

# Frequently Asked Questions

Firearms Verification and Appraisal Service

May 2026

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## Federal Firearms Buyback Program

### Why is the federal government launching the national firearms buyback program?

- Since May 2020, the federal government has reclassified over 2,500 firearm models as prohibited through several Orders in Council.
- The buyback program is being used to collect these arbitrarily reclassified firearms from Canadian firearms owners and businesses, so they can be destroyed by the federal government and taken out of circulation.

### What do we know about the national firearms buyback program?

- The federal government has announced that compensation for firearms owners will be capped at roughly \$250M, with compensation paid on a “first come, first-served” approach.
- The federal government acknowledges that this allocation will be insufficient for compensating all firearms owners affected by the firearms ban.
- Firearms owners were asked to use the federal online portal to declare their interest in receiving compensation through the federal buyback program by March 31, 2026.
- Submitting a declaration of interest through the federal portal will not guarantee you compensation.
- If you declared an interest in the buyback program, you may be notified if your declaration or claim for compensation has been accepted or denied.

### The federal government says that Saskatchewan and Alberta’s legislation may prevent me from participating in the buyback program. Is this true?

- There is nothing in our legislation that prevents Saskatchewan firearms owners from participating in the federal buyback program, if they wish to do so.
- The Government of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Firearms Office (SFO) are committed to public safety and safeguarding the heritage of firearms owners in the province.
- Amendments to *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act* are now in force to help ensure affected firearms owners in the province are compensated for their legally-obtained property that is now prohibited by federal firearms legislation.
- Our approach has always been focused on ensuring individuals receive fair compensation for their property.

### What compensation can firearms owners expect to receive from the federal program?

- Compensation is not guaranteed under the federal firearms buyback program.
- If you chose to participate in the buyback program to surrender your prohibited firearms, and you are deemed eligible for compensation from the federal government, you may receive an average wholesale value for your firearms.

- If you chose to deactivate your prohibited firearms through the buyback program, and you are deemed eligible to receive compensation, you may receive:
  - \$700 for firearms with a muzzle energy over 10,000 joules or with a bore of more than 20 mm; or
  - \$400 for all other prohibited firearms.
- Individuals are responsible for covering all costs associated with deactivating their prohibited firearms whether or not they receive compensation from the federal government.
- More information on the potential compensation you may receive under the federal program can be found online at [canada.ca/firearms-buyback](https://canada.ca/firearms-buyback).

### What if I didn't submit a declaration of interest by March 31?

- Amendments to *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act* are now in force to help ensure all affected Saskatchewan firearms owners are fairly compensated for their legally obtained property regardless of whether they declared an interest by the federal government's March 31, 2026 deadline.
- Under these amendments, the Government of Canada is now required to pay owners fair market value for any firearms seized in the province under federal legislation. Fair market value will be determined by the Commissioner of the SFO.
- Firearms will be deemed as "seized" if they are impacted by federal firearms legislation or bans and the owner does not receive fair compensation within 12 months of the ban or legislation coming into effect.
 

**Note:** If a firearm was impacted by federal firearms legislation more than 12 months before the amendments came into force (prior to May 1, 2025), the firearm is already deemed to be seized under the amendments.
- Amendments are also in effect to help ensure Saskatchewan firearms owners can comply with federal legislation and avoid criminal liability while they pursue compensation for their prohibited firearms. Under these amendments, Saskatchewan firearms owners can:
  - request appraisals, or certificates of value, outlining the fair market value that is owed to them in compensation from the federal government;
  - request certificates of exemption to continue storing their prohibited firearms as long as they hold a valid PAL/RPAL, are in good standing, and comply with all firearms storage laws that pertain to their [reclassified firearms](#); or
  - store their prohibited firearms with the SFO while they pursue compensation.

### My firearm is not on the prohibited list. Can I still receive compensation through the federal buyback program?

- No, if your firearms are not on the list of prohibited firearms under federal legislation, you will not receive compensation from the buyback program.
- Unwanted firearms can be surrendered by making an appointment with the SFO, local municipal police service or RCMP detachment.

## **When will I receive my compensation?**

- Compensation is not guaranteed through the federal firearms buyback program.
- According to the federal government, if you are eligible to receive compensation, you will only be paid once your prohibited firearm is collected and fully processed within the buyback program system.
- Payments will be issued within 45 business days after your firearms have been either surrendered and validated at a collection processing facility **OR** your deactivation receipt and form have been updated to your federal portal account and validated by program staff.
- For more information, contact the federal buyback program at **1-833-759-4551**. Their hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. (EST).

## **How will my firearms be collected?**

- Compensation is not guaranteed through the federal firearms buyback program.
- According to the federal government, after individuals declare their firearms through the federal online portal, eligible firearms owners will be contacted to book a collection appointment to turn in their prohibited firearms.
- If the individual will not receive compensation through the buyback program, they will receive instructions on how to surrender, destroy or deactivate their affected firearms before the amnesty order ends on October 30, 2026.

## **Will I be compensated for firearms accessories and ammunition that can no longer be used as the firearm(s) are now prohibited?**

- No, the federal government will only compensate individuals for firearms that have been listed as prohibited.
- The federal government will not provide compensation for firearms accessories and ammunition that are affected by their firearms legislation.

## **I don't have a PAL, can I participate in the federal buyback program?**

- No, only individuals who obtained a PAL before their firearm was prohibited can participate in the buyback program and potentially receive compensation for any prohibited firearms they own.
- Individuals must live in Canada and be 18 years or older to participate in the program.

## **I used to have a PAL, but it's expired. Can I still participate in the federal buyback program?**

- Unfortunately, only individuals who held a valid PAL before the firearm was listed as prohibited and continue to maintain their licence can participate in the buyback program and potentially receive compensation for their prohibited firearms.
- Individuals must also live in Canada and be 18 years or older to participate in the program.

## Is participation in the federal buyback program voluntary?

- While the federal Minister of Public Safety has stated that participation in the buyback program is voluntary, the federal government has confirmed that all prohibited firearms must be surrendered, destroyed or deactivated by the end of the federal amnesty order.
- After the amnesty order ends on October 30, 2026, Saskatchewan residents who do not surrender, destroy or deactivate their prohibited firearms may face potential *Criminal Code* charges unless they receive a certificate of exemption or store their prohibited firearms with the SFO while they pursue compensation for their affected property.

## How much does it cost to deactivate a firearm?

- Several businesses in Saskatchewan can deactivate firearms, and they will be able to provide you with a quote for this service.
- A list of businesses are available online at [Saskatchewan.ca/firearms](https://saskatchewan.ca/firearms).

## Where can I get my firearm deactivated? Or can I deactivate my own firearms?

- All prohibited firearms must be deactivated by a certified gunsmith.
- A list of businesses in Saskatchewan that handle firearms deactivations can be found online at [Saskatchewan.ca/firearms](https://saskatchewan.ca/firearms).

## The amnesty period for surrendering/destroying/deactivating firearms has been extended several times. Do you believe it will be extended again?

- No, our understanding is that the federal amnesty order will not be extended past the October 30, 2026 deadline.

## Will the federal firearms buyback program re-open to businesses?

- The federal government has re-opened the program to eligible businesses. Learn more [here](#).
- Businesses must also surrender, dispose or permanently deactivate their prohibited firearms before the amnesty period expires on October 30, 2026. Otherwise, they may face federal *Criminal Code* charges.

## I don't want to declare my interest for receiving compensation online. Can I apply offline?

- Please contact the federal compensation program contact centre at **1-833-759-4551** for assistance with this request. The call centre's hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. (EST).

## **I do not agree with the federal firearms bans and buyback program. Who can I call to lodge a complaint or share my feedback?**

- If you'd like to submit a complaint or share your feedback, please write to:  
**Public Safety Canada**  
269 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa ON K1A 0P8
- Or call them at **1-800-830-3118**.

## **Saskatchewan Legislative Amendments**

### **Does the Government of Saskatchewan support the federal buyback program?**

- The Government of Saskatchewan fully supports initiatives aimed at reducing the criminal use of firearms, preventing gang violence, and stopping the smuggling and sale of illegal firearms.
- The federal firearms legislation and buyback program will neither enhance public safety nor address the use of illegal firearms in violent crimes across Canada. Instead, this legislation and program only targets rural, Indigenous and sport-shooting communities across the country.
- Saskatchewan does not face a crisis with “assault-style” firearms. The overwhelming majority of criminal activity involving firearms involves firearms that have been smuggled illegally into the province for gang and illicit drug activities.
- The funds allocated for this federal program would be better spent supporting the Saskatchewan Ballistics Lab and preventing the smuggling of firearms into Canada from the United States and targeting organized crime, gang and illegal drug activities in the country.

### **What is the Government of Saskatchewan doing to protect firearms owners?**

- Since Bill C-21 and the initial firearms ban were enacted in May 2020, the Government of Saskatchewan and SFO have worked tirelessly to advocate against the ban and focus on protecting the rights of lawful firearms owners and businesses.
- Our government passed amendments to *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act* this spring to help ensure all affected firearms owners in Saskatchewan receive fair, appropriate compensation from the Government of Canada for any firearms affected by federal firearms legislation.
- In addition, Saskatchewan firearms owners will be able to use the Firearms Verification and Appraisal Service to request appraisals, certificates of exemption and storage options to help ensure they are compensated for their prohibited firearms and protected from facing potential criminal charges after the amnesty period ends on October 30, 2026.

## What do these amendments mean to the average firearms owner?

- This legislation requires the Government of Canada to pay owners fair market value for any firearms seized in the province under federal legislation. This fair market value will be determined by the Commissioner of the SFO.
- A firearm is deemed “seized” in Saskatchewan if both the firearm is impacted by federal firearms legislation or bans AND the owner does not receive fair market compensation within 12 months of the federal legislation or ban coming into effect. **Note:** If a firearm was impacted by federal firearms legislation more than 12 months before the amendments came into force (prior to May 1, 2025), the firearm is already deemed to be seized under the amendments.
- The appraisals can be used as proof of value to hold the federal government accountable for providing fair compensation to everyone affected by its legislation.
- Certificates of exemption can be issued by the SFO to eligible Saskatchewan firearms owners, allowing them to continue possessing and storing their prohibited firearms on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan while they pursue compensation from the federal government.
- Saskatchewan firearms owners can also ask the SFO to store their prohibited firearms while they pursue compensation to avoid risking potential criminal charges.

## How is the Government of Saskatchewan able to offer certificates of exemption?

- *The Saskatchewan Firearms Amendment Act, 2026* allows the Commissioner of the SFO to designate individuals as acting on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan in accordance with section 117.08 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*.
- The certificates allow Saskatchewan firearms owners to maintain possession and store their prohibited firearms during the compensation process on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan.

## What is section 117.08 of the *Criminal Code*?

- Section 117.08 of the *Criminal Code* states that no individual is guilty of an offence under the *Criminal Code* or *Firearms Act* (Canada) solely for conducting certain activities, including possession of a firearm “if the individual does so on behalf of, and under the authority of, a police force, the Canadian Forces, a visiting force... or a department of the Government of Canada or of a province.”

## Why has our government passed these amendments?

- We believe these amendments provide a legal and fair right to Saskatchewan firearms owners to be compensated for legally-obtained firearms that have been rendered valueless by arbitrary federal legislation.
- The federal government’s actions are essentially an expropriation of previously legal property, which entitles owners to receive fair compensation.

## **Is any other province or jurisdiction introducing similar legislation?**

- Saskatchewan is not aware of any other province or territory introducing/passing similar legislation to *The Saskatchewan Firearms Amendment Act, 2026*.

## **Will provincial policing resources be allocated to enforce the federal firearms ban?**

- The Government of Saskatchewan will not authorize the use of provincially-funded police resources to facilitate the federal firearms buyback program/bans/legislation. This would divert resources away from core policing duties in our communities.

## **Firearms Verification and Appraisal Service**

### **Do I have to participate in the federal firearms buyback program to use the Saskatchewan Firearms Verification and Appraisal Service app?**

- No, you do not have to participate in the federal firearms buyback program to use the Saskatchewan Firearms Verification and Appraisal Service.
- If you have not done so already, we encourage you to seek legal advice before pursuing court action to ensure your best interests are met through this process.

### **Why should I use the Saskatchewan Firearms Verification and Appraisal app?**

- You can use the app to determine if your firearm(s) are affected by federal firearms legislation. If your firearm(s) are affected, you will receive a certificate of exemption allowing you to continue possessing and storing your lawfully-owned, but now prohibited firearms on behalf of the province, while you pursue compensation for your lost property.
- If you are displeased with the compensation you've been offered by the federal buyback program or with the devaluation of your prohibited firearm(s), you can request a certificate of value, or appraisal, for your prohibited firearms. These certificates can be used as proof of value while pursuing compensation to demonstrate the true value of owners' firearms and non-transferable firearms accessories and ammunition that have been affected by federal legislation.
- If you wish to pursue compensation, but cannot or do not want to store your prohibited firearms, you can ask the SFO to store your prohibited firearms for you.
- Before pursuing compensation, we encourage you to seek legal advice to ensure your best interests will be met through this process.

## Troubleshooting the App

### Why do I need to create a Saskatchewan Account to use the Firearms Verification and Appraisal Service App?

- Saskatchewan Account is a safe and secure, one-stop website where Saskatchewan residents can access a large number of services provided by the Government of Saskatchewan.

### Is the information I provide on Saskatchewan Account shared with parties outside the Government of Saskatchewan?

- Information provided on Saskatchewan Account is kept secure and is only used by Government of Saskatchewan offices, officials and service providers to assist you with your request.
- Information provided is not accessible by the federal government or Canadian Firearms Program and would only be provided to law enforcement as permitted under privacy legislation or under court order.

### As an individual firearms owner, what information do I need to create a Saskatchewan Account and use the FVA app?

- You'll need an email account to create a Saskatchewan Account.
- You'll also need your:
  - Saskatchewan driver's license or Saskatchewan ID card issued by SGI;
  - valid Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL) or Restricted Possession and Acquisition Licence (RPAL); and
  - digital photos and detailed information on your prohibited firearms, including the manufacturer, model, year, serial number, calibre, barrel type/length, condition, historical significance, and any non-transferable firearms accessories and ammunition.
- You do not need to provide photos of non-transferable firearms accessories and ammunition, but they are recommended to ensure you receive as accurate of an appraisal as possible.

### As a firearms business owner, what information do I need to create a Saskatchewan Account and use the FVA app?

- You'll need an email account to create a Saskatchewan Account. Once you've created an individual Saskatchewan Account, you'll have to connect your business or organization to your account; then you can use the FVA app for businesses.
- As a business owner, you'll need the following to connect your business and use the FVA app:
  - Saskatchewan driver's license or Saskatchewan ID card issued by SGI;
  - CRA business number;
  - Firearms business number; and
  - digital photos and detailed information on your prohibited firearms, including the manufacturer, model, year, serial number, calibre, barrel type/length, condition, historical significance, and any non-transferable firearms accessories and ammunition.

- You do not need to provide photos of non-transferable firearms accessories and ammunition, but they are recommended to ensure you receive as accurate of an appraisal as possible.

### **Is there a cost for creating a Saskatchewan Account or using the Firearms and Verification and Appraisal App?**

- No, the Firearms Verification and Appraisal app and Saskatchewan Account are free to use and setup.

### **I'm trying to verify my identity in Saskatchewan Account, but the site says the information is not correct. What should I do?**

- Ensure you are typing your name EXACTLY as it appears on your SGI ID (either your driver's licence or Saskatchewan ID card). This includes the same capitalization and spelling as is shown on your ID card.

### **What do I do if I receive an error message in the Firearms Verification and Appraisal App?**

- Contact the SFO at 1-833-792-2706 or email [fvasupport@gov.sk.ca](mailto:fvasupport@gov.sk.ca) for assistance. Their hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CST).

### **What do I do if I need help creating a Saskatchewan Account?**

- Please view the following [video](#) to find detailed instructions on how to create an individual, or personal, Saskatchewan Account.
- Watch this [video](#) for help connecting a business to your personal Saskatchewan Account. If you need additional assistance, please email [OnlineServices@gov.sk.ca](mailto:OnlineServices@gov.sk.ca).

### **I've forgotten my Saskatchewan Account password. What do I do?**

- Please view the following [video](#). It provides detailed instructions on how to create a Saskatchewan Account. If you need additional assistance, please email [OnlineServices@gov.sk.ca](mailto:OnlineServices@gov.sk.ca).

### **Why should I use multi-factor authentication?**

- Multi-factor authentication is used to help keep Saskatchewan Account users' personal information safe online. The system uses two or more ways to confirm your identity (such as a password AND a code that is texted to you), making it harder for anyone to illegally access your Saskatchewan Account and gain access to your personal information.
- Multi-factor authentication is not mandatory to use the Firearms Verification and Appraisal app, but users are encouraged to enable it in their Saskatchewan Account.

### **How do I enable multi-factor authentication?**

- Learn how to [enable multi-factor authentication](#), or two-step verification, and add an extra layer of security to your Saskatchewan Account.

### **I don't have access to a computer and/or the Internet, and I need help submitting my request to the Firearms Verification and Appraisal app. What should I do?**

- Please contact the SFO at 1-833-792-2706 or email [fvasupport@gov.sk.ca](mailto:fvasupport@gov.sk.ca). The hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CST).

### **After I've started working on my request in the app, can I save my work and finish filling out the form at a later date?**

- Yes. When creating a new request, you'll have the option of saving and exiting the request. Your request will be saved as a draft under the Firearms Dashboard of the app.
- For more information, contact the SFO at 1-833-792-2706 or email [fvasupport@gov.sk.ca](mailto:fvasupport@gov.sk.ca). Hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CST).

### **I accidentally provided incomplete/incorrect information in my appraisal request. Can I make changes after submitting my request?**

- You can make changes to a request as long as it is saved as a draft. Go to your Saskatchewan Account, open the Firearms Verification and Appraisal app, and open the Firearms Dashboard. Locate your request in the Firearms Dashboard, use the dropdown menu, and select "Edit" to make changes or additions to your request.
- If you've already submitted your request, you'll need to contact the SFO at 1-833-792-2706 or email [fvasupport@gov.sk.ca](mailto:fvasupport@gov.sk.ca) to make additions or changes to your request. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CST).

### **I received an email notification from the SFO about my request, but I don't know what to do.**

- Please contact the SFO at 1-833-792-2706 or email [fvasupport@gov.sk.ca](mailto:fvasupport@gov.sk.ca) and provide them with the request number that was included in the email you received for assistance.
- SFO's hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CST).

### **How do I remove some/all accessories and/or ammunition from my appraisal request?**

- If your request is not submitted or is saved as a draft, go to the Non-transferable Accessories or Non-transferable Ammunition section, and use the dropdown menu to edit or delete accessories and ammunition from your request.
- If you've already submitted your request, please contact the SFO at 1-833-792-2706 or email [fvasupport@gov.sk.ca](mailto:fvasupport@gov.sk.ca) for assistance. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CST).

## How do I cancel my request for an appraisal?

- Draft requests can be cancelled through the FVA app. Go to the Firearms Dashboard, find the request, use the dropdown menu, select “cancel” and then confirm that you wish to cancel the request.
- If you’ve already submitted your request, contact the SFO at 1-833-792-2706 or email [fvasupport@gov.sk.ca](mailto:fvasupport@gov.sk.ca) to cancel your request. Their hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CST).
- Once a request has been cancelled, it will no longer appear in your Firearms Dashboard.

## Where can I locate the serial number on my firearm?

- Serial numbers are often stamped on the receiver or frame of a firearm.

## If my firearm does not have a serial number, can I still receive an appraisal?

- If you cannot locate the serial number for your prohibited firearm, please enter “unknown” in the Firearms Verification and Appraisal form. You may be contacted by the SFO for more information after your appraisal request is submitted for review.

## What should I do if I don’t know the model number or manufacturer of my firearm/accessory?

- If you cannot locate the model number or manufacturer of your prohibited firearms or non-transferable accessories, please enter “unknown” in the Firearms Verification and Appraisal form. You may be contacted by the SFO for more information after your appraisal request is submitted for review.

## Appraisals of Firearms, Ammunition and Accessories

### I purchased ammunition, firearms or firearm accessories outside of Canada. Can I still participate in the federal buyback program and/or receive an appraisal?

- Yes, you may still participate in the federal buyback program and receive an appraisal from the SFO as long as the prohibited firearm(s) and non-transferable firearms accessories and ammunition **are in your possession in Saskatchewan**.
- If they are stuck in transit or were ordered/received after the firearms in question were listed as prohibited by federal legislation, they do not qualify for the buyback program or an appraisal from the SFO.

### I no longer live in the province, but I am originally from Saskatchewan. Can I use the Firearms Verification and Appraisal app, store my prohibited firearms with the SFO, and/or receive a certificate of exemption?

- No, only Saskatchewan residents who are 18 years or older and currently living in the province can use the app, store their firearms with the SFO, and be eligible to receive a certificate of exemption.

## **If my firearm is historically significant, what information do I need to provide during the appraisal process to prove its significance?**

- You are required to supply **credible proof** of the historical significance of your prohibited firearms.
- Options for providing credible proof may include supporting documents, such as transfer references, factory records, pictures, testimonials, etc.
- Any proof that is provided **must be verifiable** to support the firearm's historical claim. You cannot simply state that the firearm(s) belonged to a historical figure.

## **If I can't be compensated for firearms accessories and ammunition, why is Saskatchewan including them in the certificates of value?**

- The true cost of purchasing and owning a legally-obtained firearm goes beyond the firearm itself. When the firearm is reclassified as prohibited by federal legislation, the value of the accessories and ammunition that go with them is affected.
- We have included these in the certificates of value to provide a full appraisal of the individual's legally-purchased property that the federal government has now deemed valueless by their legislation.
- Individuals will be able to pursue full, fair compensation using these appraisals as proof of value
- We encourage you, if you have not done so already, to seek legal advice before pursuing compensation to ensure your interests are best met through this process.

## **Can I pay for my own independent appraisal and submit that as proof of value rather than using the Firearms Verification and Appraisal app?**

- Individuals and businesses are welcome to obtain an appraisal from an external, third-party.
- The SFO cannot provide legal advice regarding the credibility of appraisals provided by external, third-party organizations or businesses.
- We encourage firearms owners to seek legal advice before pursuing compensation and deciding who to have appraise their firearms.

## **Pursuing Compensation**

### **I'm thinking about pursuing compensation for my prohibited firearms. Can the Government of Saskatchewan guarantee I will receive compensation for my prohibited firearms?**

- *The Saskatchewan Firearms Amendment Act, 2026* and appraisals from the SFO support individual and business claims for fair compensation for prohibited firearms and non-transferable firearms accessories and ammunition. However, the Government of Saskatchewan cannot guarantee successful outcomes in court compensation claims.

## **If my pursuit of compensation is successful, will I still need to surrender my prohibited firearms?**

- Yes, if your case is successful and you secure fair compensation, you will need to comply with federal legislation. Depending on what was agreed upon, Saskatchewan firearms owners may have to surrender their prohibited firearms, store them with the SFO, or deactivate or destroy them after their case is resolved.

## **What happens if I lose my compensation claim?**

- The Government of Saskatchewan cannot provide legal advice or direction to citizens and businesses. You are encouraged to consult legal advice to determine next steps in this process.
- In the event that you lose your compensation claim, you will need to deactivate, surrender or destroy your firearms as you are no longer licensed to possess them and any exemption provided by the SFO is conditional on you continuing to pursue compensation for your lost property.
- You must notify the SFO within seven days of the discontinuance or conclusion of any court action seeking compensation for your affected firearm(s).

## **Storing Firearms with the Saskatchewan Firearms Office**

### **Will the SFO store my prohibited firearms for me?**

- Yes, the SFO will store firearms that have been affected by federal legislation while PAL/RPAL holders pursue compensation for their lost property.
- This is a voluntary option for PAL/RPAL holders.
- This service is being offered to support firearms owners as they work through the compensation process to ensure they cannot be charged with a criminal offence.

### **I'm a business owner. Will the SFO store my prohibited firearms inventory while I pursue compensation?**

- Yes, the SFO will store prohibited firearms inventory for Saskatchewan business owners. Business owners with a valid PAL/RPAL can also apply for a certificate of exemption to continue storing their inventory while they pursue compensation for their affected inventory.

### **I have a PAL/RPAL, but I don't want to pursue compensation and I don't want to surrender, deactivate or destroy my prohibited firearms. Will the SFO store my prohibited firearms for me?**

- No, the SFO will not store your prohibited firearms unless you pursue compensation for your lost property.

## Do I continue to own my firearms once they are stored at the SFO?

- Yes, Saskatchewan residents retain ownership of all prohibited firearms stored at the SFO.
- Individuals can request the return of their firearms at any time prior to the amnesty period ending on October 30, 2026 as long as they have a certificate of exemption from the SFO.

## If I store my firearms with the SFO and then withdraw my pursuit of compensation, will the SFO continue to store my prohibited firearms for me?

- If you choose to store your firearms with the SFO, you must notify the office **within seven days of withdrawing your compensation claim**. At that time, arrangements will be made to either return your firearms or arrange for their destruction or disposal.

## If I lose my compensation claim, can I continue to store my firearms with the SFO?

- If you store your firearms with the SFO, you must update the office **within seven days of your compensation claim being decided or ruled upon**. At that time, arrangements will be made to either return your firearms or arrange for their destruction or disposal.

## Is there a time limit for how long my prohibited firearms can be stored with the SFO?

- Prohibited firearms can be stored with the SFO as long as an individual or business is pursuing compensation, or for a further 30 days after the conclusion of their compensation claim.

## Certificates of Exemption

### Why is the government offering certificates of exemption instead of exempting Saskatchewan firearms owners from federal firearms legislation?

- Firearms laws are under the federal government's criminal law jurisdiction. The province has jurisdiction over property and civil rights regarding firearms; however, the province does not have the ability to pass laws that override federal criminal legislation.
- Since the first federal firearms bans and regulations were announced in 2020, the Government of Saskatchewan has pursued various options to support firearms owners across the province.
- We've listened to citizen feedback, and we're now offering appraisals, storage solutions, and certificates of exemption to support firearms owners and help ensure their needs are met through this process.
- While we disagree with the approach the federal government is taking with the buyback program, bans and legislation, firearms fall under federal jurisdiction, and we cannot fully exempt firearms owners from the effects of this federal legislation.
- Our approach will help ensure the federal government is held accountable for providing fair compensation to **all** Saskatchewan firearms owners whose property has been impacted by federal legislation.

## Can I transport my prohibited firearms for hunting and use them at a firearms range once I have a certificate of exemption?

- No, if you have a valid certificate of exemption, you cannot use or transport firearms prohibited by federal legislation for hunting or at a firearms range in Saskatchewan. Prohibited firearms cannot be used or transported outside of Saskatchewan.
- Certificates of exemption only permit you to continue storing your prohibited firearms in your home or business according to the firearms storage laws that pertain to your [reclassified firearms](#).
- You must follow all applicable firearms storage regulations to ensure compliance and protect yourself from potential criminal charges.

## Will certificates of exemption ensure Saskatchewan firearms owners cannot face criminal charges?

- Certificates of exemption are designed to protect Saskatchewan firearms owners from facing potential criminal charges if they follow firearms storage laws that pertain to their [reclassified firearms](#) and comply with the conditions listed on their certificate.
- Certificates of exemption **will not** protect individuals or businesses from facing criminal charges if they use a firearm in an unlawful manner (for example, the commission of a criminal offence) or fail to follow firearms storage regulations for their [reclassified firearms](#).
- The SFO will notify all police forces and the Courts of the nature of the s.117.08 *Criminal Code* designation to help avoid warrants being issued solely for un-surrendered firearms currently held by owners who are seeking compensation.

## Am I eligible to request a certificate of exemption?

- Certificates will be available for all affected PAL/RPAL holders who submit a request for an exemption through the province's Firearms Verification and Appraisal portal.
- Certificates will only be provided to individuals who own firearms affected by federal legislation, hold a valid PAL or RPAL, are pursuing compensation, and continue to follow all firearms storage laws pertaining to their [reclassified firearms](#).

## How can I apply for a certificate of exemption?

- Saskatchewan residents, who are PAL/RPAL holders and 18 years or older, can use the Firearms Verification and Appraisal Service to submit a request for verification and appraisal of their firearms and non-transferable firearms accessories and ammunition that have been affected by federal legislation.
- If their firearm(s) are affected by federal legislation, and the applicant meets all eligibility requirements, they will receive their certificate of value and certificate of exemption.

### **Can I transport my prohibited firearms for hunting outside of Saskatchewan if I have a certificate of exemption?**

- No, you cannot transport or use prohibited firearms outside of Saskatchewan if you have a certificate of exemption.
- Certificates of exemption will only protect you from facing potential criminal charges if you store your prohibited firearms in Saskatchewan following all firearms storage laws that pertain to your [reclassified firearms](#).

### **Once a certificate of exemption is awarded, does it need to be renewed? If yes, how will the renewal process work?**

- No, a certificate of exemption will remain valid so long as all of the conditions of the certificate continue to be met.

### **I've been awarded a certificate of exemption. What will happen if I don't follow firearms storage regulations for reclassified firearms?**

- Failure to follow all firearms storage laws that pertain to your [reclassified firearm](#) will result in your certificate of exemption being declared inoperative, and you may be charged with a criminal offence.

### **Is there a cost for requesting/renewing a certificate of exemption?**

- No, there is no cost to request or renew a certificate of exemption in Saskatchewan.

### **I have a certificate of exemption, but I've been charged with possession of a prohibited firearm. Will the Government of Saskatchewan defend or act as an intervenor in my case?**

- The Government of Saskatchewan **will not** defend individuals in court, but we will, if requested, provide evidence to support the validity of the certificate.