

April 7, 2026

Mr. Tony Bernardo
Executive Director
Canadian Shooting Sports Association
204-1143 Wentworth Street West
Oshawa, ON L1J 8P7

Re: Order-in-Council - Assault-Style Firearms Ban

Thank you for your letter seeking clarification on whether the Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) will revoke the firearms licences of Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL) holders who continue to possess firearms that prohibited under the May 1, 2020, Order in Council.

The CFO's mandate is to administer and apply the provisions of the *Firearms Act* and its regulations, including firearms licensing and continuous eligibility screening. Decisions to revoke a firearms licence are made on an individual, case-by-case basis, in accordance with the statutory criteria set out in the *Firearms Act*.

As part of the May 1, 2020 Order in Council, the Government of Canada established an amnesty period allowing affected individuals until October 30, 2026, to lawfully dispossess themselves of prohibited firearms, in accordance with regulatory conditions.

During the amnesty period, lawful owners may continue to possess newly prohibited firearms, provided they comply with all applicable conditions of the amnesty. The CFO does not proactively revoke firearms licences solely on the basis that a PAL holder possesses a firearm prohibited under the 2020 Order in Council and remains within the scope of the amnesty.

Any consideration of licence revocation would be based on the totality of the circumstances, including compliance with legal requirements and public safety considerations, and would follow the procedural safeguards established under the *Firearms Act*.

Should the amnesty expire or its conditions not be met, enforcement matters would fall within the mandate of law enforcement agencies, and the CFO would continue to exercise its statutory responsibilities in accordance with applicable law.

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I trust this information provides clarification regarding the role of the CFO and the current approach concerning PAL holders affected by the May 2020 firearms prohibition.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven R. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

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

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