



FEB 07 2024

Mr. Eugene Lapointe
President
IWMC World Conservation Trust
elapointe@iwmc.org

Dear Mr. Lapointe:

Thank you for providing me with a copy of your correspondence of December 14, 2023, addressed to the Prime Minister, concerning Canada's recent announcement regarding the implementation of stricter measures for trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge your leadership on sustainable use of wildlife and wildlife conservation issues. I appreciate your views on Canada's recent announcement. As part of the process of developing these measures, in July 2021, the Government of Canada launched an initial public consultation to seek views on Canada's ivory trade controls and on whether the country should consider further trade controls on elephant ivory, building on the existing requirements at that time. The federal government received thousands of comments and heard various concerns from Canadians. The Government of Canada carefully considered the views of Canadians in developing the new control measures, which were published for a second public consultation period in June 2023.

I would like to clarify that these new measures will not prohibit Canadians from hunting in African countries. Rather, the import of hunting trophies containing raw elephant tusk or rhinoceros horn is prohibited. In addition, the measures taken aim to improve Canada's monitoring of elephant tusk and rhinoceros horn trade to provide for a more complete picture of the country's participation in this trade.

As you know, Canada is not a significant importer or exporter of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn and is not a key player in illegal trade of these specimens. However, Canada's contribution to international efforts undertaken to reduce declines of certain elephant and rhinoceros populations sends a powerful message about the importance of scaling up efforts in combatting illegal wildlife trade.

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Canada will continue to work proactively with the international community and organizations such as the IWMC World Conservation Trust to find practical solutions that clearly support species conservation and effectively address illegal trade.

Again, thank you for taking the time to send your views and concerns on Canada's recent regulatory announcement regarding elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn. Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven Guilbeault", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P. (il/lui/he/him)