

DISCLOSURE FORM FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Office of the Public Sector
Integrity Commissioner
of Canada



Commissariat à l'intégrité
du secteur public
du Canada

PROTECTED B once completed

Submit completed forms by mail, fax or in person to:

Office of the Public Sector Integrity
Commissioner of Canada
60 Queen Street, 4th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5Y7

Telephone: 1-866-941-6400
Fax: 613-946-2151

This form is only intended for members of the public making a disclosure of wrongdoing that is alleged to have occurred within a federal public sector organization.

Please respond to all questions to the best of your ability. Contact the Office at 1-866-941-6400 if you require assistance. We strongly recommend you read through all questions prior to filling out this form.

General Contact Information

Name: Canada's National Firearms Association

Telephone number(s): 780-439-1394

Address where you would like to be contacted
(does not have to be your work address):

Ginger Fournier, GM
P.O. Box 49090
Edmonton, AB
Canada, T6E 6H4

Fax (Optional):

Official language of choice for correspondence:

English French

E-mail*: ginger@nfa.ca

***NOTE:** The Office of the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner does not accept reprisal complaints or disclosures of wrongdoing via e-mail due to security and privacy concerns. The majority of communication between the Office and you will be undertaken via regular mail correspondence or by telephone. However, for increased convenience, correspondence regarding basic status update of files or setting up interviews may be sent by e-mail.



Representation

Although not a requirement, some individuals may choose to be represented by someone to assist them in dealing with their disclosure.

If you are represented (e.g., legal counsel, union representative or other), please provide their contact information.

Name: Guy Lavergne

Title: Avocat

Organization: Me Guy Lavergne,
avocat

Telephone: 514-245-0949

Address:
2051 rue du Bordelais
Saint-Lazare, QC
J7T 3C6

Email: lavergne.guy@videotron.ca

1. Do you want the Office of the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner to contact you directly or through your representative? (choose one of the following)
 Through my representative Contact me directly
2. Correspondence (choose one of the following)
 Send correspondence to my representative as well as to me Send correspondence to me only

Information about your Disclosure of Wrongdoing

Under the *Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act*, wrongdoing in or relating to the federal public sector can include:

- a contravention of any Act of Parliament or of the legislature of a province, or of any regulations made under any such Act;
- a misuse of public funds or a public asset;
- a gross mismanagement in the federal public sector;
- an act or omission that creates a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons, or to the environment, other than a danger that is inherent in the performance of the duties or functions of a public servant;
- a serious breach of a code of conduct; and
- knowingly directing or counselling a person to commit a wrongdoing.



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3. Using your own words, while keeping in mind the definition of wrongdoing above, please describe the situation. Include: **who** you believe committed wrongdoing; **what** your specific allegations are; **when** and **where** (which federal department/organization) the alleged wrongdoing occurred. Identify any applicable Acts, Regulations, Policies or Directives relating to the wrongdoing. For example if the wrongdoing you are reporting refers to the contravention of an Act, indicate which Act.

See attached written Complaint.

Please include the contact information (if known) for the individuals you allege committed wrongdoing:

Name: Bill Blair

Title: Minister of Public Safety

Work Unit: Department of Public Safety

Work Telephone:

Work Address:

Name: Justin Trudeau

Title: Prime Minister

Work Unit:

Work Telephone:

Work Address:

5. Do you have documentation or evidence to support your allegations?

Yes No

You may attach supporting documentation or additional information if necessary. Do not include information that is protected by solicitor / client privilege or Cabinet confidences. To ensure a timely review of your case, only provide documentation that supports your allegations, **specifying which portions you deem relevant to the alleged wrongdoing.**



Other Proceedings

Please read the following notes before answering the next questions.

Restrictions

According to the *Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act*, there are certain circumstances where the Commissioner must refuse to deal with a disclosure or start an investigation, such as when another person or organization is already dealing with the issue under another Act of Parliament. Make sure to include in your answer to the questions below whether, to your knowledge, the issue is being addressed elsewhere ([see Subsection 23\(1\) of the Act](#)).

In addition, the Commissioner must refuse to deal with certain disclosures if he believes that the subject-matter of the disclosure relates solely to a decision made under an Act of Parliament ([see Subsection 24\(2\) of the Act](#)), including a decision of the Commissioner of the RCMP under Part IV of the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act*. Adjudicative decisions include decisions made by judges or tribunals in the course of a hearing.

Commissioner's discretion

In some instances, the Commissioner may refuse to deal with a disclosure or start an investigation – and he may cease an investigation ([see Paragraph 24\(1\)\(a\) to \(f\) of the Act](#)) – if he believes, for example, that the subject-matter of the disclosure or the investigation has been adequately dealt with, or could more appropriately be dealt with, according to a procedure provided for under another Act of Parliament. For example, a privacy breach complaint may be better dealt with by contacting the Office of the Privacy Commissioner or a human rights violation could be reported to the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

Some issues that appear wrong may not be considered wrongdoing under the *Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act* and may be more appropriately dealt with via other recourse mechanisms. For more information, visit

www.psic-ispcc.gc.ca/eng/wrongdoing/other-recourse-mechanisms.

To the best of your knowledge, is the wrongdoing described above being dealt with (or has it been dealt with) by another organization?

No Yes

Specify:



Declaration

I declare that it is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that it is my responsibility to provide the Commissioner with all of the information required by this form and to attach any ~~relevant~~ documentation.

August 12, 2021

Date

NOTE: By submitting the Disclosure Form, you are authorizing the Office of the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner to collect your personal information.

This information is being collected solely for purposes related to the application of the *Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act*. Accordingly, a representative from the Commissioner's Office may contact you for further information.

The disclosure process is confidential. Your identity and other information provided to the Office of the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner will be protected to the extent possible under applicable laws. Such information obtained or created by the Office of the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner in the course of an investigation into a disclosure of wrongdoing cannot be released under the *Access to Information Act* or the *Privacy Act*.

COMPLAINT TO THE CANADA PUBLIC SERVICE INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

August 12, 2021

Complainant:

This complaint is being made on behalf of **Canada's National Firearms Association (the "NFA")**, a not-for-profit organization based in Edmonton, Alberta. The NFA's mailing address is as follows:

P.O. Box 49090
Edmonton, AB
Canada, T6E 6H4

E-mail contact:

Ginger Fournier, General Manager

ginger@nfa.ca

Subject Matter:

The subject matter of the complaint is a recent advertising campaign by the Government of Canada, more specifically by the Department of Public Safety. The video ad title is "taking Action on Gun Violence-Firearms

Hereafter is a link to the video version of the ad on the Government of Canada YouTube channel:

[Taking Action on Gun Violence - Firearms \(30s\) - YouTube](#)

This ad is currently airing on multiple radio stations and television channels throughout the country. It is also available on YouTube.

The YouTube url is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdteclWN9jl>

Grounds for the Complaint:

1) Misuse and misdirection of public funds for political purposes

The NFA believes that this ad represents a blatant case of misuse and misdirection of public funds, for political gain purposes.

First of all, the ad emanates from the Government of Canada. Hence, it is reasonable to infer that its production, its dissemination and broadcast are being paid for with public funds.

Second, the ad does not advertise a service of the Government. Rather, it boasts that the current Government is taking action to address the concerns of Canadians about so-called “gun-violence”. Its only purpose is to improve the current Government’s image in the eyes of a population that is concerned with crime and violence. It is well known that voter intentions and behaviour are conditioned by their perception of a government and its actions. The only beneficiary of this ad is the Liberal Party of Canada.

This ad was put online on July 19, 2021; thus, less than three weeks ago. Radio and television stations started broadcasting the ad roughly around that date as well; maybe a bit later, based upon reports we have received from various sources.

As you most certainly know, a federal election is about to be called. Gun control, and the efficacy of current and proposed gun-control measures at curbing so-called “gun-violence” will be an issue of that election, as it has been for the past several federal elections. In that respect, the Liberal Party of Canada has always proposed and enacted policies that subject law-abiding citizens to ever stricter controls, whereas the Conservative Party of Canada (“CPC”) has historically focused on being tough on those who commit actual crimes, while relaxing bureaucratic restrictions for law abiding gun owners. We view it as inappropriate that public funds are being used to bolster the position of one party over the other and presenting the efficacy of those policies in a deceptive manner. Please also note that the policies that are put forward by the ad have been opposed by the CPC, and that the latter have mentioned unraveling some of those policies, if they were to be elected.

The ad boasts that these policies, which will be at the center of the upcoming election campaign, are beneficial to Canadians. In essence, the Government of Canada is using public funds to run an ad aimed at promoting what the Liberal Party of Canada views as its “achievements” in fighting so-called “gun violence”.

2) Deceptive content

The NFA views this ad is extremely deceptive. Indeed, there is no connection between gun-crime and violence on the one hand, and the recent Government of Canada gun-control initiatives on the other hand.

The ad links gun crime and recent gun control initiatives, such as the May 1, 2020 “military type assault rifle ban”. One has nothing to do with the other. Let us illustrate why:

The centerpiece of Canadian gun control legislation is s. 91 of the Criminal Code which makes it illegal to possess any firearm, unless one holds a licence of the appropriate class, and in the case of restricted and prohibited firearms, a registration certificate.

Licences are issued by Chief firearms officers to those people who are deemed not to represent a risk for public safety (per s. 5 of the Firearms Act), for a period of five years, and are renewable. They can be revoked at any time, for any good and sufficient reason (per s. 68 of the Firearms Act). Any person with a violent criminal history, criminal background, or connections to a criminal organization is thus ineligible to hold a firearms licence and would be denied one if they were to apply. Thus, known criminals are already legally barred from possessing firearms. Imposing further restrictions changes nothing to their situation and ultimately only affects the duly licensed law abiding gun owners.

Possession and storage of handguns is already extremely regulated. Their possession and usage are restricted to approved ranges. They cannot be carried, except for professional purposes and only by those specifically authorized (s. 20 of the Firearms Act).

In spite of those existing restrictions, the overwhelming majority of so-called gun crime is committed by individuals who procure, possess and use firearms illegally. Those individuals are able to illegally procure firearms, not because the existing laws are not strict enough, but because there exists an illegal underground market for firearms that have either been stolen, lost (most often by police forces themselves) or imported illegally into Canada. Yet, the quasi-totality of the ad focuses upon legislation that imposes restrictions upon law abiding gun owners, as do the policies of the Liberal Party of Canada.

By way of example, the May 1, 2020 “military type assault rifle ban” was announced in the wake of the shooting rampage in Nova Scotia by Gabriel Wortman in April 2020. It was a convenient way for the Government of Canada to deflect attention from its own failures that had made such tragedy possible. Indeed, as the inquiry has shown, Wortman had acquired his firearms in the USA and brought them to Canada illegally. Wortman had a history of violence and had been the subject matter of several prior complaints or notifications to police. He did not take advantage of any loophole in Canadian gun control legislation. Rather, he was the beneficiary of poor execution by law enforcement.

Gun control legislation only affects those who already abide by existing laws. By definition, criminals are not expected to obey the law. Legislation cannot reduce crime.

The only potentially truthful part of the ad is that “targeting gang violence and illegal gun trafficking” may be conducive to enhanced public safety. However, that represents only about three seconds of the ad, and it is unrelated to the rest of the content. With all due respect, “targeting gang violence and illegal trafficking” is not representative of the efforts of this Government.

We are perfectly aware that your role is not to police truth in advertising. However, we make these submissions to illustrate and support our assertion that this is indeed a political ad. Its sole purpose is not to inform, but rather to bolster support for the incumbent Government and its policies. It is “propaganda” in the purest sense, and the only beneficiary of that propaganda is the Liberal Party of Canada on the eve of a general election. Canadians should not have to pay for that!

The whole respectfully submitted

Guy Lavergne

Avocat / Attorney at law
2051 rue du Bordelais
Saint-Lazare, QC
J7T 3C6

Tél : 514-245-0949

Fax : 514-800-2918

lavergne.guy@videotron.ca

On behalf of Canada’s National Firearms Association