

Chief Firearms Office

Bureau du contrôleur des armes à feu

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December 6, 2017

MEMORANDUM TO: Stephen Beckett
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division

FROM: Superintendent N.D. (Dwight) Peer
Chief Firearms Officer

SUBJECT: *Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act*
Six-month Extension Period at the end of a Five-year Licence Period

I am writing to make you aware of the changes effected by Section 14 of the *Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act* (Bill C-42) and to request your assistance in sharing this with the policing community.

Effective November 30, 2017, the amendments to the *Firearms Act* include the:

- Creation of a six-month grace period at the end of the five-year licence period with additional time for individuals to come into compliance with the licensing requirements without the risk of criminal prosecution for the possession of firearms without a licence, which constitutes an offence under paragraph 91(1)(a) of the *Criminal Code*, and is punishable by a maximum of five years in prison.

The grace period will only apply to firearms licences that expire on or after the coming into force of the amendments to subsection 64(1.1) of the *Firearms Act*, on November 30, 2017. Firearm owners with licences that expire prior to this date will not benefit from this amendment.

Individual whose licences reach their expiry date will enter a six-month extension period. Entering this extension period will have the following effects on a firearms licence:

- Firearms licence holders cannot use their firearms during the extension period;
- All Authorization to Transport (ATT) conditions attached to the licence will automatically be removed;
- All Authorizations to Transport (ATT) and Authorizations to Carry (ATC) will expiry;

- New Authorizations to Transport will only be issued for limited purposes:
 - Change of residence;
 - Transport to a peace officer, firearms officer or chief firearms officer for registration or disposal in accordance with the *Firearms Act*; or
 - Transport of a firearm for disposal through sale or exportation). These limitations on the use and transportation support public safety and encourage licence holders to renew their licences in a timely manner.

Licence and firearms information will remain visible in the Canadian Firearms Registry Online (CFRO). When a law enforcement officer engages in a CPIC/CFRO query of an individual whose licence has expired, the licence status will show "Under Extension Period".

Users of the Public Agency Web Service (PWS) who check the status of a licence during the extension period will be shown a licence status of "Not Valid" during that period. Firearms should not be returned to individuals who hold a licence in the extension period.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to community safety and well-being. A link to the copy of the *Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act* changes as they apply to the Province of Ontario is enclosed.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Chantal Trahan at 705-329-5524 or Chantal.trahan@opp.ca.

Sincerely,



N.D. (Dwight) Peer
Superintendent
Chief Firearms Officer
Ontario Provincial Police

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Attachment