



MEDIA RELEASE

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May 8, 2020

## The Tsilhqot'in Nation Approves of Assault Weapon Ban Order

**Tsilhqot'in Territory, BC:** The Tsilhqot'in Nation approves of the assault weapon ban Order that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced on Friday, May 1, 2020. The ban includes 1,500 models and variants of “military-grade assault weapons” in Canada, including the AR-15 semi-automatic rifle. The ban list can be found in the [Canada Gazette Part II](#). There will be a 2-year amnesty period, expiring on April 30, 2022, where the Canadian government has proposed a grandfather clause for current gun owners or the option for the Federal Government to buyback the newly prohibited guns at a market fair price. The ban is in an effort to decrease gun related deaths in Canada.

The Order recognizes Indigenous people may continue to use guns that were previously non-restricted as a means to hunt for sustenance and carry out their tradition and culture, and addresses that any of the newly prohibited firearms, if previously non-restricted, will be permitted as affirmed by Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 (the Constitution) until a “suitable replacement” is found.

### Quotes:

#### **Nits'il?in (Chief) Joe Alphonse, Tribal Chair, Tsilhqot'in National Government:**

“Banning these assault weapons will save lives. As First Nations, we experience the consequences of these military-style guns. This ban is a step in the right direction to achieve justice for our women across Canada, because women are often the victims and targets of gun violence. This Order is in the best interest of our people and our women in particular. We see that strict gun laws in Europe and abroad do make a difference, with less annual gun homicides in those countries. Furthermore, these assault weapons, with their advanced technology, have threatened our people’s food security by wiping out our wildlife populations at alarming rates. There is no reason that people need to own AR-15 style weapons; they cause death and a ripple effect of destruction to society and our environment.”

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