



Shannon Stubbs, MP  
Lakeland

May 28, 2021

Mayor and Council/Reeve and Council,

On February 16, 2021 Bill C-21, a bill that makes changes to the Criminal Code and the Firearms Act, and targets law abiding firearms owners, was introduced and is being debated in the House of Commons. Conservatives constitutently call for cracking down on illegal gun smuggling, trading, gang and crime gun use, but Bill C-21 misses the mark if the aim really is to improve and protect the personal and public safety of Canadians. Bill C-21 focuses on the wrong people and groups, while also creating uncertainty and adding undo pressure on other levels of government.

Bill C-21 includes provision to allow municipalities to create handgun bylaws, which would place conditions on federal firearms licenses relating to handgun use, storage, or transportation within municipalities that have passed such bylaws.

Residents in cities and other places, with ever increasing gang shootings and violence rightfully expect their government ought to be taking action to keep them safe, but a regulation that gives municipalities the ability to pass bylaws does not do that. The municipal provision in Bill C-21 would be a bylaw on licenses, so this measure literally, specifically, and only targets Canadians who have licenses. This does nothing to stop dangerous criminals who certainly would never comply with a municipal bylaw when they do not obtain their guns legally, do not get licenses and who frankly do not care about criminal laws. What this purposed municipal bylaw section would do is lead to yet another layer of confusing, overlapping regulations and a patchwork of rules for already law-abiding Canadians within and between communities, while violations could result in two years imprisonment or permanent license revocations.

I have been hearing from municipalities concerned with being tasked by the Federal government to create these types of bylaws. They are sharing fears about economic and housing impacts by the perception that one community has higher safety standards than others, or that law-abiding firearms citizens will literally be unaware they are in violation just by crossing a municipal boundary that has different bylaws.

Some municipalities are saying that they do not have the expertise to create these bylaws and certainly would not have the resources to enforce such regulations. They are also concerned these bylaws potentially violate their own provinces' jurisdiction. Some provinces in opposition to the federal legislation have already passed or are proposing laws that would prohibit this type of power to shift to individual municipalities. Saskatchewan has already passed such a provincial law, and Alberta's bill received royal assent on April 29, 2021.

Due to these concerns, some municipalities have already opposed Bill C-21 and have taken the steps to pass resolutions in opposition to this potential new power that they neither requested, nor have the resources to impose and enforce.

I have attached a copy of the resolution passed by the council in Kingsville, Ontario. I encourage you to seek feedback from your rate payers, and to discuss this issue in council. You may decide to pass a similar resolution on behalf of your community. Please feel free to advise my office if you do so, and to reach out if you require any additional information on Bill C-21.

Sincerely,

Thank you



Shannon Stubbs, MP  
Lakeland



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Sub-Item 3

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

March 25, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, MP  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Prime Minister:

**RE: Bill C-21, An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)**

At its Regular Meeting held on March 8, 2021 Council of the Town of Kingsville passed the following Resolution:

**"205-2021**

**Moved By** Councillor Thomas Neufeld, **Seconded By** Councillor Larry Patterson

A Resolution concerning Bill C-21, An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms), specifically Amendment 26, Section (58.01 (1-8), Conditions-by-law.

WHEREAS municipalities have never been responsible for gun control laws in Canada;

AND WHEREAS law abiding Kingsville residents who own legal handguns have already been thoroughly vetted through the CFSC, PAL and ATT applications;

AND WHEREAS illegal gun owners and smugglers do not respect postal codes;

AND WHEREAS if one municipality enacts a ban and not a neighbouring municipality, this will create a patchwork of by-laws;

AND WHEREAS a municipal ban would be difficult to enforce and easy to get around.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Corporation of the Town of Kingsville is OPPOSED to the adoption of any by-laws restricting the possession, storage and transportation of legally obtained handguns;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the following public officials: MP Chris Lewis-Essex, MPP Taras Natyshak-Essex, Premier of Ontario The Honourable Doug Ford, Leader of the Official Opposition Andrea Horwath, Prime Minister of Canada The Honourable Justin Trudeau, and Leader of Official Opposition The Honourable Erin O'Toole."

If you require any further information, please contact the undersigned.

Yours very truly,



Sandra Kitchen  
Deputy Clerk-Council Services  
Legislative Services Department  
skitchen@kingsville.ca

cc: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier  
cc: Hon. Andrea Horwath, Official Leader of the Opposition  
cc: Hon. Erin O'Toole, Official Leader of the Opposition  
cc: MP Chris Lewis- Essex  
cc: MPP Taras Natyshak-Essex  
cc: Hon. Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
cc: MP Shannon Stubbs  
cc: Mayor Aldo DiCarlo, Town of Amherstburg  
cc: Mayor Larry Snively, Town of Essex  
cc: Mayor Tom Bain, Town of Lakeshore  
cc: Mayor Marc Bondy, Town of LaSalle  
cc: Mayor Hilda MacDonald, Municipality of Leamington  
cc: Mayor Gary McNamara, Town of Tecumseh  
cc: all Municipalities in Ontario

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