



**YUKON  
REGION**

## **REGIONAL CHIEF KLUANE ADAMEK BRIEFING NOTE**

### **Bill C-71 An Act to Amend Certain Acts and Regulations in Relation to Firearms**

#### **Purpose:**

To provide an update on the current status of Bill C-71 and dialogue with leadership on next steps.

#### **Current Situation:**

The legislation was given “Second Reading” (that is, approval in principle) on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 by a wide margin in the House of Commons, and it will soon get detailed examination by the House Standing Committee on Public Safety.

#### **Background:**

The federal government has presented a number of measures to upgrade Canada’s gun laws. The emphasizes of public safety and support effective police work, while being fair and practical toward law-abiding firearms owners and businesses.

According to the federal government, this new package includes funding that rises to \$100 million a year to help provinces/territories and local communities combat gang activities which often involve illegal guns, plus more resources and technology at the border to interdict weapons smuggling.

This new legislation (Bill C-71), background checks will be strengthened for those seeking to acquire or renew a firearms license.

Bill C-71 will also:

- improve the effectiveness of the existing licensing system;
- standardize existing best business practices among commercial retailers to maintain adequate records of their inventories and sales;
- ensure the impartial, accurate and consistent classification of firearms, free from political influence; and
- require specific transportation authorizations to be obtained whenever a restricted or prohibited weapon is being moved from one location to another (except for regular trips between a residence and an approved shooting range).

### Analysis:

In terms of Bill C-71, the following questions were provided to the Minister office responsible for public safety:

When does the Commons Standing Committee on National Safety and Security public comments process begin and end and how can Yukon First Nation participate?

The Bill has to pass 3rd reading in the House. Then 2nd reading in the Senate. Any witnesses who then wish to participate should approach members of the committee for an invite.

In terms of the Authorization to Transport documents, what are the changes, impacts to First Nation hunters on transporting weapons anywhere other than a gun range?

Nothing in the bill will affect the movement of a non-restricted firearm. **ATTs will not be required for non-restricted firearms.**

However, transporting a restricted or prohibited firearm anywhere other than to and from a shooting a range within the province or bringing it home after purchase, will require an Authorization to Transport (ATT) from the Chief Firearms Officer of the province. So, taking it to a gunsmith will require an ATT.

I would also note, however, that taking a restricted or prohibited firearm to and from the range accounts for more than 90% of all movement of the restricted and prohibited firearms.

What negative implications for First Nation firearm owners will be legislated such as financial costs to purchase and own firearms and ammunition, including costs to obtain a firearms acquisition certificate, will this increase?

In short: no -- there will be no change.

There will be no extra increase in fees to anyone seeking a license, nor to license verification, nor to ATTs (if required as per above). There is no change to the cost of ammunition. Normal / traditional hunting activity will not be impacted.

Other impacts to First Nation in the Yukon?

It really should not have any. This legislation was prepared in a fair and balanced way. As the Minister of Public Safety indicated when he introduced Bill C-71, it does prioritize two things: public safety and effective police work, while striving to treat law abiding firearms owners and businesses in a fair and reasonable manner.

Next Steps:

The AFN Yukon Region will continue to monitor Bill C-71 and will continue the Standing Committee on National Safety and Security for an invite to present.