



Round Table Discussion Meeting Minutes  
MWF Office

July 17, 2019

**Introduction:**

Before starting, the letter of support sent by St. Malo and District Wildlife Association was read (See attached)

**Conservative Party Members in Attendance:**

Raquel Dancho (Kildonan, St. Paul)

Rejeanee Caron (St. Boniface, St. Vital)

Lawrence Toet (Elmwood, Transcona)

Marty Morantz (Charleswood, St. James, Assiniboia, Headingly)

Glen Motz – Deputy Shadow Minister for Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

**All Conservative Party representatives are very familiar with firearms laws and use.**

**Public Safety Committee (Bill C-71)**

- Government of Canada playing on emotion after Florida shooting
- There is a gang and illegal gun problem to address, however licenced firearms owners are NOT the problem.
- C-71 has no mention of gangs
- C-75 has further watered down the criminal code, downgrading some indictable offenses to summary offenses including downgrading violence associated with gun crime

**According to Stats Canada:**

- Violent crime has decreased by 25% since 1975
- Firearms related homicide also down since 1974 with lowest year being 2013 (More on 2013 to come)
- Knives are used more frequently in homicides
- In 2016 21.5% of violent crime involved a weapon
- Of the 21.5% only 2.7% involved firearms
- Of the 21.5% only 1.6% involved handguns

**Gangs:**

- Gang activities have steadily increased
- Gang related violence is up 400% in the last 25 years
- Most gun crimes happen with illegal guns

**Government of Canada:**

- Claimed 50% gun crime is committed with domestically sourced firearms.
- Data is skewed, and that number is 7-12%
- Any firearm used in crime that cannot be tracked (serial number removed, etc) is automatically categorized as “domestically sourced”
- They are making gun ownership an issue, and don’t understand Hunting, Shooting Sports, Outdoors lifestyle
- “if we get rid of all the guns we’ll solve the problem”, except that gangs DON’T follow the law
- Will make handguns an election issue
- Don’t consult with stakeholders
- Not transparent

**Hand Gun Buy Back in Toronto:**

- People legally purchased cheap hand guns and sold them back to Toronto police for up to 50% more than they paid

**2008:**

- Government of Canada claim Break and Enter Theft of a firearm has risen 65% since 2008
- Actual case, definition of Theft of a Firearm was classified as just “theft” previous to 2008, so such thefts was not trackable and reported prior to 2008.
- Using stats to make the numbers look scary

**2013:**

- Lowest crime rate in Canada since 1966
- 2014, 2015, 2016 began to return to normal
- Claims that crime rates are sky rocketing are false, 2013 was an anomaly
- Using years with unusually low crime numbers to inflate crime numbers to scare public

**2017 – PAL holders:**

- Out of 2.1 million PAL holders across Canada there have only been 5 that have been convicted of committing a firearms offence
- Those 5 were administrative offences
- There is no evidence to suggest that banning handguns will lower gun violence
- Increased gun ownership does not mean increased gun related crime
- In fact despite higher gun ownership numbers in Canada over the years, crime has decreased

### **Government of Canada's Consultation on Hand Guns - Handgun Ban Survey results:**

- 81% of respondents said "no" to ban
- 91% of firearms owners said "no"
- 61% of non-owners said "no"
- 80% of urban dwellers said "no"
- 75% of women said "no"
- Despite overwhelming unpopularity of banning handguns, the Government of Canada called the results "mixed"

### **Assault Weapons Survey:**

- Question was "should we ban?"
- Answer is that there is no such thing in Canada for the past 40+ years
- Term used to confuse the public
- 77% of respondents said "no" to ban

### **Canadian Public:**

- Wants the government to target criminals
- Wants to see stricter penalties for gun crimes put into place
- Wants increased border security
- Wants gov't to deal with illegal guns
- Firearms owners are not a danger to public safety

### **Conservative Party of Canada:**

- Indicated that all amendments put forth by them were rejected
- Independent liberals forced by current government to pass C-71
- If elected Conservative Party of Canada will repeal C-71 immediately
- Will also work to improve current laws

### **C-71**

- Removes oversight for classification of firearms
- Hands firearms classification and law making over to RCMP
- "The enforcer of the law doesn't make the law", however this is currently the case
- Doesn't touch issue of public safety

### **Gun Classification:**

- Should be classified based what they can do NOT what they look like
- AR (Armalite Rifle) vs MSR (Modern Sporting Rifle) – Both black in colour, however public is aware of the AR despite misnaming it
- Automatic weapons are already banned

### **Challenges:**

- General public lost in terminology/language
- Mainstream media not allowing conservative point of view, nor that of firearms owners to be heard

- Mainstream media pushes its own views
- Question about trust of mainstream media
- Millennials (under 30 block) are converting to social media, challenging for older generations to make same conversion
- MWF (as a registered charity) cannot explicitly endorse Conservative Party of Canada or any other party, however we can share data and information with clubs and individuals

### **What can we do as individuals?**

- Seek candidates that share your values
- Likeminded views
- Protect your rights as firearms owners
- Support candidates fighting to protect your rights
- Focus on our own circles of influence (friends, family, community)
- No more sitting on the sidelines, time for action is now
- Help a candidate
- Organize an event
- Vote
- Knock on doors
- Share knowledge with uneducated, non-firearm owner
- Use sound, logical arguments
- Don't buy into language surrounding firearms
- No such thing as a legal "assault rifle" or "assault weapon" in Canada
- People need to see stats
- People need to be aware of gang issues
- People need to take issue with illegal ownership
- Be careful with language
- Use social media to full advantage:
- Follow your MP/MLA on Twitter, Facebook, etc. to hear ACTUAL person. They will have clips, videos and updates. Best source of information as this is not filtered by the media
- MWF and other stakeholders need to build a comprehensive communication strategy around firearms legislation including C-71
- Use all channels of communication (social media, digital, traditional media and print) to communicate our message
- Question other parties on views on firearms but look at party history in relation to firearms legislation. What they say and what they do can be very different
- Post all parties views on firearms on websites, social media to allow stakeholders to factor these positions into their voting decisions
- Look to large national groups to see what they're doing in regards to firearms legislation and how they communicate information. (e.g., CCFR, CWF)

### **Town Hall:**

- All party, open forum debate
- Open invitation to all political parties

- Likely in September (Date and Location TBD), but most likely during an evening in Winnipeg
- Will be a good test to see if all parties show up
- MWF supports a large town hall and will work with partners to make it happen