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THIS WEEKS POSTINGS TO THE CANADIAN FIREARMS DIGEST
National and International Gun Control News for the week ending December 27, 2019

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POSTS FROM CANADA

EDITORIAL: PM KNOWS BANNING HANDGUNS WON'T WORK

In other words, do what will work, instead of wasting time and tax money on imposing municipal handgun bans that won't. Toronto Sun - Postmedia News - Updated: December 28, 2019

<https://torontosun.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-pm-knows-banning-handguns-wont-work>

CBC - U.S. MASS KILLINGS HIT NEW HIGH IN 2019, MOST WERE SHOOTINGS

The 211 people killed in this year's cases is still eclipsed by the 224 victims in 2017

The Associated Press · Posted: Dec 28, 2019 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/us-mass-shootings-2019-1.5409771>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-mass-killings-in-us-hit-new-high-in-2019-with-most-involving-guns/>

EDITORIAL: HOW TO FIGHT GUN CRIME IN 2020

That means bringing back street checks and restoring the Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy (TAVIS) — the gangs and guns squad — disbanded in early 2017 because of allegations that, like street checks, it was racist. The problem is politicians reject such initiatives out of fear of being labelled racists by police haters, instead of doing their jobs by passing workable regulations permitting police to do their jobs effectively, while protecting the rights of civilians questioned by the police. Going forward in 2020, our politicians can either do what works, or waste time advocating a municipal handgun “ban” that won't work because it targets legal gun owners and not criminals. Toronto Sun Postmedia News - December 27, 2019 <https://torontosun.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-how-to-fight-gun-crime-in-2020>

'THEIR NUMBERS ARE EXPLODING': ALBERTA LOSING BATTLE AGAINST WILD BOARS, SAYS

SCIENTIST - The prairie provinces are doing far too little to combat the destructive menace of wild boars, says a scientist who's studied them for a decade. And while Alberta's efforts at controlling the highly disruptive feral pigs are the best in Canada, they're still not enough and are undermined by the lack of action in Saskatchewan, says Dr. Ryan Brook, a wildlife ecologist at the University of Saskatchewan. By BILL KAUFMANN, Calgary Herald - Updated:

December 27, 2019 <https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/their-numbers-are-exploding-alberta-losing-battle-against-wild-boars-says-scientist>

LETTER: END THE SHOOTING

It's usually on Saturday but now even Boxing Day. The sound of gunshots resonates throughout the residential area in west London. It's loud and intrusive. The London Hunt Club has an exemption from the city bylaw banning the discharging of firearms. **No other Canadian city allows a gun club to operate in a major residential area.** The City of London just needs to be consistent with its firearm bylaws: enforce the law and silence the sound of gunfire. By Kevin Kusch, London. Letters To The Editor: Dec. 27 London Free Press

<https://lfpress.com/opinion/letters/letters-to-the-editor-dec-27-2>

B.C. WILDLIFE EXPERTS URGE HUNTERS TO SWITCH AMMO TO STOP LEAD POISONING IN BIRDS

VANCOUVER — Hunting season in British Columbia is having unintended toxic consequences for birds of prey and two local raptor experts say it's time to get the lead out of ammunition to stop them from being poisoned.

By Brenna Owen, November 15, 2019 -The Canadian Press - **Republished in the December 28, 2019 print edition of the Calgary Herald.** <https://nationalpost.com/pmnn/news-pmn/canada-news-pmn/b-c-wildlife-experts-urge-hunters-to-switch-ammo-to-stop-lead-poisoning-in-birds>

EXCERPT: The Canadian government estimates that 40 to 80 tonnes of lead are used every year for hunting activities in Canada. Lamont, who is a hunter, said he hopes that urging change within the hunting community could prompt a provincewide ban on lead ammunition. He said he's reached out to the BC Wildlife Federation, which has 43,000 members and represents resident hunters in B.C., in order to spread the word. "This is sort of an emerging issue," said Tina Coleman, the director of corporate operations for the wildlife federation, adding she's invited Lamont to speak with members at future engagement events. "If this is a problem, we should be looking at it, educating ourselves, and every citizen should make the right choice." There is a learning curve for hunters switching to non-lead alternatives, such as copper bullets. They are ballistically different than lead, with different weights and trajectories, said Coleman. "If you've been doing something the same way for 10 or 20 years, you're not likely going to want to change," she said. "There would have to be huge evidence of why it's so bad," Coleman said.

LAWTON: ADAM VAUGHAN DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT GUNS

Adam Vaughan clearly doesn't know anything about Canada's gun laws, but that won't stop him from defending Trudeau's planned expansion of gun control. In particular, Vaughan said no one needs an AK-47 – despite that gun already being prohibited in Canada – and that the "AR" in AR-15 stands for "assault rifle" – even though it stands for "ArmaLite rifle." True North's Andrew Lawton says this wouldn't be bad were the Liberals not trying to legislate on this file they clearly don't understand. By Andrew Lawton, TRUE NORTH - December 25, 2019 <https://tnc.news/2019/12/25/lawton-adam-vaughan-doesnt-know-anything-about-guns/>

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THE BEST IN 2020

<https://dennisryoung.ca/2019/12/24/merry-christmas-and-all-the-best-in-2020/>

LETTER: HANDGUN BAN WON'T MATTER

Re: Handguns in Canada: Maybe the PM should also ban sharp knives and scissors. They are kept in the open, sold without permits and may be carried everywhere. Always ready.

By Jorgen Hansen, Kelowna - Dec 24, 2019 <https://www.castanet.net/edition/news-story-273331-10-.htm>

TRUDEAU'S "BUY BACK" IS A MULTI-BILLION BOONDOGGLE

Speculation about the cost of this "buy back" has zeroed in on how much owners will be paid for surrendering their guns. CBC reported that Minister Blair claimed the cost for the "buy back" of roughly 250,000 firearms would be between \$400 million and \$600 million. That is, if owners comply. The full cost of the "buy back" isn't just \$600 million; it's much more. Focusing on reimbursement costs is misleading because it ignores the biggest expense: government staff work. Prohibiting and confiscating 250,000 firearms is a complex undertaking and would involve considerable government resources. It would be impossible to do with the current police resources. By Gary Mauser, Justice For Gun Owners - December 22, 2019 <https://justiceforgunowners.ca/trudeaus-buy-back-is-a-multi-billion-boondoggle/>

CSSA COMMENTARY: THE FULL STORY ON CANADA'S SAFE STORAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR FIREARMS - If you read the prime minister's mandate letter to Public Safety Minister Bill Blair[i] but don't know anything about Canada's firearm laws, you will be forgiven for coming away with the impression there are no safe storage regulations on the books in Canada. The prime minister's letter deliberately gives that impression or perhaps he really is that clueless about the subject. To set the record straight, and to shine the light of truth on the prime minister's disingenuous statements, listed below are the safe storage requirements for both rifles and handguns in Canada. Handguns (Restricted Firearms) have additional requirements on top of those for rifles (Non-Restricted Firearms). TEAM CSSA E-NEWS | DECEMBER 23, 2019 <https://cssa-cila.org/the-full-story-on-canadas-safe-storage-requirements-for-firearms/>

KOOTENAY-COLUMBIA MP MORRISON APPOINTED TO DEPUTY SHADOW MINISTER ROLE

MP Rob Morrison's role will include oversight of issues relating to public safety and emergency preparedness. Morrison said his appointment was a result of the party recognizing his background as an RCMP officer and diplomat and putting that experience to work within the shadow cabinet. By Trevor Crawley - Dec. 23, 2019

<https://www.nelsonstar.com/news/kootenay-columbia-mp-morrison-appointed-to-deputy-shadow-minister-role/>

CONSERVATIVE MP TAKES AIM AT LIBERAL'S GUN LAW PROMISES

Lianne Rood, the newly-elected MP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex: It's not law-abiding and licensed gun owners who "do all the right things that are committing the crimes," she said. Rood said she holds a licence required in Canada to acquire firearms and ammunition. "We will oppose any law that will target our law-abiding firearm owners without creating a safer Canada for families," she said. By Paul Morden - Published on: December 23, 2019

<https://www.chathamthisweek.com/news/local-news/conservative-mp-takes-aim-at-liberals-gun-law-promises-2>

CBC - PROPOSED HUNTING REGULATIONS REVEAL A BLEAK PICTURE FOR SOME B.C. WILDLIFE

'It's getting to a crisis mode,' says Kootenay East MLA Tom Shypitka. By Josh Pagé, Dominika Lirette · CBC News · Posted: Dec 23, 2019 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/proposed-hunting-regulations-bleak-picture-wildlife-1.5403401>

GOLDSTEIN: ANOTHER YEAR OF DEBATING A USELESS HANDGUN BAN

But the tragedy is that by engaging in the political sideshow of creating municipal handgun bans, politicians at all levels of government — municipal, provincial and federal — keep ignoring the elephant in the room. That is that ever since the province banned street checks (aka carding) over allegations it was racist against blacks, gun crime has soared. According to police data in 2014, before street checks were banned, there were 177 shootings in Toronto, 242 victims and 27 deaths. With a week to go in 2019, there have been 471 shootings, 736 victims and 41 deaths. By Lorrie Goldstein, Toronto Sun - December 23, 2019 <https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/goldstein-another-year-of-debating-a-useless-handgun-ban>

GOVERNMENT PLAN TARGETS LAW ABIDING CANADIAN FIREARM OWNERS, SAYS OFAH

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) doesn't support a ban approach to reducing violent crime, and groups like the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) agree, acknowledging that Canada currently has strict firearms laws and actions like a handgun ban, but it doesn't address the issue of illegal firearms and organized crime, an OFAH release notes. By Expositor Staff - December 23, 2019 <https://www.manitoulin.ca/government-plan-targets-law-abiding-canadian-firearm-owners-says-ofah/>

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NEW ZEALAND ARMS BILL IS A RED HERRING

This bill because creates a dysfunctional and expensive bureaucracy that cannot achieve its stated goals. Moreover, proponents have failed to present sufficient evidence to justify the additional restrictions on the lawful use and possession of arms and ammunition. I thank the Committee for inviting me to make a submission on the New Zealand Arms Legislation Bill of 2019. By Gary Mauser, Justice For Gun Owners - December 22, 2019 <https://justiceforgunowners.ca/new-zealand-arms-bill-is-a-red-herring/>

RCMP REPORT: AUTHORIZATIONS TO INTERCEPT PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS 2012-2016

Total Audio and Video Intercept Authorizations Approved = 28,001. Total Convictions = 570

Letter from RCMP Commissioner to Minister of Public Safety dated April 13, 2017 - ATIP Response File: A-2018-00372 <https://dennisryoung.ca/2019/12/22/rcmp-report-authorizations-to-intercept-private-communications-2012-2016/>

TRUDEAU IS COMING FOR YOUR GUNS

Justice for Gun Owners - Newsletter December 2019

<https://mailchi.mp/54ef5ef1b0b2/registration-means-confiscation?e=bc1823b8e2>

FEDS WON’T LET RESISTANT PREMIERS SCUTTLE MUNICIPAL HANDGUN BANS: PM

The federal government’s preference is to hand some powers over firearms to the provinces, which would in turn allow for municipal regulation, Trudeau said. “In some situations, we may have a province that is unwilling to do that despite the willingness of a city or cities to do that,” he said. “At which point, I have been assured, there are other tools we can use that wouldn’t be as ideal, because it would involve disagreements with the provinces at a time where we want to be collaborative.” Trudeau declined to elaborate on any alternative measure, “because it’s something we hope to not have to use.” He stressed that further restrictions represent just one element of the federal strategy on handguns. Canadian Press - December 21, 2019 <https://torontosun.com/news/national/feds-wont-let-resistant-premiers-scuttle-municipal-handgun-bans-pm>

GLEN MOTZ Q&A ON NEW PETITION: ‘AN ORDER IN COUNCIL IS WRONG’

<https://thegunblog.ca/2019/12/20/glen-motz-qa-on-new-petition-an-order-in-council-is-wrong/>

Exclusive Q&A - TheGunBlog.ca — Glen Motz, who monitors Canadian public-safety policy for the opposition Conservative Party, comments on a soaring new petition to stop the government’s planned order for mass rifle confiscations. HIGHLIGHTS:

- “An order in council is wrong.”
- It “circumvents the whole democratic process.”
- “Why don’t they do an order in council on the gang violence?”
- After you sign the e-petition on the House of Commons website, check your inbox and junk/spam folder to confirm your support, or it won’t count.
- The e-petition crossed 42,000 signatures during our conversation.

PUBLIC SAFETY: VERIFYING THE SOURCE OF MINISTER BLAIR'S STATEMENTS ON STRAW

PURCHASES - Public Safety Access to Information File: A-2019-00184 dated December 16, 2019 – Received December 20, 2019 by Dennis R. Young <https://dennisryoung.ca/2019/12/27/public-safety-verifying-minister-blairs-statements-on-straw-purchases-of-firearms/>

93-PAGE ATIP RESPONSE INCLUDES:

- A Dialogue on Handguns and Assault Weapons: Engagement Paper - October 2018
- 2019-18 National Strategic Firearms Threat Assessment: Presentation to the Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee - February 20, 2019
- Firearm-Related Crime in Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics: Presentation to the Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee - February 20, 2019
- Firearm-Related Crime in Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics: Presentation to the Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee – August 30, 2019
- Feasibility Study on Collecting Additional Data on the Criminal Use of Firearms – Funding Request by Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics - Undated
- Assessing The Feasibility Of Additional Data Collection On The Criminal Use Of Firearms: CACP Police Information Statistics Committee - Undated
- Assessing The Feasibility Of Collecting Additional Firearms Data: Consultation Document - Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics – December 2018

YOUTUBE: NFA SENATE C71 SPEECH

National President Sheldon Clare talking in front of the Senate committee on the c71 bill that was passed without amendments. 904 views•Dec 17, 2019 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkcwZO3OG6c>

POSTS FROM THE UNITED STATES & OTHER COUNTRIES

VIRGINIA GUN 'SANCTUARY' LEADERS URGE RESISTANCE TO GUN LAWS, COMPARE TO

AMERICAN REVOLUTION - “Resistance to illegal and unauthorized government acts is not new,” said two leaders of the movement in noting the decisions by the Founding Fathers to sign the Declaration of Independence that challenged Great Britain and King George III. “This doctrine is, in fact, foundational to our form of government. Indeed, the Declaration of Independence is a document of interposition, between the American colonists and a tyrannical King George III. Its signatories — the people’s representatives — pledged to one another ‘our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor,’ believing that they most likely would be tried and executed for treason against the crown,” said the new memo from the Virginia Citizens Defense League and the Virginia-based Gun Owners of America Inc. Their 12-page memo was both in defense of the state gun sanctuary movement that has been adopted by 114 counties and communities and a challenge to the opinion of Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring that the sanctuaries have “no legal effect By Paul Bedard, Washington Examiner - December 27, 2019 <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/washington-secrets/virginia-gun-sanctuary-leaders-urge-resistance-to-gun-laws-compare-to-american-revolution> <https://canadafreepress.com/article/is-it-virginia-gun-laws-that-would-have-no-legal-force>

OPINION: A STEP TOWARD REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

The challenge of confronting gun violence can be intimidating in scope. More than 35,000 Americans are killed every year by guns on average, and two-thirds of those deaths are suicides. Yet this may be the first time that the full political spectrum in Washington has united to find solutions. As two people who have spent their professional careers studying gun violence, we know there is bipartisan public policy that can help reduce these numbers. The challenge is funding the research that can help point us in the right direction. That’s why we’re so heartened by the news that Congress, for the first time in decades, is ready to spend millions on gun violence research. By Mark Rosenberg and Jeremy Travis - Dec

27, 2019 - Mark Rosenberg is president emeritus of The Task Force for Global Health and former director of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Jeremy Travis is the executive vice president for criminal justice at Arnold Ventures and former director of the National Institute of Justice. <https://www.ajc.com/news/opinion/opinion-step-toward-reducing-gun-violence/A1RN56dPXdejCiUN8we4AM/>

WALTER WILLIAMS: VIRGINIA GUN OWNERS IN A SECOND AMENDMENT BATTLE

Too many Americans view the Second Amendment as granting Americans the right to own firearms to go hunting and for self-protection. But the framers of our Constitution had no such intent in mind. James Madison, in Federalist Paper No. 46, wrote that the Constitution preserves “the advantage of being armed, which the Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation ... (where) the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms.” Thomas Jefferson wrote: “What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.” By Walter Williams | Friday, December 27, 2019

<https://triblive.com/opinion/walter-williams-virginia-gun-owners-in-a-second-amendment-battle/>

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/12/28/walter-e-williams-warns-virginians-gov-ralph-northams-gun-registry-plan/>

THE HILL - STUDYING THE VIOLENT IMPACT OF GUNS IS LONG OVERDUE

Gun control and gun violence are too often seen as a political rather than a medical or public health issue. Arguments abound over whether violence stems from guns or a violent culture with firearms as the tool. London, with a strict ban on weapons, still reported its highest rate of murders in a decade in 2018, in part because of a steady rise in knife violence. On the other hand, Israel, a country where military guns abound, has lower personal gun ownership and stricter gun laws, and a much lower rate of gun violence than in the U.S. By Dr. Marc Siegel, opinion contributor — 12/26/19

Marc Siegel M.D. is a professor of medicine and medical director at Doctor Radio at NYU Langone Health. He is a Fox News Medical Correspondent. <https://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/475947-studying-the-violent-impact-of-guns-is-long-overdue>

WOMAN WHOSE HUSBAND WAS KILLED IN GUN-FREE ZONE FIGHTS RED-FLAG LAWS

A stalker shot and killed her husband in a so-called gun-free zone. Now Nikki Goesser is worried that another gun control measure widely gaining popularity will result in other firearms owners being victimized. Ms. Goesser recently headed to Congress to speak out against red-flag laws, arguing that allowing a judge to issue orders to temporarily confiscate firearms over mental health concerns could have jeopardized her safety at a time when she was most vulnerable. “I’m trying to educate people about the dangers of red-flag laws,” Ms. Goesser told The Washington Times. “A lot of people seem to be for them, but there’s a lot that the everyday citizen doesn’t think about. I think red-flag laws completely ignore due process and violate due process rights.” By Valerie Richardson - The Washington Times - Thursday, December 26, 2019 <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/dec/26/nikki-goesser-whose-husband-was-killed-gun-free-zon/>

AIR FORCE VETERAN SHOOTS AND KILLS ARMED ROBBERS WHO FLOGGED HIM WITH THE

PISTOL - An Air Force veteran attributed his quick response to his military training after shooting and flogging an armed robber with a pistol and stealing money from the cash register of the Bay Point, California grocery store where he worked. According to CBS San Francisco, Air Force veteran Mark Kasprovicz, 56, was working that night when two masked people entered the supermarket as he was preparing to close the store. According to CBS, who broke the story first, the suspect made a block of the store before falling to the ground where he died. The other suspect is still at large. Kasprovicz was taken to the hospital after the incident, where doctors needed 12 clips to close the wound on his head. He told CBS that he opened fire after hearing one of the suspects shoot at him. By Rhonda Vance - December 26, 2019 <https://mashviral.com/air-force-veteran-shoots-and-kills-armed-robbers-who-flogged-him-with-the-pistol/>

21 STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ASK SUPREME COURT TO VOID MARYLAND GUN LAW

A coalition of 21 state attorneys general is asking the Supreme Court to strike down a Maryland law that denies concealed carry permits, unless applicants can convince local officials they have a “good and substantial reason” to be granted one by local authorities. West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, a Republican, and the other state officials filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the Supreme Court on Dec. 18 in a case cited as *Malpasso v. Pallozzi*. Morrisey and the others want to expand the scope of protection afforded to gun-ownership rights after the high court ruled in *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2010), that the right to possess a firearm is an individual right, and in *McDonald v. Chicago* (2012), that the right of an individual to “keep and bear arms” applies to the states. By Matthew Vadum - Updated: December 26, 2019 https://www.theepochtimes.com/21-state-attorneys-general-ask-supreme-court-to-void-maryland-gun-law_3184841.html

GAPS IN POLICE TRAINING SHOW WHEN OFFICERS ACCIDENTALLY FIRE GUNS, SOMETIMES WITH DEADLY RESULTS

- Accidental shootings by law enforcement have happened in recent years at agencies small and large and at all levels — city, county, state and federal — across the U.S., an Associated Press investigation found. They've caused hundreds of injuries to officers, suspects and bystanders, and sometimes they've caused deaths. By Martha Bellisle, Associated Press - Dec 25, 2019 <https://www.mcall.com/news/nation-world/mc-nws-accidental-police-shootings-20191225-6bkqm5t52vc7dfnvjht3usq5t4-story.html>

WAS NEW ZEALAND’S GUN BUYBACK A SUCCESS?

Whether the program really brought in most of the banned weapons remains a matter of speculation. The government doesn't know how many such weapons were in circulation prior to the buyback. In a government-commissioned study, accounting firm KPMG estimated the number to be between 50,000 and 170,000. The Council of Licensed Firearms Owners (COLFO), New Zealand's largest gun-rights organization, believes KPMG's highest estimate to be accurate. Police Minister Stuart Nash, naturally, declared the program a success. “I just do not believe there's 170,000. I believe we've got the majority of these guns in,” he told 1 News last Tuesday. He did admit, however, that he really doesn't know if the program was successful because there is no national gun registry, though Ardern is trying to push through legislation to institute one. “This is why we need a register,” he explained, “to enable police to better track firearms.” (Left unsaid was the fact that, as Miguel Faria, Jr., observed, “gun registration is the gateway to civilian disarmament.”) Written by Michael Tennant, The New American - Tuesday, 24 December 2019 <https://www.thenewamerican.com/world-news/item/34439-was-new-zealand-s-gun-buyback-a-success>

NEW ZEALAND’S GUN BUYBACK WAS A TOTAL FLOP, REPORT SAYS

The Prime Minister's office estimates that New Zealanders surrendered between 47,000 and 56,000 guns — a number that, on its face, seems significant, since the same government, Townhall reports, estimates the number of banned guns is somewhere between 50,000 and 150,000 (the exact number is unknown because the government did not pass an accompanying gun owner registry). That means New Zealand collected at least 50% of banned guns — but that's only if you focus on one small segment of gun owners and rely on severely outdated statistics. By Emily Zanotti, DailyWire.com December 23rd, 2019 <https://www.dailywire.com/news/new-zealands-gun-buyback-was-a-total-flop-report-says>

BBC - FIGHTING A GOOSE INVASION WITH GUNS, KNIVES AND FORKS

Orkney has been invaded by geese. The numbers are now so huge, and the damage so great, that permission has been granted for the wild birds to be shot - and eaten, reports the BBC's Emma Jane Kirby. 23 December 2019 <https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-50816678>

NEW CALIFORNIA GUN CONTROL LAW RESTRICTS SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLE PURCHASES TO ONE EVERY 30 DAYS - One of the broadest gun control measures signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom this year will prevent Californians from buying more than one semi-automatic rifle per month, and raise the minimum age to purchase a high-powered rifle to 21. The law, Senate Bill 61, builds on a previous restriction that prohibits Californians from buying more than one handgun within 30 days. By Will Coburn and Milan Cabebe - December 23, 2019

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article237761614.html>

VIRGINIA LEGISLATORS BARELY BACK OFF EXTREME GUN CONTROL STANCES

Anti-gun legislators in Virginia recently adjusted their stance on completely outlawing semi-automatic firearms, allowing that you may keep the ones you already legally own, but only if you register them with the state. Gov. Ralph Northam's proposed ban on commonly-owned semi-automatic firearms will reportedly include a grandfather clause for current owners provided the firearms are reported to a registry, according to local news sources. By Garrett O'Leary - Sunday, December 22, 2019 <https://www.america1stfreedom.org/articles/2019/12/22/virginia-legislators-barely-back-off-extreme-gun-control-stances/>

RESEARCH ON GUN VIOLENCE SHOULDN'T BE ABOUT POLITICS. IT'S ABOUT PUBLIC HEALTH.

But scientific research on gun violence isn't about being for or against gun ownership. It isn't done with the intention of getting rid of guns. Rather, the goal is harm reduction: to make legal gun usage safer, using evidence instead of political rhetoric to drive policy decisions. By Leana S. Wen - Dec. 20, 2019. Leana S. Wen is an emergency physician and a visiting professor at George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health. Previously, she served as Baltimore's health commissioner and chief executive of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/12/20/research-gun-violence-shouldnt-be-about-politics-its-about-public-health/>

COURT RULES BRITISH MI5 AGENTS CAN MURDER, KIDNAP AND TORTURE

- U.K. can authorize agents to operate in criminal groups
- Security tribunal publishes first dissenting opinion

Britain's domestic intelligence service MI5 can authorize its agents to engage in criminal activities, potentially including murder, kidnap and torture, a London court ruled, as Prime Minister Boris Johnson's new government prepares to overhaul espionage laws. Judges on the Investigatory Powers Tribunal declared in a majority decision that MI5 has the power to permit informants to operate in criminal groups, even if the policy itself confers no legal immunity. The case focused on powers that were only disclosed last year by then-Prime Minister Theresa May. "The case raises one of the most profound issues which can face a democratic society governed by the rule of law, Judge Rabinder Singh said in the ruling. By Jonathan Browning - December 20, 2019 <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-12-20/licensed-to-kill-court-rules-mi5-can-murder-kidnap-torture>

VA GOVERNOR'S ANTI-2A SANCTUARY POSITION BACKFIRES

A Second Amendment fight in Virginia slowly reaching a boil. If successful, Governor Ralph Northam's new laws will forbid any firearms sale, private or otherwise, without the successful completion of a background check. It will ban certain dangerous weapons – though safe weapons, whatever those are, would presumably be exempt. Since this includes a so-called assault weapons ban, one can assume that anything that looks like an AR-15 or AK-47 is a dangerous weapon, and anything that looks like a traditional hunting rifle is not dangerous. And, of course, no more than one firearm may be bought by any person in a 30-day period. He would also add extreme-risk protective orders, allowing the courts and police to confiscate a person's weapons without even a criminal charge, never mind conviction. That isn't all these bills would do, and one might rightly assume that once these eight become law, more would follow.

By: James Fite, Liberty Nation - December 18, 2019 <https://www.libertynation.com/va-governors-anti-2a-sanctuary-position-backfires/>

11 MORE EXAMPLES OF HOW FIREARMS SAVE GUN OWNERS' LIVES, PROPERTY

As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention affirmed in a 2013 report, almost all major studies on defensive gun uses have concluded that Americans use firearms in self-defense between 500,000 and 3 million times every year. The vast majority of them will receive little or no media attention. Every month this year, we have highlighted just some of the many times law-abiding citizens used their firearms to defend themselves or others. (You can read past articles here: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, and October). Unsurprisingly, November was also replete with similar stories of Americans using guns to save lives and livelihoods. Next year, absolutely everything is on the line. Defend your principles before it is too late. Find out more now >> By Amy Swearer / Cooper Conway, The Daily Signal - December 16, 2019 • Amy Swearer is a senior legal policy analyst at the Meese Center for Legal and Judicial Studies at The Heritage Foundation. • Cooper Conway is a member of the Young Leaders Program at The Heritage Foundation. <https://www.dailysignal.com/2019/12/16/11-more-examples-of-how-firearms-save-gun-owners-lives-property/>

OTHER ARTICLES ON ISSUES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

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JUSTIN TRUDEAU'S JOB-KILLING CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN

One might think a humiliating election campaign with a chastening result driving his party into a minority governing position would dampen any Prime Minister's ambition for remodelling the country in his own image. But if his recent "mandate letters" to Cabinet members are anything to go by, Justin Trudeau's vastly inflated self-regard remains intact. Consider his missive to the new Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Jonathan Wilkinson. Running on in excess of 2,000 words, it includes a lengthy preamble, no fewer than 17 "top priorities" for the current term (plus two calls to "identify additional priorities"), and a peroration imploring the minister not to make the same assortment of ethical lapses and managerial blunders that plagued Trudeau throughout his first term. According to one calculation, Trudeau has identified 300 tasks in his various mandate letters. There's nothing like a minority government to focus the mind. "Our platform, Forward: A Real Change for the Middle Class," says Trudeau, "is the starting point for our government." So it would appear that all those meetings with opposition leaders, premiers and mayors were as pointless as hiring a deliverology guru was the first time around. It's still the full Liberal platform, and only that, which matters. By Grant A. Brown - December 21, 2019 Grant A. Brown has a DPhil from Oxford University and an LL.B. from the University of Alberta, taught applied ethics and political philosophy at the University of Lethbridge, practised family law, and currently runs a B&B in Stratford, Ontario. <https://c2cjournal.ca/2019/12/justin-trudeaus-job-killing-climate-change-plan/>

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