

Toronto Police Service Scapegoats Law-Abiding Citizens

What do Danny Santapaga, Graham Jovanovic, Justin Green and Andrew Winchester have in common? All four men are criminals who used their firearms licenses to legally purchase guns they sold illegally. They are also the four reasons why the Toronto Police Service (TPS) treats many licensed firearm owners like criminals.

The whiteshirts at the Toronto Police Service believe these criminals are actually model citizens who took advantage of a weak gun control system to funnel guns into the criminal underworld.

There's only one problem with that ludicrous supposition; Canada does not have a "weak gun control system." In fact, Canada has one of the strongest firearms control systems in the world.

Yes, four men bought guns and sold them for a hefty profit to criminals. All four men are currently serving hefty prison sentences for their actions, just as they should. Only the most idiotic would believe guns bought legally then sold to criminals would not be traced back to him. In fact that's precisely how every one of these misguided morons were caught.

These bad guys are the exception, not the rule, when it comes to the behavior of licensed firearm owners.

Crown attorney Erin Pancer, speaking about university student Justin Green, who sold 23 guns to criminals in roughly 6 months, said this.

"Green's the worst type of offender. He's a trusted citizen who betrayed that trust by trafficking firearms and jeopardizing the lives of Torontonians."

Nailed it.

We hold people accountable for their actions in Canada. We do not penalize entire

swaths of our populace simply because they own a particular piece of entirely inanimate private property.

Except... that's precisely what we do when it comes to guns. We blame every licensed firearm owner for the crimes of a few recidivist criminals that happen to stumble upon a gun. At least, that's precisely what the Toronto Police Service and its lead on this issue, Supt. Gordon Sneddon, is doing right now.

In a document cited by The Toronto Star Supt. Gordon Sneddon decries that "once [Canadians] have a license they can buy as many guns as they want."

Once you are deemed responsible to purchase firearms, is there some magical numerical limit which, once exceeded, transforms a responsible gun owner into a criminal? That's the implication made by Supt. Gordon, and it's offensive.

So long as a firearm owner abides by the law what difference does it make how many firearms he or she owns? 20 inanimate objects are no more or less inherently criminal than 1 or 2. One gun wielded with ill intent is far more dangerous than 50 guns peaceably owned.

Supt. Sneddon's memo goes on to claim that "No one is thinking 'dirty' during the review process" and actually places blame on the RCMP for creating this domestic firearm trafficking problem. Supt. Sneddon really ought to look more closely at the RCMP's handling of the Canadian Firearms Program before he spouts such obvious misinformation.

But back to Danny Santapaga, Graham Jovanovic, Justin Green and Andrew Winchester. Two of these idiots thought selling guns to criminals was a "good business opportunity." The other two were drug addicts looking to pay for their expensive drug habits. All four of them lacked the intelligence to realize guns sold to criminals would easily be tracked back to them and send them directly to prison.

And of course, all of this discussion surrounding so-called straw purchases ignores the 500-pound elephant in the room: That criminals looking to acquire firearms can do so far more easily through the same smuggling channels they procure their illicit drugs from. Canada shares the longest unprotected border in the world with the most heavily armed country on earth. The Vancouver Police claim 99% of crime guns they encounter are smuggled in from the US. Former Toronto Police Chief and now Liberal MP Bill Blair once claimed 70% of all illegal firearms in the entire country were smuggled in from the US. In short, claiming that law-abiding gun owners are any sort of serious source of criminal firearms is like claiming the locally-owned frozen yogurt shop is a more serious contributor to an obesity epidemic than McDonalds and Coca Cola.

But back to the matter at hand. The Toronto Police Service (and the Star) uses the fact these four morons broke the law as foundation for their premise that all licensed firearm owners are criminals. According to them, the only difference between these idiots, and you or I, is that we haven't been caught yet.

But Supt. Sneddon saved his biggest line of garbage for the end of his memo: "It's ironic that in the U.S.A. every sale of a gun including long guns can be traced by the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) as the store owner is required to report the sale to the ATF. In Canada we do neither."

If that "ten-pounds-of-BS-in-a-five-pound-bag" statement is true, how on Earth did the Toronto Police Service trace the guns found at crime scenes back to Danny Santapaga, Graham Jovanovic, Justin Green and Andrew Winchester? I guess they just "got lucky?"

Maybe this appalling disinformation is what Supt. Gordon Sneddon would like Canadians to believe. Or maybe the good Supt. Sneddon doesn't have a clue what he is talking about. 