

## **Motion regarding Request for Gun Amnesty in 2025**

Moved by: Councillor Leahy

Seconded by: Councillor Kerr

That we recommend to Regional Council:

Whereas the Durham Regional Police have reported a 33% increase in shooting incidents in 2024 over the previous year; and

Whereas community safety is an essential pillar of a thriving and successful municipality; and

Whereas the Durham Regional Council is always concerned with providing residents with the greatest possible opportunities to use best practice tools; and

Whereas not all gun violence is gang violence and The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) have reported in the past that 80% of all gun deaths are caused by suicide; and

Whereas the recent increase in gun violence is cause for concern of all Durham Region residents; and

Whereas there is a current national gun amnesty related to regulated changes to the criminal code that started in 2020 and will run until October 2025 that affects previously licensed owners of firearms; and

Whereas this amnesty does not cover all devices and firearms that may be in the possession of currently unlicensed owners; and

Whereas the Durham Regional Police Service in co-operation with the Ontario Provincial Police previously held a successful gun amnesty gun surrender event in 2019; and

Whereas some Durham Region residents may be in possession of unwanted firearms that they wish to dispose of in a responsible manner; and

Whereas reducing and eliminating the number of unlicensed, unregistered, and unwanted firearms will contribute to making our Durham Region communities safer; and

Whereas it is the authority of the Chief of the Durham Regional Police Service working with the Chief Firearms Officer of the OPP to determine when and how to conduct a firearms amnesty in their jurisdiction;

Therefore be it resolved that Durham Region Council request the Chief of the Durham Regional Police to consider applying for and conducting a general firearms amnesty for a one month period in the 2025 calendar year; and

That this request be forwarded the Durham Regional Police Services Board for information.