

Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Public Safety
and Emergency Preparedness Canada



Vice-première ministre
et ministre de la Sécurité publique
et de la Protection civile du Canada

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

The Honourable L'honorable
A. Anne McLellan, P.C., M.P. c.p., députée

JUN 23 2005



Mr. Garry Breitkreuz, M.P.
Yorkton – Melville
Room 452-D, Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Breitkreuz:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 13, 2005, in which you share [REDACTED] concerns regarding the transportation of prohibited converted automatic firearms to shooting ranges. I apologize for the delay in responding.

In the context of the issues you raised in your letter, I point out that on April 10, 2005, amendments to the *Firearms Act* contained in Bill C-10A concerning prohibited firearms came into force. As a consequence, prohibited firearms, with the exception of prohibited handguns described in subsection 12(6.1), will no longer be permitted to be transported to shooting ranges. This includes prohibited firearms described in subsections 12(2), 12(3), 12(4), and 12(5) of the *Firearms Act*. Henceforth, these prohibited firearms may only be transported for the purposes of changing residence, repair, storage, sale, exportation, appraisal, taking part in a gun show, or to be transported to a peace officer, Firearms Officer or Chief Firearms Officer for registration or disposal.

In 2004, just over 300 individuals actually received Special Authorities to Possess, permitting them to transport prohibited firearms to a shooting range. As such, the overall impact of this change focuses on those persons most directly.

Regarding the specific concerns you raised in your correspondence, Chief Firearms Officers (CFOs) were made aware in late 2004 that Special Authorities to Possess prohibited converted automatic firearms were being issued to transport prohibited converted automatic firearms to ranges not operated by the Department of National Defence. Such an arrangement was simply not envisioned within the *Special Authority to Possess Regulations*. The procedures now followed by CFOs

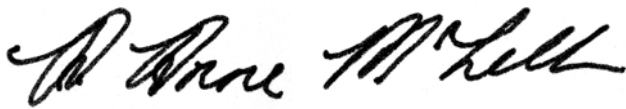
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are consistent with the current legislation and regulations. This was not a result of a change in the regulations or the law. I regret that the situation [REDACTED] described arose. However, I trust that you can appreciate the need to adjust operational practices as necessary to respect the *Firearms Act* and its regulations.

The broader changes affecting the transportation of prohibited firearms that were implemented on April 10, 2005, mentioned above were, of course, implemented in accordance with the law as passed by Parliament.

Thank you for bringing these concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Anne McLellan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anne" being particularly prominent.

A. Anne McLellan