



December 10, 2025

City of Winnipeg
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1B9

Dear Mayor Gillingham,

We are once again reaching out to you and Winnipeg City Council regarding your decision to be one of the few municipal participants in the federal government's firearm buy-back program. With each passing week, fundamental flaws in this costly, ineffective program continue to emerge.

This past fall, a pilot project took place in Cape Breton between September and November 2025. The goal was to collect 200 firearms. Unsurprisingly, the project fell far short of even that modest target, with less than two dozen firearms collected. As Manitoba Wildlife Federation (MWF) as noted numerous times, and as the federal Minister himself has admitted, the firearm buy-back program was entirely politically motivated. It is a wasteful attack on legal firearms owners that fails to address the criminal element.

The federal government has chosen to conceal how many firearms were actually collected in Cape Breton, the types of firearms collected, and whether any of them were on the ever-changing list of newly prohibited firearms. Nonetheless, the numbers that have leaked indicate this pilot project cost the Canadian taxpayers between \$1079.95 and \$ 2159.90 per collected firearm. How many thousands of dollars will be spent acquiring a 50-year-old .22 caliber gopher rifle turned in by a widower? Despite the veil of secrecy, it is clear from the Cape Breton pilot project that legal, licensed firearm owners do not support the removal of legal firearms from law-abiding citizens.

While these sums are indeed shocking, they are modest compared to the allocations for the City of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Police Service: \$287,850 for 2024–2025 (despite no reported firearms

collected so far) and \$2,540,061 budgeted for 2025–2026. On December 9th Charlottetown city council voted unanimously 10 – 0 in favour of not taking part in the federal firearm buyback program. Understanding that higher priorities should take precedence over wasting resources confiscating firearms from licensed firearm owners.

Currently, the Winnipeg Police Service are the only police departments in Canada that have openly agreed to implement the firearm buyback program. Police departments across the nation have raised concerns about the program's design, arguing that it targets law-abiding firearm owners rather than criminals. The Government of Alberta and the Yukon Government have both openly rejected the entire program saying that will not be taking part in the program in any form, and the Government of Saskatchewan recently introduced amendments to The Saskatchewan Firearms Act to ensure firearm owners receive fair compensation. In summary, both enforcement authorities and provincial governments feel that the firearm buy-back is unjust and a waste of taxpayer's money.

On behalf of our 15,000 members and common-sense Canadians, we urge the City of Winnipeg to withdraw scarce taxpayer's dollars from this program and direct those resources towards programs and projects that reduce crime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carly Deacon".

Carly Deacon
MWF Managing Director
4-999 King Edward St.
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0R1