



HISTORICAL ARMS COLLECTORS SOCIETY OF BC

Mark Strahl MP Chilliwack-Hope Constituency Office

7388 Vedder Road #102
Chilliwack, British Columbia
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CC: Laurie Throness MLA Chilliwack-Hope

Dear Mark Strahl

On behalf of the Historical Arms Collectors Society of British Columbia, I want to advise you of our members objection to some aspects of the proposed Firearms Bill C-71.

The stated objective is:

1. To improve safety and insure that those with and seeking a firearms are competent, responsible and of sound mind.

We do not think there is anybody that objects to that goal.

2. To keep firearms from those that use them for criminal purposes and to have those illegal firearms off the streets.

We do not see any provisions to bring in stronger penalties for the unlawful purchase, sale or the use or firearms for criminal purposes. Under Sections (85-91) of the Criminal code there are mandatory penalties of up to FIVE year imprisonment that is never invoked as the lawyers for those charged with a felony are able to avoid or have implementation or have waived.

Recommend that the judiciary apply the existing provision of the criminal code that would likely address the objective of getting illegal firearms and criminals of the street by incarcerating those that are found in possession and/or during committing a felony.

Those of us that responsibly use firearms are now looking at additional bureaucracy that will have no effect on the criminal element.

- Having to obtain an ATT to take a restricted firearm to the gunsmith or to a gun show. How does this provision reduce the transport of illegal firearms by criminals?
- Having to verify that the firearms license of person you want to sell, trade or lend a firearm tis valid.

What is the objective? - Both parties currently must have a valid firearms license to either have a firearm or to obtain one. All licenses have an expiry date that seller, trader or lender must check as being valid. Is there to be way of validating a firearms license at any time on any day. If not this would be un-enforceable in some instances would also unreasonably encumber gun shows and shooting events for clubs with additional and unworkable bureaucracy where there has not been a documented incident on the sale, trade or lending of a firearm where both parties held a valid firearms license.

How does this provision eliminate the procuring or use of firearms for criminal purposes by those who do not have, cannot have or do not want to obtain a firearm without having license?

We ask that you not support Bill C-71 and that you request that the provisions in the Criminal code be exercised and thereby have a direct impact on the illegal use of firearms by the criminal MINORITY and not impose additional restrictions on the MAJORITY.

Attached for your information is a copy of the Criminal Code of Canada Part III that prescribes the penalties regarding the offensive use of firearms.

The Historical Arms Collectors Society of British Columbia has contributed from our show proceeds over \$100,000 to the Canadian Cancer Society's Camp Good Times which is a camp for children fighting cancer. We donate \$20,000 yearly to Camp Good Times and \$10,000 to the CKNW Kids Fund. If the provisions of Bill C-71 become law we may not be able to maintain our considerable donations to worthwhile Children's Charities. Bill C-71 is onerous and totally unnecessary legislation.

The Firearms Act as it currently stands is sufficient legislation to keep lawful gun owners mindful of Canadian Law.

Yours truly,

Arthur M. Hoivik

(Original Signed)

1st Vice President
Historical Arms Collectors Society of British Columbia

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