



November 25, 2019

Dear Mayor John Tory and Council:

As the President of a national organization concerned with civil rights and personal freedom, I am concerned that Canada's great historic city of Toronto wants to ban legal ownership of handguns and ammunition in Toronto. What is your plan for dealing with crime and criminal activity? Banning guns won't do anything about that problem.

As you would be well aware British regulars and militia volunteers from Ft. York played an important role in defending what became Canada from attack at many points in our history. Canadians have made good use of firearms to feed their families and to enjoy recreational shooting activities, disciplines that are known to reduce stress and build personal responsibility. Canadian athletes who shoot competitively have done Canada proud in sporting events both at home and around the world. As sponsors of several of Canada's top biathletes top pistol shooters and rifle shooters, we are well aware of the value of excellence in shooting disciplines.

In addition, many firearms and ammunition are owned and used by historical re-enactors and collectors. These are people who appreciate their historical significance and are proud to share that aspect of Canadian history. Firearms ownership is not as has been claimed, a "dangerous hobby." If that were the case, why is it possible that Canada's National Firearms Association can offer 5 million dollars primary liability insurance for all legal firearms activities for only \$9.95 per year. Anyone who has tried to get similar insurance for their car well understands that insurance companies know what is dangerous and what is not. Clearly, ownership of firearms and ammunition is not a dangerous activity.

In fact, peer-reviewed research by Professors Gary Mauser and John Lott, Jr., has conclusively demonstrated that having more firearms in the hands of good people has a net effect of reducing crime, especially violent crime. It has also been demonstrated that in areas where firearms are heavily regulated or banned such as in England that crimes of violence dramatically increase. This is not fantasy; it is verifiable fact.

The NFA does not support any further restrictions on firearms or sales of firearms, and in fact, the NFA has long advocated for significant repeal to Canada's draconian and ineffective, and unnecessary firearms laws. Besides Professor John Lott's work on criminal activity and crime rates, see also the research paper published in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence in 2012 by Dr. Caillin Langmann, PhD, MD, "Canadian Firearms Legislation and effects on Homicide 1974-2008" which conclusively demonstrates that none of Canadian firearms laws have had any effect whatsoever on reducing violent crime or suicide rates. Professor Gary Mauser, PhD has also published excellent papers, which help inform our conclusions. If you are interested in peer reviewed research and scientific analysis, I would be happy to provide these works for your edification.

While many politicians mistakenly support background checks, these checks do not prevent subsequent bad behavior. Perhaps at most a prohibited persons' list would be a more productive effort rather than Canada's costly and unnecessary licensing scheme, which prevents no ill behaviour, and serves as a barrier to lawful access without

preventing any form of illegal access. Banning firearms and increasing restrictions on lawful ownership and access will merely cause a broad disrespect for law by those affected, and increase illegal activity by people, with and without firearms being used. Deal with the reasons for crime and that will solve the problem. Your focus on firearms will solve nothing – criminals always find the tools they need for their bad behavior.

Gun control is based on a lie that it prevents bad behavior and makes people safer - it simply doesn't do those things, and the research proves it. Neither licensing people, registration of firearms, nor classifying firearms and banning them adds anything to public safety, and in fact, those controls likely make ordinary people less safe.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheldon Clare', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sheldon Clare, M.A.

President

Canada's National firearms Association