

Minister of Justice  
and Attorney General of Canada



Ministre de la Justice  
et Procureure générale du Canada

The Honourable/L'honorable A. Anne McLellan

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H8

DEC 21 1989

Ms. Wendy Cukier  
President, Coalition for Gun Control  
P.O. Box 395, Station D  
Toronto, Ontario M6P 3J9

Dear Ms. Cukier:

Thank you for your phone call about the Ruger Mini-14. The Government of Canada's commitment to prohibit the Ruger Mini-14 and the Colt AR-15 has not changed.

The prohibition of the Ruger Mini-14 could not have occurred before December 1, 1988, when the new legislation came into force. Since that time, my department's focus has been on the implementation of the new firearms licensing and registration system. The system has presented us with some challenges and the Department of Justice is working hard to ensure that system problems are cleared up so that Canadians applying for a firearms license and registering their firearms are served efficiently. Once the system is satisfactorily implemented, we will be in a better position to act on the commitment to prohibit the Ruger Mini-14 and the Colt AR-15.

As you know, we continue to face pressure from a small but very vocal gun lobby which, through disinformation, takes every opportunity to hinder compliance with the program. In addition, many owners plan to wait for the decision of the reference to the Supreme Court of Canada before they apply for a license or register any of their non-restricted firearms.

Our focus continues, nevertheless, to be on maximizing compliance with the Firearms Act among responsible, law abiding firearms owners. As you know, the public safety dividends of the firearms program are enhanced by the broadest cooperation and compliance of firearms owners with the new system.

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I am committed to ensuring that the licensing and registration system meets the expectations that you and your supporters share. For example, in the first year of operation, the system refused or revoked more than 1,000 valid firearms licenses for reasons of public safety. In addition, more than 2,000 calls were placed to the spousal notification line. As you know, this line provides an outlet for spouses who are concerned about their partner's application to acquire or continued possession of any type of firearm. It is results like these that demonstrate why the universal licensing of firearms owners and universal registration of firearms are important building blocks for safer communities for men, women and children across Canada.

I would like to thank you for the assistance and support that you and your colleagues have shown in the past and look forward to working with you again in the future.

Yours sincerely,



A. Anne McLellan