



MANITOBA ASSOCIATION
OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS

Red Flag Laws in Canada: Understanding Emergency Protections

Emergency Prohibition Orders,
Firearm Access Limitations
& Legal Supports

Funded by Public Safety Canada

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Purpose of the Legislation

- **Protect individuals** at risk of Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence.
- **Empower community** members and professionals to intervene early.
- **Reduce firearm-related** domestic homicides.



Who Can Apply for an Emergency Prohibition Order (EPO)?

- **Individuals at risk of violence.**
- **Family members or intimate partners.**
- **Police officers or Crown prosecutors.**
- **Shelter and crisis workers can assist clients in connecting to police/legal aid.**

Emergency Prohibition Orders:

Key Features

- Issued when a person poses a risk of harm to themselves or others.
- Allows immediate removal of firearms, ammunition, and licenses.
- Orders can be issued ex parte (without notifying the respondent in advance).

Application Process in Manitoba

1

Concern is reported to police or a court.

2

Application for EPO is reviewed by a judge or justice of the peace.

3

Firearm seizure and license suspension are executed by law enforcement.

4

Follow-up hearing determines long-term restrictions.



Firearm Access Limitations Under Red Flag Laws

- Temporary removal of firearms while the risk is assessed.
- Permanent prohibitions possible in high-risk cases.
- Applies to PAL (Possession and Acquisition Licence) holders.
- Includes all firearm types and ammunition.

Risk Assessment Indicators for Shelter Staff



Role of Shelter & Crisis Workers

- **Listen to and document** safety concerns.
- **Encourage clients to share** firearm-related risks with police.
- **Connect clients with Legal Aid** Manitoba or Victim Services.
- **Support emotional safety** planning and confidentiality.

Legal Supports in Manitoba

- **Legal Aid Manitoba:** assistance for protection orders and firearm concerns.
- **Manitoba Justice Victim Services:** supports and safety planning.
- **Family Law Manitoba:** Resources for protection and custody concerns.



Legal Aid Manitoba
Aide juridique Manitoba



Collaboration with Police & Courts



**Police enforce
firearm seizures
and EPOs.**



**Shelter workers can
provide victim
statements.**



**Judges review risk
evidence to determine
order length and
conditions.**



Maintaining Client Safety & Confidentiality

- **Never confront** the respondent directly.
- **Use secure** communication channels.
- **Coordinate with law** enforcement discreetly.
- **Prioritize client** autonomy in decision-making.

Training & Resources for Staff

- **RCMP and local police liaison contacts.**

[Contacting Police](#)

[Contact the Manitoba RCMP](#)

- **Public Safety Canada – Red Flag Law Resources.**

Public Safety Canada offers resources on "Red Flag" laws, which allow individuals to apply for an emergency prohibition order.

- **Canadian Women's Foundation – Firearms and GBV Resources.**

[Gun Violence Against Women and Girls is Preventable](#)

[Queering GBV Prevention and Intervention: A Toolkit for Service Providers](#)

[Gun Control & Violence Prevention](#)

Case Example

(Hypothetical Scenario)

A client reports fear of ex-partner who owns firearms.

1

Staff document threats and contact police.

2

EPO is granted; firearms removed.

3

Client receives Legal Aid and Victim Services follow-up.

4

Key Takeaways

•Red flag laws provide a **rapid response** to firearm-related risks.

Collaboration saves lives.

Legal supports and confidentiality are central to client safety.

Shelter staff play a vital role in **early intervention**.

Thank YOU!



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