



DENNIS R. YOUNG
WWW.DENNISRYOUNG.CA

THIS WEEKS POSTINGS TO THE CANADIAN FIREARMS DIGEST
National and International Gun Control News for the week ending January 10, 2020

owner-cdn-firearms-digest@scorpion.bogend.ca

POSTS FROM CANADA

CANADA IS AMPING UP NATIONAL SECURITY WITH ELITE RCMP OFFICERS AFTER THE IRAN

CRASH - The RCMP is expected to be enrolling the help of elite tactical officers from the country's Emergency Response Team, who will provide increased security and protection in Ottawa. The officers are trained to deal with "high-risk firearms and counter-terrorism." By Helena Hanson, Narcity - Updated on January 10, 2020

<https://www.narcity.com/news/ca/on/ottawa/canadian-national-security-increases-following-plane-crash-in-iran>

CBC - CANADIAN BIATHLON SISTERHOOD SHINES AT YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

Pascale Paradis, Jenna Sharrington and Naomi Walch have trained together their entire career

By Devin Heroux · CBC Sports · Posted: Jan 11, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/sports/olympics/youtholympics/canada-biathlon-youth-olympic-games-1.5423646>

CANADIAN RANGERS COMPLETE BUSIEST YEAR EVER IN 2019

The Canadian Rangers have completed a highly successful year aiding the people of the Far North of Ontario, according to their commanding officer. Canadian Rangers are part-time army reservists. The first Ranger patrol opened in Moose Factory in 1994. There are now almost 700 Rangers in 27 First Nations across the province's Far North. New patrols were added in 2019 in Aroland, Cat Lake, Long Lake, and Pikangikum. Detachments, which are smaller subunits, were opened in Ginoogaming and Marten Falls. By Sgt. Peter Moon -January 10, 2020

<http://www.netnewsledger.com/2020/01/10/canadian-rangers-complete-busiest-year-ever-in-2019/>

LIBERALS' TAKE ON GUNS JUST 'HYPE' AND 'RHETORIC': MOTZ

Medicine Hat-Cardston-Warner MP Glen Motz sponsored and assisted in drafting petition e-2341, which was initiated by Hatter Bradley Manysiak. It criticizes the Liberals' move to prohibit "military-style assault rifles," as well as the government's use of an order-in-council to limit legislative debate. By Jeremy Appel on January 10, 2020.

<https://medicinehatnews.com/news/local-news/2020/01/10/liberals-take-on-guns-just-hype-and-rhetoric-motz/>

AS VIRGINIA GOVERNOR VOWS NEW GUN CONTROL PUSH, CAPITOL BRACES FOR PROTESTS

Backed by Virginia's first Democratic-controlled legislature in over 20 years, Governor Ralph Northam vowed this week to push through new gun-control laws, angering gun-rights advocates who plan to respond with a rally of thousands of armed citizens. National Post - Reuters Brad Brooks - January 10, 2020 <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/news-pmn/politics-news-pmn/as-virginia-governor-vows-new-gun-control-push-capitol-braces-for-protests>

VIRGINIA BILL TAKES AIM AT GUN RANGES

A Virginia state lawmaker proposed a gun control bill that critics say will create a firearms registry at gun ranges in the commonwealth. Virginia Democratic Del. Dan Helmer filed a bill Thursday that would prohibit indoor shooting ranges in the state not owned by the commonwealth or the federal government, and it would require those privately owned to maintain the personal information of customers who wish to use the ranges. By Kerry Pickett - January 09, 2020

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/virginia-bill-takes-aim-at-gun-ranges>

ALBERTA: ALERT REGIONAL CRIME STATS FOR 2019 – ARRESTS, CHARGES, GUNS, DRUGS OFF THE STREETS - Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams still managed to achieve one of its most successful years ever in 2019. Over the calendar year, ALERT teams across the province laid 1,402 criminal charges against 241 suspects; took 92 firearms out of the hands of gang members and drug dealers; seized more than \$4 million in proceeds of crime; and removed nearly \$13 million worth of cocaine, fentanyl and methamphetamine from the streets of Alberta communities. By Duane Rolheiser, ALERT 2019 Red Deer - January 9, 2020 <https://www.todayville.com/a-regional-comparison-of-alert-crime-stats-for-2019-arrests-charges-guns-drugs-off-the-streets/>

SELF-DEFENCE AND FIREARMS IN CANADA

We are not yet become a nation of cowards and the law does not require our submission to criminals. That is a decision which ought to be made by each individual in the circumstances at hand, being trusted and empowered by his government to act appropriately. By Rick Hemmingson, Lacombe, Alberta - Canada Free Press - January 8, 2020 https://canadafreepress.com/print_friendly/self-defence-and-firearms-in-canada

EXCERPT: Recent news stories about the use of a firearm to stop the commission of various crimes and subsequent statements from the RCMP have (again) raised the issue of armed self-defence under Canadian law. Does that right still exist? If so, how and when can it be exercised?

FED GUN BUY-BACK PROGRAM WON'T SOLVE GUN VIOLENCE

The Winnipeg Police Service revealed in May they had dismantled a “zip-gun” manufacturing facility and seized 12 homemade guns. Bear Clan Patrol has also found these guns on the streets. Our biggest issue may in fact still be our neighbours to the south, when it comes to illegal guns. In December, Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders said 82% of the handguns in Toronto arrived from the U.S., while NPR said 75% of the guns used in crimes in Toronto come from the States. I’m not going to split hairs on stats, but there are a lot of guns still flowing over that border.

By Josh Aldrich, Winnipeg Sun - January 8, 2020 <https://winnipeg.sun.com/opinion/columnists/aldrich-fed-gun-buy-back-program-wont-solve-gun-violence>

EXCERPT: I also believe hand guns as a form of home security in Canada is idiotic to say the least. When regulations do not allow ammo and gun to be kept together and both must be locked up, there are far better tools to use to protect yourself than a nerve riddled hand working to remember a combination.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT FIREARMS IN CANADA?: A SYSTEMATIC SCOPING REVIEW

By Lorna Ferguson, Western University and Jacek Koziarski, Western University - Working Paper - Publication Date 2019 <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/sociologypub/50/>

ABSTRACT: Justin Trudeau, the Prime Minister of Canada, recently called for an examination on firearm legislation and for research evidence on best practices to curb gun violence. He also publicly discussed the need to look at the best available evidence to make decisions about firearms in Canada. In light of this, a systematic review of Canadian firearms research was initially attempted; however, searches yielded few results. Given this fruitless finding, a systematic scoping review was conducted of all peer-reviewed, empirical research on firearms in Canada from January 2000 to December 2018 to determine what is the nature and scope of the firearms literature in Canada, as well as what the research findings indicate. Results of the review revealed that the overall volume of peer-reviewed, empirical literature produced during this 18-year period was exceptionally low. In addition, we found significant gaps in the literature, which can impede any future 'evidence-based' approach to firearms in Canada. **We discuss these gaps and propose directions for future research to produce better informed Canadian gun policy.**

COMPLETION OF 2019 GUN CONTROL UNFINISHED WHILE LIBERALS PLAN MORE FIREARM RESTRICTIONS

With Public Safety Minister Bill Blair assigned to establish a new firearms regime to tackle so-called assault rifles in Canada, the Liberal government still has a long way to go to complete gun-control measures stemming from legislation it passed in the last Parliament. Public Safety Canada and the RCMP confirmed this week cabinet orders have not yet been passed to put into effect renewed controls over firearm sales, license verification and other restrictions that were contained in Bill C-71 when it received Royal Assent last June. By Tim Naumetz, iPolitics - Published on Jan 8, 2020 - <https://ipolitics.ca/2020/01/08/completion-of-2019-gun-control-unfinished-while-liberals-plan-more-firearm-restrictions/>

OTTAWA'S PROPOSED FIREARM BAN IS AN AMERICAN SOLUTION TO A CANADIAN PROBLEM

Our problems with smuggled, homemade and straw-purchased firearms won't be solved by banning the AR-15, nor will the issues that breed gun violence, including poverty, gang violence and addiction. The danger of looking at Canada's gun crisis through an American lens is in mistaking grand gestures for impactful policy. Canada's gun crime problem requires a Canada-specific solution. By Robyn Urback, Globe and Mail - January 8, 2020

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-ottawas-proposed-firearm-ban-is-an-american-solution-to-a-canadian/>

ISLAND WELL REPRESENTED AT MAJOR JUNIOR AND YOUTH INTERNATIONAL SPORTS EVENTS

CANMORE, Alta. – Ice Lake biathlete Mackenzie Turner is advancing to the world stage, with an upcoming showdown later this month at the International Biathlon Union (IBU) Youth and Junior World Championships in Switzerland, followed by an IBU Cup in Germany the following week. By Warren Schlote - January 8, 2020

<https://www.manitoulin.ca/island-well-represented-at-major-junior-and-youth-international-sports-events/>

CSSA COMMENTARY: THE FULL STORY ON CANADA'S FIREARM LICENCE REVOCATION SYSTEM

If you read the prime minister's Mandate Letter to Public Safety Minister Bill Blair[i] but don't know anything about current firearm licensing requirements, you will be forgiven for coming away with the impression there are no mechanisms to revoke a firearms licence in Canada. The prime minister's letter deliberately gives that impression or 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, here is what the current law says about firearm licence revocations in Canada. This is split into two parts. First, the legal requirements for a person to be eligible to hold a Possession and Acquisition Licence and, second, how those licences may be revoked. Both sections of law are clear and strict. TEAM CSSA E-NEWS | JANUARY 7, 2020 <https://cssa-cila.org/the-full-story-on-canadas-firearm-licence-revocation-system/>

MANITOBA WILDLIFE FEDERATION WELCOMES NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR

The Manitoba Wildlife Federation has a new managing director, though her name is likely already familiar to many members. First hired by the MWF on a one-year contract back in 2012, Carly Deacon has since held a number of positions with the federation, including her most recent role as program manager. "I've been with the federation long enough, and involved with every intricate detail to date, so it's not like I'm coming in fresh," says Deacon, who served as Delta Waterfowl's field program manager before joining the MWF. At the same time, she recognizes that there's still plenty to learn. By Bob Sexton, Outdoor Canada - January 7, 2020 <https://www.outdoorcanada.ca/manitoba-wildlife-federation-welcomes-new-managing-director/>

B.C. INFORMATION COMMISSIONER'S FINDINGS: VANCOUVER PD DOESN'T KEEP STATISTICS ON 'CRIME GUNS' - The VPD even tell the Office of the B.C. Information Commissioner: *"There is no such definition within the VPD or NWEST."*

Letter of Findings by the Office of Information and Privacy Commissioner of B.C. dated January 6, 2020 - Vancouver Police Department File FOI 19-0222A

<https://dennisryoung.ca/2020/01/07/findings-vancouver-pd-doesnt-keep-statistics-on-crime-guns/>

NWEST 'CRIME GUN' DEFINITION: The 2014 Annual Report prepared by the Canadian Firearms Program, Firearms Investigative & Enforcement Services Directorate (FIESD), Firearms Operations and Enforcement Support Unit (FOES) NWEST and the RCMP rely on a new *FIESD definition of a “crime gun”*: *A firearm is a crime gun if it meets any one of the following criteria: “any firearm that is illegally acquired, suspected to have been used in crime (includes found firearms), has an obliterated serial number, illegally modified (e.g., barrel significantly shortened).* (Page 10 of the 2014 FIESD Report). <https://canadafreepress.com/article/critique-of-canada-firearms-program-2014-fiesd-annual-report>

NFA LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU

By Sheldon Clare, President, Canada’s National Firearms Association - January 6, 2020

<https://nfa.ca/2020/01/06/prime-minister-trudeau/>

EXCERPT: Many people and groups have provided your government and others with evidence that demonstrates that our current gun control regime is a failure in having anything to do with providing public safety. Your comments and actions show that you have rejected this truth outright. For years, we have provided evidence and information to your government, and your actions show that you are ignoring the facts. Even frontline Canadian police and security forces have openly rejected your misguided gun control ideology as ineffective, and yet you continue to hold to discredited policies. Gun control is based on the lie that it helps public safety – clearly, it doesn’t. Using tax dollars to fund a firearms confiscation scheme is a waste of resources better spent on programs that would solve real problems and make Canada a better country. Consider spending Taxpayer’s money on funding poverty alleviation programs, supporting crime reduction efforts, providing additional police investigative resources, and funding additional health diagnostic equipment. These programs would actually help prevent crime and improve the lives of Canadians. We expect the cost of your gun confiscation program to exceed 2.5 billion dollars. Is that really the best allocation of our tax dollars? I think not.

<https://thegunblog.ca/2020/01/06/nfa-tells-trudeau-to-expect-civil-resistance-over-his-gun-bans/>

THE LIBERAL PARTY ATTACKS LAW-ABIDING GUN OWNERS WITH MISLEADING STATISTICS, SAYS ONTARIO NFA DIRECTOR

Written By Alexander Dhaliwal, The New Telegraph - January 6, 2020

<https://www.thenewtelegraph.ca/latestnews/the-liberal-party-stereotypes-law-abiding-gun-owners-and-misleads-on-gun-crime-statistics-says-ontario-nfa-director>

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS: THE POLITICS OF FIREARMS

EXCERPT: Like C-71, the government’s new plan for firearms is designed to solve a problem. Unfortunately, it’s a political one and it won’t give Canadians the short- or long-term results they deserve. Firearms, more so than most other political discussions, draws out an extreme level of partisanship and politicization that paralyzes good debate and good outcomes for Canadians. We would be guilty of slanting the conversation if we didn’t acknowledge that the government at least seems to be listening to some of our proposed solutions, including commitments to build a national system to flag bulk purchases, impose stronger penalties for gun smuggling, and provide resourcing for the Canada Border Services Agency and Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Not only will these actions carry a greater potential to solve real issues facing all Canadians, they are solutions that the firearms community AND gun control advocates can agree on. So, why don’t we start there and use this common ground to find solutions that all Canadians can be happy with? At a time when national unity is fragile, the OFAH continues to galvanize the hunting and shooting communities, imploring them to work together from coast-to-coast-to-coast to create a rational dialogue about responsible firearms ownership, while continuing

to push back against bad government policies. Stand with us as we stand up against bad firearms policy from Parliament Hill and right into your local communities. The time for unity is now.

Written by Matt DeMille, Registered Lobbyist and OFAH Manager Of Fish And Wildlife Services Monday, January 6, 2020 [https://www.facebook.com/notes/ontario-federation-of-anglers-and-hunters/the-politics-of-firearms/2656516867719138/?mc_cid=f9d737b11d&mc_eid=\[UNIQID\]](https://www.facebook.com/notes/ontario-federation-of-anglers-and-hunters/the-politics-of-firearms/2656516867719138/?mc_cid=f9d737b11d&mc_eid=[UNIQID])

For more on OFAH firearms advocacy, visit www.ofah.org/firearms

GUN RANGE BYLAW CHANGES PROPOSED

Mayor Brant Burrow, who once led the citizens' group fighting against the airport gun range but now finds himself in the mayor's seat, said the proposed changes would not affect the township's existing gun ranges. "Any shooting range that exists right now would become legally non-conforming, which means it doesn't impact them in any way other than if they wanted to establish something new about their facility. Then they would have to conform to the new rules, just like anybody else," Burrow said. By Sabrina Bedford, The Brockville Times and Recorder - Published on: January 6, 2020 <https://www.recorder.ca/news/local-news/gun-range-bylaw-changes-proposed>

FEDERAL GUN MANDATE REVEALED

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) is concerned with the strategy. "The government's failure to tackle the root causes of firearm related violence in Canada is extremely worrisome," said OFAH Senior Advisor – Community and Partner Relations, Brian McRae. "Canadians expect more from their government; Canadians deserve more. Banning firearms that are already restricted, from licensed firearms owners, is not only a financial disaster that will rival the failed long gun registry, but it will also do nothing to curb gang-related violence or violence associated with illegal guns By Jeff Helsdon, Ontario Out of Doors magazine -January 6, 2020 [https://oodmag.com/news/federal-gun-mandate-revealed/?mc_cid=f9d737b11d&mc_eid=\[UNIQID\]](https://oodmag.com/news/federal-gun-mandate-revealed/?mc_cid=f9d737b11d&mc_eid=[UNIQID])

LILLEY: SHOOTINGS UP BUT TRUDEAU LIBERALS LOOK TO THE WRONG SOLUTION

Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders says that there is no one act that can or will solve the problem in his city but that there needs to be a multifaceted approach. Still he acknowledged that the problem is driven by gangs selling narcotics while using illegal gun "I believe 82%, give or take, of the crime guns in the city are coming from the United States," Saunders said. So, if the reasons driving this are drugs from China and guns from the United States, both of which are illegal, why is the Trudeau government trying to solve the problem by banning rifles used in hunting and target shooting? By Brian Lilley, Toronto Sun - January 5, 2020 <https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/lilley-shootings-up-again-in-2019-but-trudeau-liberals-look-to-the-wrong-solution>

PUBLIC SAFETY CANADA: HARASSMENT IN THE RCMP

- Question Period Note: Actions to Address Harassment in the RCMP - February 1, 2018
- Question Period Note: Harassment in the RCMP - March 8, 2018

Public Safety Canada ATIP Response – File A-2018-05261

<https://dennisryoung.ca/2020/01/06/public-safety-canada-harassment-in-the-rcmp/>

EDITORIAL: ACT NOW OR GUN VIOLENCE GETS WORSE

Toronto's police service has been downsized by hundreds of officers over the past decade — another mistake. While 140 new officers are scheduled to be hired this year, it remains seriously understaffed. In the recent police crackdown on gangs and guns made possible by \$4.5 million of federal, provisional and municipal funding, in which 463 people were arrested, 97, or 21%, were out on bail for gun-related crimes, while 81 of the 97 were also charged with other violent

offences. Toronto Sun - Postmedia News - January 2, 2020 <https://torontosun.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-act-now-or-gun-violence-gets-worse>

KENORA SKIERS TO COMPETE IN AUSTRIA

Three members of the Kenora Nordic and Biathlon Club are leaving soon to compete in Seefeld, Austria with 20 other Canadians and about 200 biathlon competitors from around the world. The Winter World Masters Games is a multi-sport event held every five years. Written by Tim Wehner - Published: Thursday, 02 January 2020

<https://www.kenoraonline.com/local-sports/kenora-skiers-to-compete-in-austria>

POSTS FROM THE UNITED STATES & OTHER COUNTRIES

MIKE BLOOMBERG JOINS VIRGINIA GOVERNOR TO COMBAT 'MISINFORMATION' ON STATE GUN LAWS

- NRA attacks show his message about the need for reasonable gun-control measures is 'getting through,' the Democratic presidential candidate and former New York mayor says. Associated Press - Published: Jan 10, 2020

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/mike-bloomberg-joins-virginia-governor-to-combat-misinformation-on-state-gun-laws-2020-01-10>

VIRGINIA DEMOCRATS WON AN ELECTION. GUN OWNERS ARE TALKING CIVIL WAR

Democrats' pledge to pass new gun laws has sparked a grassroots pro-gun movement that will bring thousands of activists to a volatile rally this month. By Lois Beckett, The Guardian - Fri 10 Jan 2020 [https://www.theguardian.com/us-](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jan/09/virginia-gun-control-second-amendment-civil-war)

[news/2020/jan/09/virginia-gun-control-second-amendment-civil-war](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jan/09/virginia-gun-control-second-amendment-civil-war)

VIRGINIA LAWMAKERS BAN GUNS AT STATE CAPITOL

Public officials have expressed concerns about planned Jan. 20 rallies that are set to draw huge crowds of pro-gun and gun-control advocates. Gun advocates from around Virginia and even out of state have pledged to turn out in force to highlight their resistance to proposed gun-control measures. Democrats initially indicated that the new ban had been recommended by law enforcement. Democrats initially indicated that the new ban had been recommended by law enforcement. But Capitol Police Col. Anthony Pike said after the vote that he made no recommendations on whether guns should be banned, only on how to implement the ban Democrats wanted.

By Alan Suderman And Sarah Rankin, Associated Press - 10 January 2020

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/virginia-lawmakers-ban-guns-at-state-capitol-11578692936>

<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/virginia-lawmakers-vote-to-ban-guns-at-state-capitol/2198618/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/gun-laws-in-virginia-lawmakers-ban-guns-at-capitol-in-first-of-many-expected-firearm-votes-today-2020-01-10/>

EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE A GUN RACK IN YOUR TRUCK, IT'S USEFUL TO HAVE A TRUCK GUN

The first question surprised me. It had never occurred to me that I wouldn't have one, and I explained that I had it locked to a cable running through the floorboard when I wasn't in the vehicle, and I kept it covered. Growing up, we always had firearms. They were no different than the tow rope, shovel, handyman jack, ax, saw, screwdrivers, crescent wrench, channel lock pliers, a jug of water and wool blankets that occupied a toolbox of some sort in the vehicle. The "truck gun," as we referred to it, was an inexpensive rifle that stayed in the truck year-round. It, along with everything else, was a problem-solver. If you broke down, got stuck, came across someone who needed help, encountered a downed tree on the road or you needed to shoot something, you had what you needed. By Steve Meyer, Alaska guns & hunting, Anchorage Daily News - January 10, 2020 [https://www.adn.com/outdoors-adventure/2020/01/11/even-if-you-dont-have-a-gun-rack-](https://www.adn.com/outdoors-adventure/2020/01/11/even-if-you-dont-have-a-gun-rack-in-your-truck-its-useful-to-have-a-truck-gun/)

[in-your-truck-its-useful-to-have-a-truck-gun/](https://www.adn.com/outdoors-adventure/2020/01/11/even-if-you-dont-have-a-gun-rack-in-your-truck-its-useful-to-have-a-truck-gun/)

WHAT A SOCIALIST APPROACH TO GUN VIOLENCE SHOULD LOOK LIKE

Reducing Gun Violence Means Taking on Capitalism. By Danny Katch, Jacobin Magazine - January 2020

<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2020/01/gun-violence-socialist-approach-firearms-michael-bloomberg>

USA - TOP GUN IMPORTERS AND VOLUME

Broken down by type of firearm imported, the top three leaders in handguns (in descending order) were Austria, Brazil and Germany. In rifles the list was Canada, Brazil and Japan and for shotguns the top trio was Turkey, China and Italy. The total number of firearms imported into the United States in 2018 was 4,305,851, down from the previous year's figure of 4,492,256. Imported firearm figures peaked in 2013 at 5,539,539, more than half of the 10,844,792 U.S.-based manufacturers produced the same year. By Guy J. Sagi - Thursday, January 9, 2020

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/articles/2020/1/9/top-gun-importers-and-volume/>

AT GUN SAFETY EVENTS, 40% OF GUN OWNERS REPORTED NOT LOCKING ALL HOUSEHOLD GUNS — EVEN AROUND KIDS

- While waiting for free firearm storage devices at gun safety events held in sporting goods stores across Washington, nearly 3,000 people filled out a one-page survey asking how they stored guns at home and other household information. What the participants reported emphasizes the need for these public events, Seattle Children's and University of Washington researchers say, because 40% of gun owners at the events reported having at least one firearm in their home that was not locked up. In addition, 39% of survey takers indicated they kept a loaded gun at home, and 14% stored all guns unlocked and loaded. By Jake Ellison, University of Washington News - January 9, 2020

<https://www.washington.edu/news/2020/01/09/at-gun-safety-events-40-of-gun-owners-reported-not-locking-all-household-guns-even-around-kids/>

GUN BUYBACKS: WHAT THE RESEARCH SAY

"Gun buyback programs are a broadly supported means to decrease voluntarily the prevalence of handguns within a community, but their effect on decreasing violent crime and reducing firearm mortality is unknown," the authors write. A meta-analysis from December 2019 in Current Trauma Reports suggests that gun buybacks should be included in broader violence reduction strategies. "Buybacks in conjunction with other methods have been shown to be successful in reducing the number of firearms that could lead to injury and death," the authors write. They note that non-Hispanic black men are the most common victims of fatal firearm injury, while gun buyback participants tend to be older white men. By Clark Merrefield, Journalist's Research - January 9, 2020 <https://journalistsresource.org/studies/government/criminal-justice/gun-buybacks-what-the-research-says/>

VIRGINIA WANTS TO CLOSE NON-GOVT. GUN RANGES AND CREATE AMMO-FREE ZONES

If you thought the law that would effectively ban semi-automatic weapons in Virginia was draconian, just wait. The General Assembly isn't done trampling the Second Amendment yet. They have lots more potential felonies in store for gun owners. HB567 wants to ensure gun ranges are government-owned. HB318 would create ammunition-free zones. By Daisy Luther, The Organic Prepper - January 8, 2020

<https://www.theorganicprepper.com/virginia-close-gun-ranges-ammo-free-zones/>

ETHIOPIA PASSES GUN CONTROL LAW TO TACKLE SURGE IN VIOLENCE

The new law provides for each region to stipulate a legal age for gun ownership, Tesfaye said, while limiting the number of firearms an individual can own to one. Violations could bring up to three years in prison, according to the new legislation. It will also ban private trade in weaponry and allow only allowing certain government institutions to import guns. Those found to have involved themselves in arms trafficking would face prison terms of eight to 20 years.

Reuters - January 8, 2020 <https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/news/world/ethiopia-passes-gun-control-law-to-tackle-surge-in-violence-395922/>
<https://borkena.com/2020/01/09/ethiopia-firearms-control-draft-legislation-got-approval-in-parliament/>

MIKE BLOOMBERG'S UNINFORMED, CONTRADICTORY RHETORIC ON GUNS

Mike Bloomberg, speaking January 3 about the shooting in the West Freeway Church: "Somebody in the congregation had their own gun and killed the person who murdered two other people, but it is the job of law enforcement to have guns and to decide when to shoot. You just do not want the average citizen carrying a gun in a crowded place." By Jim Geraghty, National Review - January 7, 2020 <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/mike-bloombergs-uninformed-contradictory-rhetoric-on-guns/>

FBI CONDUCTED RECORD NUMBER OF GUN SALE BACKGROUND CHECKS IN 2019, AS DEMOCRATS PROMISE GUN CONTROL - According to FBI data, 28,369,750 background checks were performed in 2019, smashing the previous record of 27 million in 2016. The agency ran 202,465 checks on Black Friday alone. The Christmas period was a festive one for firearms retailers, with just under three million checks carried out in December, the second-highest month since the National Instant Criminal Background Check System began in 1998. RT QUESTION MORE - 6 Jan, 2020 <https://www.rt.com/usa/477595-record-gun-sales-2019/>

AMERICAN OPINION: CHURCH SHOOTER SHOULD NOT HAVE HAD A GUN

Instead of turning churches and schools into armed camps, we should do a better job of keeping guns away from people who shouldn't have them. Gun control that includes strong background checks makes sense, as a majority of Americans understand. Written By: Washington Post Opinion | Jan 6th 2020 <https://www.wctrib.com/opinion/editorials/4851132-American-Opinion-Church-shooter-should-not-have-had-a-gun>

EXCERPT: "Keith is a violent, paranoid person with a long line of assault and batteries with and without firearms. He is a religious fanatic, says he's battling a demon . . . He is not nice to anyone." That is how one of his ex-wives described the gunman in 2012 as she sought a protective order against him. Keith Thomas Kinnunen, 43, who killed church deacon Anton Wallace, 64, and church security volunteer Richard White, 67, at the West Freeway Church of Christ in White Settlement, Texas, had an extensive rap sheet in numerous places across the United States. Included in his troubled history was the 2012 determination by an Oklahoma judge that he was mentally incompetent to stand trial on charges he attacked the owner of a doughnut shop; he was committed to a psychiatric facility. In 2016, he was arrested after being spotted acting suspiciously near an oil refinery in New Jersey while armed with a shotgun; he ended up pleading guilty to criminal trespass. None of that prevented him from getting a firearm.

FORGET GUN FREE ZONES, VIRGINIA GUN CONTROLLERS WANT AMMUNITION FREE ZONES

As counterproductive as gun free zones are, Virginia's Michael Bloomberg-bought General Assembly wants to go even further. Under VA Code Ann. § 18.2-308.1, the Old Dominion already prohibits firearms on "the property of any public, private or religious elementary, middle or high school, including buildings and grounds." On December 31, Delegate Kaye Kory (D-38) filed HB318, which would make it a crime to knowingly possess ammunition at such locations. A violation of the ammunition ban would be a Class 1 Misdemeanor punishable by a \$2,500 fine and up to a year imprisonment. Gun owners know just how easy it would be to run afoul of this law. Many gun owners keep ammunition in their vehicles to facilitate quick trips to the range or for hunting. Other gun owners keep additional ammunition for their carry firearms in their vehicles for self-defense purposes. NRA/ILA - Monday, January 6, 2020 <https://www.nraila.org/articles/20200106/forget-gun-free-zones-virginia-gun-controllers-want-ammunition-free-zones>

MICHAEL BLOOMBERG'S OUTRAGEOUS RESPONSE TO THE TEXAS CHURCH SHOOTING

Michael Bloomberg just declared open season on the Second Amendment and disrespected a hero. Yes, the billionaire-turned-Democratic 2020 presidential candidate has campaigned to restrict gun rights for years, pouring millions into his anti-gun advocacy. But Bloomberg just made it explicitly clear that he wants to disarm law-abiding Americans completely — he holds contempt for those who exercise their right to self-defense — through his tone-deaf response to the recent Texas church shooting. By Brad Polumbo, Washington Examiner - January 04, 2020

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/michael-bloombergs-outrageous-response-to-the-texas-church-shooting-is-an-insult-to-hero-jack-wilson>

NYC VS. LONDON: WHY BANNING GUNS DOESN'T WORK

But it's the latest news out of the UK which is the most surprising. For the first time in history, the murder rate in London has managed to overtake that in the city of New York! BEFOREITSNEWS - Saturday, January 4, 2020

<https://beforeitsnews.com/alternative/2020/01/nyc-vs-london-why-banning-guns-doesnt-work-3709334.html>

ALEXANDER CITY, AL - SALES OF HANDGUNS FOR WOMEN INCREASE IN DECEMBER

Local handgun purchases for women's defense increased significantly in December. By Gabrielle Jansen - January 4, 2020 https://www.alexcityoutlook.com/news/sales-of-handguns-for-women-increase-in-december/article_ac1b6020-2e98-11ea-96d9-6f14aefed7d9.html

2020 WILL BE A BIG YEAR FOR THE GUN ISSUE

There are plenty of reasons to believe that 2020 is poised to be pivotal for the issue of gun violence. Yes, there's that looming election, and all the policymaking power it puts up for grabs. But between now and November, plenty of other storylines will also unspool. From the Supreme Court, we'll get a decision with a wide range of possible implications for state and local gun regulations. Red flag laws are gaining acceptance at the state level, but they could face increasing resistance from far-right extremists. Researchers probing the causes of and possible cures for shootings will welcome an infusion of government funding, even as they lobby for more robust spending. To begin to get a sense of how it all may play out, we asked 13 experts on the policy, politics, and science of gun violence to size up the year to come. By Team Trace · January 3, 2020 <https://www.thetrace.org/2020/01/gun-violence-2020-election-research-extremism-shootings/>

INCONVENIENT TRUTHS ABOUT GUNS AND GUN CONTROL

The world isn't safe. If you don't believe me, then ask a policeman who deals with criminals every day. The policeman wants a firearm because he lives in a dangerous world. Unfortunately, the average criminal will victimize over 20 civilians before the policeman catches him. That is why you and I need a firearm too. We have to protect ourself and our loved ones until the police arrive, and we only call the police after we've been attacked. There is no doubt that self-defense is inconvenient, but I'd rather be inconvenienced now than be a helpless victim later. To make matters worse, you don't get to pick when you might be attacked. ;-(Ammoland Inc. Posted on January 3, 2020 by Rob Morse

<https://www.ammoland.com/2020/01/inconvenient-truths-about-guns-and-gun-control/#axzz6ABIpffCR>

OTHER ARTICLES ON ISSUES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

FACTS GO UP IN FLAMES ALONG WITH THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH COUNTRY

Al Gore was so taken by Rosling's presentation, he asked him for help to create some graphs showing a worst-case future impact of a continued increase in CO2 emissions. "We need to create fear!" Gore said. Rosling told him no. He doesn't like fear. He doesn't like exaggeration. He likes data. He demands facts. And you should make it your New Year's resolution that you will too. By Danielle Smith, Calgary Herald - Updated: January 10, 2020

<https://calgaryherald.com/opinion/columnists/smith-facts-go-up-in-flames-along-with-the-australian-bush-country>

PROGRESSIVE ECO-GROUP ADMITS IT: RENEWABLE ENERGY IS A HOAX THAT BENEFITS ITS GREENIE ELMER GANTRIES LIKE AL GORE

Deep Green Resistance openly acknowledges what skeptical scientists have been saying for more than two decades: that renewable energy is a government-backed hoax that enriches big corporations -- and green energy investors like Al Gore -- at the expense of taxpayers and the environment. If you find that admission hard to believe, please keep reading. The questions and answers below are verbatim from the FAQ page on the organization's website. By John Eidson, American Thinker - January 9, 2020

https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2020/01/progressive_ecogroup_admits_it_renewable_energy_is_a_hoax_that_benefits_its_greenie_elmer_gantries_like_al_gore.html

GWYN MORGAN: AFTER DELIBERATELY TURNING ITSELF INTO A CLIMATE-CHANGE MARTYR, CANADA NEEDS SOME BASIC COMMON SENSE

For all the economic, social and national unity pain inflicted, our sacrifices will have no perceptible impact on global climate change. Special to Financial Post by Gwyn Morgan - January 7, 2020

<https://business.financialpost.com/opinion/gwyn-morgan-after-deliberately-turning-itself-into-a-climate-change-martyr-canada-needs-some-basic-common-sense>

GOLDSTEIN: TRUDEAU'S CARBON FOOTPRINT, AND CANADA'S, KEEP GROWING

If the 2018 number is accurate — Doan said the environment ministry withdrew it from its website and refused to confirm it when Blacklock's Reporter started asking questions — it means Canada's emissions are back to the same level they were in the last year of prime minister Stephen Harper's government in 2015. Without a carbon tax. By Lorrie Goldstein, Toronto Sun - January 6, 2020

<https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/goldstein-trudeaus-carbon-footprint-and-canadas-keep-growing>

GOLDSTEIN: A NEW CONSERVATIVE CLIMATE POLICY -- TRY HONESTY

Having explained the logical fallacies in Trudeau's climate change rhetoric, the next Conservative leader could then talk about the issue honestly. First, reducing Canada's emissions to the levels now being called for by the United Nations would require a level of economic sacrifice by Canadians equivalent to fighting a world war — one that Trudeau isn't willing to fight personally given his jet-setting lifestyle. Second, even if we succeeded, it would be a purely symbolic gesture because it would make no significant impact on global emissions, which continue to increase fuelled by major emitters such as China, India and the United States. By Lorrie Goldstein, Toronto Sun - January 4, 2020

<https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/goldstein-a-new-conservative-climate-policy-try-honesty>

<https://edmontonsun.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-liberal-eco-zealots-performing-economic-self-flagellation-on-canada>

NEW COSTA RICA PHOTOS RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT TRUDEAU'S VACATION SPENDING

Over the past few days, Trudeau has been criticized for spending large sums of taxpayer money for non-governmental business, as well as for having a large carbon footprint for taking the trip down south. In comparison, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was photographed coming back from his vacation in economy class. The Prime Minister's Office did not immediately respond to The Post Millennial's queries about the trip. By Nico Johnson, The Post Millennial - January 2, 2020

<https://www.thepostmillennial.com/new-costa-rica-photos-raise-questions-about-trudeaus-vacation-spending/>

CLIMATEGATE: HIDE THE DECLINE BACKGROUNDER

Just two months after Michael E. Mann's paper MBH98 appeared, Nature published another climate reconstruction, this time by the late British scientist Keith Briffa and 4 coauthors. Like Mann's study, it used tree ring records from all over

the Northern Hemisphere to estimate temperatures back to the year 1400. But unlike Mann's paper, the result looked nothing like a hockey stick. It showed a lot of variability over time, and record warmth in the 1930s, but no special warming pattern since then. In fact, it showed cooling up to 1993, with temperatures ending below the average of the past six centuries. The climate science community was confronted with two studies at the same time, both using similar methods to study the same thing, and coming up with very different answers. Normally that kind of result means the science is not settled, the data may not be reliable, and the uncertainties need to be explained. In this case, apparently, it meant instead that a body needed to be buried for political reasons. **The story of the disappearance of the Briffa data is one of the darkest episodes in modern science.** By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus - 04 Dec 2019
<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/videos/climategate-hide-the-decline-background/>

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CALIBRE MAGAZINE
The Canadian Firearms Magazine
<http://calibremag.ca/>

CANADIAN OUTDOORSMAN MAGAZINE
http://www.canadianoutdoorsman.net/#!/page_home

OUTDOOR CANADA, OUTDOOR CANADA WEST
www.outdoorcanada.ca

THE GUN BLOG
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LATEST NEWS FROM JOHN LOTT'S CRIME PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTRE
<http://crimeresearch.org/>

CHRISTOPHER DI ARMANI
christopher@diarmani.com

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THINK TANK OF ONE BY JOHN THOMPSON

Issues related to organized violence and instability.

<https://thinktankofone.com/about/>

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TRUE NORTH

The True North Initiative is an independent, non-profit research and educational organization dedicated to advancing sound immigration and security policies. True North is a platform for a robust discussion on immigration, security and Canada's role in the world. <https://www.truenorthinitiative.com/home>

CLIMATE DISCUSSION NEXUS

The Climate Discussion Nexus is a group of concerned Canadians who believe more information about climate science and policy debates will lead to better decisions. <https://climatediscussionnexus.com/>