sport shooters, and experts.

As you know, in November, amendments G-4 and G-46 were introduced to Bill C-21, dramatically changing the bill and causing a great deal of confusion and concern across Canada, about the lack of consultation undertaken with Indigenous communities and law-abiding firearms owners, amongst others. My office heard from many Yukoners about these amendments, and I made sure their concerns were heard. I brought the many concerns directly to Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino, who responded by coming to the Yukon to engage directly with stakeholders and constituents. The amendments were subsequently withdrawn and over the past few months, Minister Mendicino has undertaken further consultations with Canadians across the country.

Minister Mendicino has been speaking and engaging with hunters & trappers; First Nations, Inuit and Metis citizens; and leaders, and rural & Northern residents. He has also sought input from experts in the field and has reviewed the recommendations put forward by the Mass Casualty Commission, which examined the worst mass shooting in Canadian history, and has consulted with members of the opposition parties. As a result of these consultations, new amendments to Bill C-21 have now been proposed. The important changes include the following:

- There will no longer be a list of makes and models for the assault-style firearm ban. Bill C-21 will establish a new technical definition which contains the characteristics of an assault-style firearm, but this definition *will only apply to firearms designed **after** the provision comes into force*, meaning it will **not** apply to firearms currently on the market.
- Following Recommendation 38 (C.21) of the *Mass Casualty Commission*, the Government will re-establish the *Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee* to independently review the classification of **existing firearms** and inform an Order-in-Council to add to the list of banned firearms. With a diverse membership, including but not limited to hunting sporting experts, First Nations, Inuit and Metis, and gun restriction advocates, the Committee will make expert recommendations on the classification of firearms.

- Regulations will also require that manufacturers seek a Firearms Reference Number before being allowed to sell in Canada. These regulatory measures will ensure that no firearm goes unaccounted for in the classification process. Indeed, hunters should not have to worry about whether their newly purchased firearm is prohibited or not, as this will become the responsibility of manufacturers.
- Bill C-21 will also tackle the growing issue of ghost guns by enacting new offences, and classifying ghost guns and other illegally made firearms as prohibited.
- The Government will also reinforce measures to stop illegal importation of guns at Canada's borders.
- The Government also intends to update regulations regarding large capacity magazines in the very near future. Other regulations would ban the sale or transfer of magazines capable of holding more than the legal number of bullets.
- Bill C-21 will include a specific amendment that makes it clear that nothing proposed in the bill derogates from the rights of Indigenous peoples recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

For more information, while you can always reach out to my office, I invite you to consult Public Safety Canada's [News Release](#).

While I recognize that you may still continue to have concerns, these changes signify that the voices of rural and northern Canadians are being heard. The changes to Bill C-21 are significant and demonstrate that our government has listened. This is a sincere effort to respond to the legitimate issues that you and many others in Yukon have expressed. Canadians feel that we need to do more to ensure the safety of our communities, but we must get there while respecting hunting and sport shooting as fundamental Canadian traditions and an Indigenous right.

No single program or initiative can tackle the challenge of gun violence alone. These measures are part of the Government's comprehensive plan to keep Canadians safe from gun crime. It begins with strong borders, where we've added resources to fight smuggling and stop guns from coming into Canada. Finally, it includes strong prevention strategies, most notably the \$250 million *Building Safer Communities Fund*, which aims to stop gun crime before it starts.

I look forward to hearing your response to these proposals and will continue to weigh your position in my deliberations on this bill while it moves through the parliamentary process. Rest assured I will remain engaged with this issue closely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Hanley', written in a cursive style.

Brendan Hanley, MP