



July 23, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to inform you about the upcoming implementation of the *Firearm Violence Prevention Act* (“the Act”) and to highlight some of the features of the Act and regulations that may be relevant to your organization.

The Act was passed by the Legislature in March 2021, and the Province recently approved the regulations required to implement the Act. The Act and regulations will both come into force on October 1, 2026. Once in force, the *Firearm Violence Prevention Act* will replace the existing *Firearm Act*.

Many of the policies included in the Act were informed by recommendations from the 2017 [Illegal Firearms Taskforce Report](#). The Act will enhance the ability of law enforcement to disrupt organized crime and gang activity and mitigate inappropriate firearms use. It provides new enforcement tools to address the misuse of firearms, low-velocity firearms (e.g., airsoft and paintball guns), and imitation firearms (e.g., lighters designed to look like handguns). In general, the Act and regulations will prohibit the possession of firearms, low-velocity firearms, and imitation firearms without a lawful exemption in the following places: K-12 schools; post-secondary institutions; courts; places of worship; hospitals; and child care facilities. New offences have also been created for the unsafe or illegal use or transportation of firearms, low-velocity firearms and imitation firearms. The regulations establish numerous exemptions from the offences set out in the Act to prevent unintended impacts to otherwise safe and lawful activities.

In general, the regulations provide exceptions from the broad offences set out in the Act to prevent unintended impacts to the safe and otherwise lawful use of firearms (including low-velocity firearms) and imitation firearms.

We engaged with post secondary institutions during the development of the regulations and as a result of these consultations, specific exemptions were developed for this sector. For example, under the Firearm Violence Prevention (Designated Property) Regulation, several exemptions have been established to enable various safe and otherwise lawful firearm and imitation firearm-related activities to occur on post-secondary property. Examples of activities for which exemptions have been established include firearm training courses, cadet programs, performing arts events, shooting competitions, and research and educational activities. This is not an exhaustive list; please refer to the Firearm Violence Prevention (Designated Property) Regulation for all activities that may qualify for an exemption.

While numerous activities are included within the scope of these exemptions, the exemption process is not automatic. The Firearm Violence Prevention (Designated Property) Regulation sets out requirements that must be met to qualify for an exemption, including obtaining written approval from the post-secondary institution. A post-secondary institution is under no obligation to approve or provide a rationale for its decision. If approval is granted, additional compulsory restrictions may also be imposed by the post-secondary institution. Please refer to the Firearm Violence Prevention (Designated Property) Regulation for further information.



In anticipation of the Act coming into effect, I encourage you to review and familiarize yourself with the Act and regulations to ensure your institution is prepared for implementation on October 1, 2026. These new laws may necessitate a review of your institution's standards, policies, codes of conduct, and/or employee training to ensure compliance, and to establish protocols for processing exemption requests, as applicable. You are encouraged to seek independent legal advice if you are unsure if or how the Act and regulations apply to your institution.

More information on the Act and regulations has been provided through the following News Release:
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2026PSSG0037-000460>

The *Firearm Violence Prevention Act* can be found here:
<https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/bills/billsprevious/1st42nd:gov04-3>

Links to the regulations are as follows:

- https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/oic/oic_cur/0156_2026
- https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/oic/oic_cur/0157_2026
- https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/oic/oic_cur/0158_2026
- https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/oic/oic_cur/0159_2026
- https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/oic/oic_cur/0160_2026
- https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/oic/oic_cur/0161_2026

Additionally, Ministry staff are in the process of developing more detailed and practical information about the Act and regulations, which will be available shortly on the following website:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/policing-in-bc/fvpa>

If you have any questions, please contact Cole Winegarden, Senior Director Legislation, Corporate Strategic Initiatives Branch, at cole.winegarden@gov.bc.ca.

The information contained in this letter is not confidential and may be shared and discussed freely.

Thank you,

Megan Harris
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate Strategic Initiatives Branch
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General