

## **CSSA COMMENTARY – ELECTION REALITIES - AUGUST 30, 2015**

<http://cssa-cila.org/2015/08/team-cssa-e-news-august-30-2015/>

Firearm owners have become complacent. After many years of respect shown to our community by the Harper government, we have begun to believe that firearms ownership in Canada is safe. It is not. Not even close.

The antis are working on several fronts: at the United Nations, in municipalities and, of course, within the opposition parties. Members of Parliament like Liberal Adam Vaughan and NDP Randall Garrison assail our community at every opportunity, while known enemies of firearm owners like former MP Liberal Mark Holland are attempting to get re-elected.

If you get nothing else from this commentary, know this: WE ARE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS. And if you want to keep your guns after the next federal election, you should be thinking long and hard about this.

### **The NDP?**

*Thomas Mulcair: "I think that it is possible to provide the police with the tools to better protect the public and themselves by making sure they're able to follow every gun, and it doesn't have to be the registry as it was before. But it does have to be a form that allows the governments, federal and provincial, to keep track of those guns. That's our bottom line."*

The NDP leader insists the police need to track every single firearm in the nation. .An NDP government under Thomas Mulcair will, at a minimum, bring back the failed long-gun registry, sign the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty and implement the industry-crippling U.N. Marking System.

### **The Liberals?**

A Liberal government under Justin Trudeau wouldn't bother with the long-gun registry. They will go straight to banning guns. Here it is, straight from the mouth of Justin Trudeau himself:

*"There are many different ways, jurisdictions around the world are looking into gun control. A lot can be done around classification [of firearms], a lot can be done around proper review of people wishing to ... purchase firearms."*

What Trudeau's veiled language means is both simple and draconian. He will change the classification of certain firearms so that they are effectively banned in Canada. Once he's done with banning guns, then he will go after gun owners by "*reviewing*" their licence applications and revoking those he deems unacceptable.

That's a two-step process to end gun ownership in Canada – a two-step process Justin Trudeau seems all too happy to implement.

Happy, that is, unless he's far more interested in banning half the firearms in Canada overnight through Liberal Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette's Bill S-231:

*"I developed Bill S-231 around the idea that all firearms should be prohibited except those used in sport shooting ..."* said Senator Hervieux-Payette.

The NDP under Thomas Mulcair *appears* willing to move slightly slower towards confiscating our firearms, but don't be fooled. His end game is the same: to eliminate private gun ownership in Canada.

That leaves only one political party for gun owners to support: the Conservative Party of Canada under the leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Some gun owners may stop reading now, and that's a shame.

Their willful blindness means their vote or lack of one will help those who would end private gun ownership in Canada. Is that really what we, as freedom-loving firearm owners, want?

While most would agree that the Conservatives haven't reformed Canada's gun legislation as much as we would have liked, it's a far cry from calling the Conservatives the enemy of Canadian gun owners as some are wont to do.

Those gun owners, unhappy with Harper's Conservative Party, are perhaps not giving the Conservatives their due.

The Conservative Government of Canada is one of the only governments in history to revoke the registration of firearms once implemented nationwide. That is no small feat. That same government then fought the Province of Quebec all the way to the Supreme Court to ensure Quebec gun owners would live free of a long-gun registry – just like the rest of Canada.

The Conservatives removed paperwork restrictions designed solely to make sport shooting and hunting more onerous. They passed legislation permitting them to reverse silly edicts made by Chief Firearms Officers across Canada.

Again, these are no small feats with a mainstream media that hates guns almost as much as it hates gun owners.

There are those who complain that Stephen Harper and the Conservatives have not kept their promises. Indeed, there is some truth to this, but the fact remains we are much better off than we were before the CPC tenure.

Acknowledging that political reality will offend a few firearm owners – of that there is little doubt. That sense of offense doesn't make the statement or the reality any less true.

There is a single mainstream political party in this federal election that views Canada's most law-abiding citizens, its licensed firearm owners, as ALLIES – not criminals. ONE. That party is not the Liberals, and it most certainly is not the NDP. It's the Conservative Party of Canada led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Canada's Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney said: *"Allan Rock said he came to Ottawa with the belief that only the police and military should have firearms. I believe that firearms ownership is a right, but a right that comes with responsibilities."*

If you want to make a positive impact in this election, donate your time, your talent and your treasure to the only political party not actively seeking to destroy Canada's proud heritage of firearms ownership.

*"I don't want to feed paranoia, but as prime minister I can tell you I share the frustrations of our caucus members,"* said Harper, before alluding to *"bureaucratic initiatives that we think are effectively trying to put the long gun registry back in through the back door."* *"This is not something we can tolerate."*

The Conservative Party of Canada has accomplished a lot for gun owners over the past number of years – more than any other government in the history of this nation.

We know there is much more work to be done. The Conservative government under Stephen Harper knows it too, and it is counting on us to keep our Canada on the right track.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The CSSA is the voice of the sport shooter and firearms enthusiast in Canada. Our national membership supports and promotes Canada's firearms heritage, traditional target shooting competitions, modern action shooting sports, hunting, and archery. We support and sponsor youth programs and competitions that promote these Canadian heritage activities.

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