

Participation Decision Addendum II

September 16, 2021

[1] This decision is a second Addendum to the May 13, 2021 Participation Decision.

Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime (OFOVC) Submission for Individual Participation

- [2] In our Participation Decision on May 13, 2021, we ordered the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC), the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police – National Working Group Supporting Victims of Terrorism and Mass Violence (CACP NWG), and the OFOVC to form a coalition to assist us in understanding the relationships among police, government and mass casualties.
- [3] In a July 30, 2021 submission, the OFOVC requested to be released from the coalition in order to preserve its independence. Specifically, it maintains that, as the body handling victims' complaints against police services and other agencies, it must be and seen to be neutral and independent. Working on a victim advocacy coalition with CRCVC and CACP NWG, it argues, would jeopardize this.
- [4] As coalition members, the CRCVC and the CACP NWG were given an opportunity to comment through correspondence with the Commission. They supported the OFOVC's position.
- [5] We agree and thereby grant the OFOVC appropriate independent participation rights.

Canadian National Firearms Association (CNFA) Submission for Individual Participation

- [6] In our first Participation Decision Addendum on June 25, 2021, we granted the CNFA's late request to participate in the Commission's work relating to the use of firearms. Given their common focus, we directed the CNFA to work in a coalition with the Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights (CCFR). In an August 4, 2021 submission, the CNFA raised concerns about its participation in a coalition with the CCFR. Its concerns relate to its pre-existing difficult relationship and a purported lack of a common perspective with the CCFR. It therefore, requested that the Commissioners reconsider that aspect of their decision.

- [7] As a coalition member, the CCFR was given an opportunity to comment through correspondence with the Commission. The CCFR did not share the concerns raised by the CNFA and confirmed its ability to work in a coalition to assist the Commission with its work.
- [8] We see no merit in the CNFA's submission and accordingly, deny its request. As a coalition, the CNFA and CCFR must coordinate their participation before the Commission. If participating as a coalition becomes impossible during the course of the inquiry, the CNFA may instead provide written submissions to the Commission.