

# THE CIVILIAN RANGE PROJECT

A PLAN TO RE-ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN OUR FIREARMS RIGHTS

BY

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SECOND WORKING DRAFT

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## The Civilian Range Project

One of the problems we have as firearms owners in Canada is getting Government to take our concerns about the oppressive and ineffective aspects of gun control seriously.

Recently we have had a ray of hope that sanity was starting to prevail when Commons Bill C-301 was introduced. Unfortunately the government was lobbied intensely by the Chiefs of Police Association of Canada. In addition, the RCMP has been similarly exerting pressure on all political parties to defeat the bill, while at the same time creating lists of long guns that would be moved to the restricted category if the bill became law.

The elephant in the room that no one wants to mention and in the end the most important aspect of Bill C-301 is the requirement for the Auditor-General to report on the cost effectiveness of the Firearms Act within two years, and then every five years. Chretien commissioned such a report and buried it under cabinet secrecy laws, one suspects because it revealed the law to be an unjustified exercise in political and social engineering that does nothing to enhance the safety of the public and according to unbiased studies actually detracts from public safety.

Over the past twenty years or so we, the firearms community of Canada, have written letters to our MPs, our Senators, the newspapers; we have rallied, marched and created political organizations. None of our efforts have had any effect at bringing justice to our cause.

While some activists have engaged in Civil Disobedience to bring our cause before the courts (Bruce Montague and Pierre Lemieux, among others, come to mind) most firearms owners choose not to challenge the law by disobeying it, at least not openly.

RCMP, municipal police, sheriffs, border guards, prison guards and wildlife officers in most of Canada do not have access to government ranges for training, qualification or practice. Such ranges are few and not feasible in most areas. Government agencies therefore arrange time on private facilities for these activities. Most clubs do in fact make a substantial amount of money towards their operating expenses by renting their facilities to armed agencies.

We are not powerless in responding to the anti-gun efforts of the RCMP and the Chiefs of Police. We can get their immediate attention, and keep it, as well as that of our politicians, the press and our fellow Canadians, by denying range time to all government agencies. We can also establish and enforce a range rule prohibiting club members from using our range facilities while on duty or in uniform or using agency owned firearms.

We can expect a staring match for months. We will blink if we let our need or desire for government money in the form of range rentals get the better of us. We will need to find alternative sources of income or reduce our need for income.

They, on the other hand NEED to train and qualify. They have no choice. They can hold out for months, but they cannot hold out for a year.

We would not be doing anything illegal by denying government agencies use of our ranges. They are, after all, private property. We would be doing the single most effective thing within our power to obtain compliance by politicians and agencies that marginalize us. The beauty of the project is that it does not depend upon the support of anti-gun voters for it to succeed.

We can, I believe, convince the government to pass bill C-301 by denying government use of our ranges. If the will is there, we could even get the entire Firearms Act audited and corrected to reflect our Rights as opposed to the anti-rights politics that hold our freedom to ransom.

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Whereas we, the Citizens of Canada, are unjustly denied our Right to firearms for historically legal purposes central to the maintenance of a free and just society;

Whereas fraud and party politics were used to establish a legal framework for the seizure of traditionally legal firearms and firearms uses in Canada;

Whereas the original fraud and party politics are entrenched in the maintenance of this legal framework today and for the foreseeable future;

Whereas unelected and powerful interests within the Government of Canada including the RCMP and key bureaucrats (some going back to the Trudeau era) and associations allied with these interests - in particular the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police - lobby parliament and propagandize through the media thereby putting themselves in a conflict of interest;

Whereas a double standard has emerged in Canada, whereby police and other armed agents of the state believe their badge gives them special rights over and above the rights of other Canadians;

Whereas the major political parties of Canada are complicit in creating and maintaining the bad law known as the Firearms Act;

Whereas the Conservative Party of Canada refuses to enact legislation scrapping the Firearms Act as mandated by party policy;

Whereas all independent, impartial studies find laws denying citizens access to firearms, including licensing and registration laws, have shown no relationship between such laws and public safety, while laws promoting firearms use for self defense provide undeniable benefits;

Whereas writing letters to and meeting with our Members of Parliament and representatives of government committees and agencies this past twenty years has had no effect;

Therefore the management of this range refuses to allow federal, provincial and municipal agencies use of our facilities until our grievances are addressed.

# **CIVILIAN RANGE**

**PRIVATE PROPERTY - NO TRESPASSING**

**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE  
NO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES  
FEDERAL OR PROVINCIAL  
ARE TO USE THIS RANGE**

**CLUB MEMBERS ARE FORBIDDEN TO USE THIS  
RANGE WHILE ON DUTY OR IN UNIFORM  
- PRIVATELY OWNED FIREARMS ONLY -**

CLUB LETTERHEAD

today's date

Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police  
582 Somerset St. W.  
Ottawa ON K1R 5K2

Attention: STEVEN CHABOT, President

Dear Sir,

As president of your organization one would expect you to be supportive of the Rights of all Canadians; this includes the right to firearms for traditionally legal purposes, and not to be criminalized by bad laws. It would seem that your recent lobbying against bill C-301 - a bill which if passed would begin to repeal our unjust, ineffective and costly firearms laws - puts you at loggerheads with your natural allies, the responsible firearms owners of Canada.

This letter is to inform you that your actions have caused us to deny all federal and provincial agencies access to our private range for purposes of training and qualification. Further, no club member may access our facilities while on duty or in uniform and may not use agency firearms at any time.

This policy will be in effect until such time as C-301 is passed into law or the current Firearms Act is repealed.

Yours Truly,

Name and signature of club president,  
President

CC. local police and RCMP detachment  
Canadian Border Services  
Corrections Canada  
Provincial Sheriffs Service  
Provincial Corrections Service

Right Hon. Stephen Harper  
Hon. Peter Van Loan  
Local Member of Parliament  
Provincial Premier  
Provincial Attorney General



**Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police *Leading Progressive change in policing***  
**Association canadienne des chefs de police *À l'avant-garde du progrès policier***

**Op-ed Submission to the Globe and Mail**

April 7, 2009

**Safety at Risk if Gun Control Dismantled**

Gun control saves lives.

For the past forty years the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) has been at the forefront pressing for strong firearms control measures. Canada's police leaders have adopted twenty-five resolutions on firearms control, including support for the *Firearms Act* and registration of all firearms, in the interests of public and officer safety.

Where do guns come from? Every illegal gun was once legal. Handguns and assault weapons smuggled in from the United States certainly are part of the problem. We have seen escalating gun violence among rival gangs and the devastating results when legal guns are diverted to illegal markets and unlicensed users.

We need to be able to track firearms to enforce laws and combat the illegal gun trade in cooperation with other nations. Without the registry, Canadian police will no longer be able to trace unrestricted firearms and will become dependent upon police in other jurisdictions to establish the source of firearms and lay the evidentiary trail needed for prosecutions. This would undermine Canada's compliance with international agreements and facilitate the illegal importation of firearms.

The BC government commissioned "A Report on the Illegal Movement of Firearms in British Columbia". The 2008 report revealed that a substantial number of firearms recovered in crime were once legally owned in Canada. The report documents legal dealers importing guns legally and selling them illegally, and legal gun owners providing guns to unlicensed owners. It also highlights the problem of stolen guns, which by definition are in the hands of criminals.

The report also underscores that rifles and shotguns account for a substantial proportion of crime guns seized. Recently police in Surrey seized over 200 rifles and shotguns. In Toronto a significant number of crime guns seized were once legally owned rifles or shotguns. Rifles and shotguns, many legally owned, are the weapons of choice in domestic violence, in suicide and in the murders of police officers in Canada.

Regrettably, no law or system is 100% foolproof. However, ensuring that all gun owners are screened and licenses regularly renewed reduces the risk that people who are a threat to themselves or others will have access to firearms. And the current computer-based system, which provides regular alerts if licensed gun owners come into conflict with the law, is not the only control mechanism in place. Screening processes are designed to identify risk factors not known to police and to keep information in the database current.

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Caring • Courage • Equity • Integrity • Openness • Respect • Transparency • Trustworthiness  
Compassion • Courage • Équité • Intégrité • Ouverture • Respect • Transparence • Fiabilité



Registration of firearms is essential to the licensing process. When gun owners are held accountable for their firearms, they are less likely to sell or give them to unlicensed individuals. Registration assists police in knowing what firearms to look for when enforcing prohibition orders. Information about registered firearms found at the scene of a crime supports criminal investigations and convictions.

The registry has been instrumental in removing guns from potentially dangerous people. Shortly after the Dawson College shooting, police found threats from another man. The registry confirmed that there were guns in his home and police removed them quickly. Police across Canada use the firearms registry nearly 10,000 times daily during investigations and for preventive action.

Yes, rifles and shotguns are used less frequently in crime today than fifteen years ago. Why? Inquests into several high profile shootings recommended their licensing and registration. It would seem that these measures have paid off. The rates of firearm murders (particularly of women), robberies, and suicides have all declined significantly with improvements to the legislation.

Rhetoric around the registry's cost obscures the reality that the money has been spent. To dismantle an effective system now would be a waste. The costs going forward are largely associated with licensing of firearm owners. In 2006 the RCMP testified that eliminating rifle and shotgun registration would save less than \$3 million a year, roughly the cost of a couple of complex murder investigations.

The bottom line is that all firearms are potentially lethal. Gun control is a necessary part of an integrated strategy to address violence. The CACP is proud of Canada's international reputation as a country with effective gun control legislation and strenuously opposes any weakening of Canada's current firearms control regime. Lives depend on it.

Sincerely,



Deputy Director General Steven Chabot  
President, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

For more information contact:

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