

Ministry of the Solicitor General

Chief Firearms Office

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Ministère du Solliciteur général

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File # 8676 02

**RE: INQUIRIES ABOUT THE ASSAULT-STYLE
FIREARM COMPENSATION PROGRAM (ASFCP)**

Pursuant to section 95 of the *Firearms Act (FA)*, the Federal Government and the Province of Ontario have maintained agreements since 1998 for the administration of the *Firearms Act* in Ontario. The Chief Firearms Officer for Ontario, designated by the Solicitor General, is responsible for administering licensing provisions, issuing authorizations, approving shooting clubs and ranges, designating firearms officers, and designating instructors for the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC) and Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course (CRFSC).

Under the May 1, 2020 Order in Council, certain firearms were classified as prohibited. Individuals have until the current amnesty period (October 30, 2026) to lawfully dispose of these firearms.

Individuals may choose one of the following options:

- Participate in the Federal Government's ASFCP and receive compensation;
- Export prohibited firearms (no compensation);
- Deliver firearms to police for destruction (no compensation); or
- Have the firearms permanently deactivated (no compensation).

Participation in the ASFCP is voluntary; however, compliance with federal legislation is mandatory.

Owners must ensure that any affected firearms are lawfully disposed of or permanently deactivate their assault-style firearms before October 30, 2026. After this date, individuals who remain in possession of prohibited firearms may be subject to criminal liability.

Law enforcement agencies are responsible for investigating unlawful possession of prohibited firearms and may lay criminal charges after the amnesty expiry.

The Chief Firearms Officer's role is regulatory in nature. Authority related to licensing decisions, including potential licence revocations, is outlined in section 5 of the *Firearms Act*.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven R. Thompson".

Superintendent Steven R. Thompson
Chief Firearms Officer for the Province of Ontario

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