



**THIS WEEKS POSTINGS TO THE CANADIAN FIREARMS DIGEST
National and International Gun Control News for the week ending February 14, 2020**

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POSTS FROM CANADA

CBC - SCOURGE OF METH-LINKED HOMEMADE GUNS IN WINNIPEG HIT RECORD HIGH IN 2019,

POLICE SAY - Rise in improvised firearms coincides with spike in meth-related crime over past five years

By Bryce Hoyer · CBC News · Posted: Feb 15, 2020 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-police-homemade-guns-spike-1.5436914>

CHILD TERRORIZES KANSAS SCHOOL WITH FINGER GUN

Zero-tolerance rules sound great on paper but they quickly devolve into mindless bureaucratic stupidity. The case of one 12-year-old girl attending Westridge Middle School in Overland Park, Kansas, epitomizes this insanity. On September 18, 2019, she held her hand in the shape of a gun, pointing it at four other students while saying bang, then repeating the same gesture to herself. This was in response to the question, “theoretically, if she could kill any five people in the room, whom she would pick?” When viewed absent any context, the 12-year-old girl’s actions could admittedly be seen as disturbing. When her actions are observed in their full context, the school’s response – charging her with felony uttering criminal threats – is laughable. Published February 15, 2020 by Christopher di Armani <https://christopherdiarmani.com/13736/big-brother/the-bureaucrats-rule-number-one/child-terrorizes-kansas-school-with-finger-gun/>

BULLSEYE LONDON CEO PATIENCE Q&A ON GUN BANS, ‘URGENT’ EXPANSION

Exclusive: Gun shop is tripling in size as “very high levels of growth” offset confiscation concern. Bullseye London, a major Canadian independent gun shop, is tripling in size as “very high levels of growth” for firearms, ammo and accessories offset concern over gun bans. The company continues to oppose the governing Liberal Party’s plans to order mass gun confiscations against federally licensed stores and hundreds of thousands of firearm owners.

THEGUNBLOG.CA - FEBRUARY 14, 2020 <https://thegunblog.ca/2020/02/14/bullseye-london-ceo-patience-qa-on-gun-bans-urgent-expansion/>

LETTER: PLENTY OF DOUBLESPEAK ON GUN CONTROL

K boys and girls, for the umpteenth time, there is no such thing as an assault weapon. This is a term coined by uneducated gun control advocates and their lazy media acolytes. By Ian Parkinson, Medicine Hat - February 14, 2020.

<https://medicinehatnews.com/commentary/letters-to-the-editor/2020/02/14/plenty-of-doublespeak-on-gun-control/>

CBC - CALGARY DETECTIVE PLEADS GUILTY TO ASSAULT, STEALING POLICE GUN

A Calgary police detective who stole a gun — with a plan to kill himself — and then led officers on a chase through the city had hit “rock bottom,” said his lawyer Thursday. Thomas Bain, 37, pleaded guilty to nine charges including assault, theft, dangerous driving and firearms offences. By Meghan Grant · CBC News · Posted: Feb 13, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgary-police-detective-tom-bain-plead-guilty-1.5463288>

ECHO BAY INCIDENT LEADS TO ARREST OF SAULT STE. MARIE MAN

As a result of the death investigation and the search warrant, Stephen WARD, 33-years-old, from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario has been arrested and charged with the following:

- Fail to comply with probation order, contrary to section 733.1(1) of the Criminal Code (CC) – two counts;
- **Fail to comply with recognizance, contrary to section 145(3) of the CC – three counts; Possession of a firearm or ammunition contrary to a probation order, contrary to section 117.01(1) of the CC;**
- Unauthorized possession of a prohibited or restricted firearm, contrary to section 91(1) of the CC; and,
- Breach of firearms regulation – store firearm or restricted weapon, contrary to section 86(2) of the CC.

By Media Release -February 13, 2020 <https://saultonline.com/2020/02/echo-bay-incident-nets-arrest-for-sault-ste-marie-man/>

NOVEMBER 9, 2018 - TARGETING BAD GUYS WITH GUNS: PETITION TO PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU: SHOULDN'T POLICE KNOW WHERE THESE BAD GUYS WITH GUNS LIVE?

By Dennis R. Young - November 9, 2018 <https://lnkd.in/eKnCw4n>

<https://www.change.org/p/justin-trudeau-shouldn-t-police-know-where-these-bad-guys-with-guns-live>

GUN OWNERS FIRING BACK

We, the gun owners of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, will not be made criminals by fiat. If our rights are to be amended, let them be put to debate in the people's house: Parliament. By Nathan Giede / Prince George Citizen - February 13, 2020 <https://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/opinion/columnists/gun-owners-firing-back-1.24075465>

OFAH REMINDER: SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS ON SPRING BEAR HUNT PROPOSAL

Have you voiced your support yet for the return of the spring bear hunt in Ontario? Submit your comments today. The deadline looms on Feb. 18, 2020 - It's not too late and whether you are a spring bear hunter or not, you can appreciate the fact that the OFAH needs your continued support to hold governments accountable and keep your outdoors traditions alive. Last month the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry announced a proposal to fully restore the spring bear hunt in Ontario. Strong OFAH advocacy on this issue convinced the government to take this first step, but we need to make sure this proposal crosses the finish line with the deadline to submit comments to the Environmental Registry nearing. Visit www.ofah.org/supportspringbear and use our simple form to tell the government you support the spring bear hunt. They need to hear loud and clear support from all across the hunting community.

<https://www.ofah.org/2020/01/ontario-government-proposes-a-full-return-of-spring-bear-hunt/>

BLAIR'S BUREAUCRATS FAIL TO PROVIDE LIST OF ALL FIREARMS TO BE BANNED

REQUESTED: LIST OF ALL FIREARMS TO BE BANNED. **RESPONSE: NOTHING!** ATIP FILE: A-2019-00283
PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONSE: 33 pages (All text redacted) - 218 pages exempted citing 'Cabinet confidences'

<https://dennisryoung.ca/2020/02/13/blairs-bureaucrats-fail-to-provide-list-of-all-firearms-to-be-banned/>

LAST THREE ATIP REQUESTS POSTED = **TOTAL of 1,115 Pages exempted citing 'Cabinet confidences'**.

FIREARM LICENCE REVOCATION LIES FROM JUSTIN TRUDEAU

On February 5, 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stood in the House of Commons and lied to Canadians. Mr. Speaker, the police currently have the ability to remove firearms from someone who presents a threat to themselves or others, but they cannot suspend the licence and prevent that person from acquiring new firearms. That is what the red-flag law is all about. At the very least, Mr. Trudeau's staff should provide their boss accurate briefing notes. Published February 13, 2020 by Christopher di Armani. Read the complete article at: <https://christopherdiarmani.com/14089/guns/gun-politics/firearm-licence-revocation-lies-from-justin-trudeau/>

BLAKE BROWN: CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP AND THE CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS OF GUN OWNERSHIP - OPINION: Despite representing a small minority, gun lobby groups continue to be loud and aggressive, demanding Conservative leaders adopt firearm policy positions opposed by most Canadians.

By Blake Brown, Vancouver Sun - Updated: February 12, 2020 <https://vancouversun.com/opinion/blake-brown-conservative-leadership-and-the-changing-demographics-of-gun-ownership>

CSSA COMMENTARY: GUN CONFISCATION ? THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL

ALBATROSS - Cost overruns will likewise end the Liberal government's latest political albatross – its planned gun confiscations – but not before it wastes at least another \$2–5 billion of your tax dollars. The Trudeau government is far more interested in virtue signalling than it is in protecting Canadians. They trumpet their misguided belief confiscating rifles from licensed gun owners will stop gang violence fuelled by the illegal drug trade. TEAM CSSA E-NEWS | FEBRUARY 12, 2020 <https://t.co/F0FpGA1cDg>

PUBLIC SAFETY ATIP: SELECTION CRITERIA AND LIST OF MILITARY STYLE ASSAULT RIFLES TO BE BANNED - PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONSE: 83 pages (753 pages exempted citing “Cabinet confidences”) FILE: A-2019-00281 <https://dennisryoung.ca/2020/02/12/public-safety-atip-selection-criteria-and-list-of-military-style-assault-rifles-to-be-banned/>

- Ministerial Briefing to Minister Goodale – January 29, 2019
- Ministerial Briefing to Minister Blair – February 28, 2019
- Ministerial Briefing to Minister Goodale – March 11, 2019
- Ministerial Briefing to Minister Blair – March 13, 2019
- Ministerial Briefing to Minister Blair – April 4, 2019
- Ministerial Briefing to Minister Blair – April 12, 2019
- Ministerial Briefing to Minister Blair – May 9, 2019
- Secret Ministerial Briefing Agenda – November 21, 2018 (Note: Mostly redacted)

THANKS TO: Daniel Balofsky, CPA, CA, CLU for sharing the attached response to his Informal Request to Public Safety Canada.

CANADA'S FIREARM LICENSE REVOCATION SYSTEM

The Prime Minister insists the current law does not allow police to revoke firearm licences. The Public Safety Minister says there is a law but it's too restrictive. Today I discuss what the current law says, as opposed to what the government wants Canadians to believe it says. **The gap between the government's version and the truth is Grand Canyon wide.** I honestly don't know how the government can broaden our the current licence revocation system when "A chief firearms officer may revoke a licence, an authorization to carry or an authorization to transport for any good and sufficient reason..." -- Firearms Act, Section 70. For any good and sufficient reason is an extremely wide net. Contrary to Minister Blair's assertion, it is a Chief Firearms Officer who decides what “good and sufficient reason” means on a case-by-case basis.

- Did you make a stupid and angry comment on Facebook?
- Did you make a comment on Twitter that, when read out of context, sounds threatening to another human being?
- Did you threaten someone with physical harm? Could someone reasonably misinterpret your statements in that manner?
- Did you get a speeding ticket and spout off at the officer giving you a ticket?

Any or all of these could be deemed “good and sufficient reason” in the eyes of a Chief Firearms Officer, and could result in your firearm licence being revoked. Published February 12, 2020 by Christopher di Armani

<https://christopherdiarmani.com/14056/guns/canadas-robust-firearm-license-revocation-system/>

OTTAWA SPENDS \$1.23 MILLION ON ARVIAT'S YOUNG HUNTERS PROGRAM

The young hunters program, which started in 2012, is operated by Aqqiumavvik, the Arviat Wellness Society. Its purpose is to have local elders and other instructors train young people between the ages of eight and 18 in the sustainable harvest

of country food. In addition to that, they receive training in environmental monitoring, especially observing the signs of climate change, through a program called the Ujjiqsuiniq Project. “Ujjiqsuiniq” means the process that enables one to monitor and observe with confidence, the Aqqiumavvik website says. By Jim Bell - February 12, 2020

<https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/ottawa-spends-1-23-million-on-arviats-young-hunters-program/>

EDITORIAL: TO FIGHT CRIME, CANADA HAS TO FIGHT POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND DESPAIR

How hard is it for politicians to understand that the most effective policies for reducing youth violence are ones that cut poverty, such as the federal Canada Child Benefit, or fight exclusion, such as investments in improving education, social services and living conditions? Putting effort into those areas is a more permanent and equitable solution than locking up more people from communities that are already struggling. Policies to fight youth violence must not, however unintentionally, exacerbate the sense of exclusion felt by too many young Canadians. We'll look at possible solutions later this week. Globe and Mail Editorial - February 10, 2020 <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/editorials/article-to-fight-crime-canada-has-to-fight-poverty-inequality-and-despair/>

PUBLIC SAFETY CANADA ATIP: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BANNING SEMI-AUTOMATIC FIREARMS PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONSE: 64 pages (174 pages exempted citing “Cabinet confidences”) FILE: A-2019-00280

<https://dennisryoung.ca/2020/02/11/public-safety-canada-atip-economic-impact-of-banning-semi-automatic-firearms/>

- Ministerial Briefing to Minister Blair - November 22, 2018
- Combatting Gun and Gang Violence – November 15, 2018
- Bill C-71 – Proposed Response – November 14, 2018
- Public Safety Canada-Led Legislation – October 19, 2018
- 2018-2019 – Supplementary Estimates (A) Hot Issues
- Ministerial Briefing to Minister Blair - December 4, 2018
- Ministerial Briefing to Minister Blair – January 28, 2019
- Ministerial Briefing to Minister Goodale – January 29, 2019
- Ministerial Briefing to Minister Blair – February 28, 2019
- Ministerial Briefing to Minister Blair – March 13, 2019
- Ministerial Briefing to Minister Blair – April 4, 2019
- Ministerial Briefing to Minister Blair – April 12, 2019
- Secret Ministerial Briefing Agenda – November 21, 2018

MP BOB ZIMMER: LIBERALS SHOW LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF CANADA'S FIREARMS LAWS

We must ensure that the Governor in Council follows these clearly laid out requirements when it comes to any Order in Council that involves firearms. Yet, how can we trust that this Liberal Cabinet, which continues to show its contempt for lawful firearms owners, will be able to fully comprehend what is “reasonable for use in Canada for hunting or sporting purposes” when making any recommendations to the Governor General? The simple truth is that we can't. By Bob Zimmer / Alaska Highway News - February 10, 2020

Bob Zimmer is the Member of Parliament for Prince George-Peace River-Northern Rockies.

<https://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/opinion/columnists/bob-zimmer-liberals-show-little-understanding-of-canada-s-firearms-laws-1.24072665>

SPORTS SHOOTING STILL POPULAR

“The Gun Show is a venue for people to purchase or sell firearms, have a look at some of the other technology in terms of reloading, ammunition and gun collection, all aspects of shooting sports,” says Allan Jones, President of Southern Alberta Rifleman Association. “Shooting sports have become very strong in southern Alberta, and as a result of that, more young

people are getting into it. We sponsor a lot of youth oriented shooting organizations and that is what we do from the profit of this show, but all aspects of shooting sports are alive and it shows at this show.”

By Greg Bobinec, Lethbridge Herald - February 10, 2020 <https://lethbridgeherald.com/news/lethbridge-news/2020/02/10/sports-shooting-still-popular/>

11 TOP COPS AND POLICING EXPERTS WHO DOUBT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROPOSED

LIBERAL GUN BAN - The list of current and former officers doubtful of the ban’s ability to effectively combat illegal crime has been growing by the day. By True North Wire - February 9, 2020 <https://tnc.news/2020/02/09/11-top-cops-and-policing-experts-who-doubt-the-effectiveness-of-the-proposed-liberal-gun-ban/>

NEW TECHNOLOGY MAY PREVENT MASS SHOOTINGS USING WIFI

WiFi connect smartphones and computers to the internet — but it could also help pinpoint where a gunman is before a mass shooting. First Responder Technologies, a B.C.-based tech company, is developing a product that uses WiFi it says may help locate concealed weapons and prevent terrorist threats. First Responder Technologies is still seeking investors after raising \$4.8 million for its initial public offering. It began trading on the Canadian Securities Exchange last month.

By Jenny Yuen, Toronto Sun - February 8, 2020 <https://torontosun.com/news/national/new-technology-may-prevent-mass-shootings-using-wifi>

HUNTERS NOT TO BLAME FOR GUN VIOLENCE

It matters little that the banning of legal guns will have no effect on the problem of gun violence. Public Safety Minister Bill Blair knows this. He lived with guns throughout his respected career as Toronto’s police chief. He knows where the real problem lies and it’s not with legal gun owners. Take this business of banning rifles that “look like” assault weapons. Functionally, they are no different from semi-automatic hunting rifles and shotguns that have been around — and legal — causing no problem for decades. Special to Toronto Sun - By Taylor, HCol. retired, is the immediate past president of the Royal Canadian Military Institute and Ontario Branch of the Last Post Fund, and a long-time hunter. February 8, 2020 <https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/taylor-hunters-not-to-blame-for-gun-violence>

CBC - THE FALSE REASSURANCE OF A 'TARGETED' SHOOTING

'Stray bullets can cause just as much harm as a targeted bullet.' Hamilton police Deputy Chief Frank Bergen told CBC News in November 2019 "the majority of these incidents if not all of them, most certainly recently, are targeted."

By Bobby Hristova · CBC News · Posted: Feb 08, 2020 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/targeted-shooting-hamilton-1.5455905>

FEBRUARY 7, 2020 - RCMP REPORT NUMBER OF CFO DESIGNATED FIREARMS OFFICERS IN OPT-OUT PROVINCES - RCMP Response to Access to Information Act File: A-2019-00964 dated February 7, 2020

<https://dennisryoung.ca/2020/02/09/rcmp-report-number-of-cfo-designated-firearms-in-opt-out-provinces/>

- Federal CFO Designated Firearms Officers by Opt-Out province as of February 22, 2019: BC–15; AB–17; SK–6; MB–7; NL–3.
- “Additionally, there are no records, policies, procedures, directives on the application of section 98 of the Firearms Act regarding the designation of firearms officers by Chief Firearms Officers (CFOS).”

LIBERALS WILL EITHER CANCEL GUN BAN OR GET TRAMPLED NEXT ELECTION

The Secretary of the NFA, Jerrold Lundgard, demonstrated to The National Telegraph how anti-gun legislation becomes a losing issue for any party that pursues it. Mr. Lundgard estimated that “There are 2.2 million licensed gun owners in Canada. Those 2.2 million licensed gun owners have families that put the number [at least] up to 4 million [as opposed to gun control]. There are very likely over 2 million Canadians in possession of firearms without licenses (illegal

Possession), and they also have families putting the number up to a possible 8 million voters who will be taking note of firearms prohibitions. Many of those voters who would normally vote Liberal are going to either switch parties or simply not vote at all.” Mr. Lundgard pointed to the 2006 election, pointing out that, “Some liberals in the Paul Martin election of 2006 when Mr. Martin announced a handgun prohibition was defeated by 2 to 3 votes per polling station. That makes the votes of people who choose not to vote Liberal because of firearms prohibitions very very important.” Written By Wyatt Claypool, National Telegraph - February 7, 2020 <https://thenationaltelegraph.ca/nationals/the-liberals-will-either-cancel-the-gun-ban-or-get-ruined-in-an-election>

KNIGHT: LIBERALS WASTE MONEY WHILE IGNORING THE REAL GUN PROBLEM

The Liberals aren't serious about the gun problem. They are only serious about the Liberal perception of the gun problem, not what it actually is. By Leo Knight, True North - February 6, 2020 <https://tnc.news/2020/02/06/knight-liberals-waste-money-while-ignoring-the-real-gun-problem/>

RCMP UNINTENTIONAL DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS STATISTICS, BY DIVISION - 2017

RCMP Access to Information Response File A-2017-11548 dated January 17, 2020 - Received by Dennis R. Young January 29, 2020 <https://dennisryoung.ca/2020/02/14/rcmp-unintentional-discharge-of-firearms-statistics-2017/>

22 UNINTENTIONAL DISCHARGES IN 2017

- 1 - 'D' Division (Manitoba)
- 11 - 'E' Division (British Columbia)
- 1 - 'F' Division (Saskatchewan)
- 1 - 'H' Division (Nova Scotia)
- 8 - 'K' Division (Alberta)

- 14 with a C8 Carbine
- 3 with a Smith and Wesson 5946
- 4 with a Shotgun
- 1 with a 40 Calibre Glock 22

POSTS FROM THE UNITED STATES & OTHER COUNTRIES

FLORIDA 'RED FLAG' LAW HAS REMOVED HUNDREDS OF GUNS: REPORT

Under this law, police agencies file a request to a civil judge citing evidence that the person in question has engaged in suspicious behavior. A judge then holds a hearing and decides whether to confiscate their weapons for a year, after which police agencies are able to renew the request. Though the law has been successful in removing guns from potentially dangerous individuals, the level of enforcement depends on the city and county level, with some places reporting not using it at all. According to AP, the state average confiscations was one for every 5,500 residents, though the numbers vary widely per county. By J. Edward Moreno, THE HILL - 02/14/20 <https://thehill.com/homenews/news/483091-florida-red-flag-law-has-removed-hundreds-of-guns-remains-inconsistent-ap>

BBC - SANCTUARY COUNTIES: INSIDE VIRGINIA'S GUN RIGHTS RESISTANCE

Most people I spoke to seemed to recognise that the resolutions were essentially symbolic. Few said they would abide by new gun control laws if they passed. Some said straightforwardly that if they lost the legal argument, the final arbiter would be their firearms. "I think what you're going to see next is a massive level of non-compliance," said Yingling, the Pennsylvania militia leader. "And if they want to take that one step further to actual confiscation, there's a very good possibility you will see armed rebellion in this country." I asked him if he saw himself on the frontline. "Yes," he said,

"absolutely". By Joel Gunter, Culpeper County, Virginia - February 13, 2020 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-51483541>

NEW YORK POLITICIANS LIED AND THEIR GUN-CONTROL LAWS FAILED AGAIN

New York Democrats passed the SAFE act in 2013. This gun control legislation was passed in the middle of the night because it was “emergency legislation” that we needed desperately to insure public safety. The legislation outlawed many handguns and long guns. The law limited the number of cartridges honest gun owners could carry in their guns. It required a background check before law abiding individuals could transfer a gun or buy ammunition. Provisions in the SAFE act meant honest gun owners could be disarmed if someone questioned their mental health. Democrats said that would keep us safe. It didn’t work at all. Disarming the good guys doesn’t stop the bad guys. Last week, a convicted felon got a gun. The felon attacked police officers several times. The criminal had a previous conviction in 2002 after he shot and tried to kill a man, carjacked a woman, and then shot at police. Ammoland Inc. Posted on February 13, 2020 by Rob Morse <https://www.ammoland.com/2020/02/new-york-politicians-lied-and-their-gun-control-laws-failed-again/#axzz6Dwn4r86u>

VIRGINIA’S GUN CONTROL BILLS WON’T STOP CRIMINALS: LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

As a raft of strict gun control proposals is being debated in Virginia’s state legislature, those in the law enforcement community are increasingly being prodded to make their stance clear. Nearly a dozen current and former members of law enforcement from across the country, some who declined to provide their name since they were not authorized to speak in an official capacity, told The Epoch Times that passing more legislation will do nothing to stop criminals from committing crimes. Sean McGowan, executive director of the Southern States Police Benevolent Association, a group with over 60,000 members in 11 states—including 6,000 members in Virginia alone—said the gun control bills have caused emotions to run high. “I’ve never seen our membership as upset about any legislation as they are about this,” McGowan told The Epoch Times. “It will have no impact on crime,” he said. “The criminals ignore the laws. Why would more laws make the criminals all of a sudden decide they’re going start obeying the laws? It’s ridiculous.” By Bowen Xiao - February 13, 2020 https://www.theepochtimes.com/virginias-gun-control-bills-wont-stop-criminals-law-enforcement-community_3234586.html

CCRKBA SUPPORTS PRESIDENT’S NEW SCHOOL SAFETY INITIATIVE

BELLEVUE, WA – The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms today threw its support behind a new effort by President Donald Trump’s administration aimed at improving school safety with the launch of a dedicated website to provide information to help local school districts shape their own strategies. The SchoolSafety.gov website is described as a “one stop shop for resources, best practices, federal programs, and grants for school safety.” President Trump met with families of students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School who died in the tragic Feb. 14 shooting almost two years ago. By CCRKBA (Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms) CANADA FREE PRESS - February 12, 2020 <https://canadafreepress.com/article/ccrkba-supports-presidents-new-school-safety-initiative>

POLICE ASSOCIATION, VIRGINIA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OPPOSE GUN CONTROL LAWS

Growing opposition to new Virginia gun-control laws now includes a Georgia-based organization representing over 50,000 law-enforcement officers. “The law enforcement community and the citizens they are sworn to protect have no reason to fear an armed, law-abiding citizen,” Sean McGowan, executive director of the Southern States Police Benevolent Association (SSPBA), told America’s 1st Freedom. “On many occasions across our nation, armed citizens have come to the aid of an officer during the course of the officer’s duties when dealing with an uncooperative or combative violator. These people step up to do the right thing because they respect both the officers and the laws they are enforcing. Many lives have been saved by these good Samaritans.”

By Mel Dixon, Associate Editor - Wednesday, February 12, 2020

<https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2020/2/12/police-association-virginia-law-enforcement-officers-oppose-gun-control-laws/>

VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES PASSES SWEEPING GUN-CONTROL BILL

The House voted to approve the legislation 51–48, with all Republicans and some Democrats voting against. Capitol police removed gun-rights supporters from the chamber due for the manner in which they protested the bill’s passage. The bill would require any owner of a semi-automatic rifle it classifies as an “assault weapon,” including AR-15 rifles, to register the weapon with government authorities by 2021. It would also make magazines of over twelve rounds and silencers illegal. It will now head to the state Senate, where previous legislation that would have enacted an “assault weapons” ban failed to get out committee. By Zachary Evans, National Review - February 11, 2020

<https://www.nationalreview.com/news/virginia-house-of-delegates-passes-sweeping-gun-control-bill/>

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/virginia-house-passes-assault-weapon-ban-11581452348>

USE DATA TO DRIVE GUN CONTROL POLICY

Too often we hear “this won’t happen in Vermont.” But it is happening – our gun-related suicides are higher than the national average. Vermonters are under the same stress and pressures as people in the other 49 states. Thinking a shooting incident cannot happen here is idealistic at best. As the Vermont Task Force report notes “the evidence that easy access to firearms leads to the use of firearms in violent acts is irrefutable.” Feb 11 2020 Editor’s note: This commentary is by Barbara Felitti, of Huntington, who has worked since 1993 on international development projects, 15 years with the Institute for Sustainable Communities based in Montpelier. <https://vtdigger.org/2020/02/11/barbara-felitti-use-data-to-drive-gun-control-policy/>

OHIO GOV. DEWINE CRACKS CODE: LOCKING UP CRIMINALS REDUCES VIOLENT CRIME

Gov. Mike DeWine, speaking at the Associated Press Legislative Forum—according to Lima News columnist Jim Krumel—said this: “What we have is, repeat, violent offenders who have no legal right to have a gun, or not supposed to have a gun, who are showing up with guns, all the time. And so giving the prosecutors, the police and ultimately the judges, the authority to send that person away for a long time, will save lives.” Ammoland Inc. Posted on February 10, 2020 by Dave Workman <https://www.ammoland.com/2020/02/ohio-gov-dewine-cracks-code-locking-up-criminals-reduces-violent-crime/#axzz6DapfACp0>

JOE BIDEN’S GUN CONTROL RHETORIC IS HISTORICALLY AND LEGALLY ILLITERATE AND JUST PLAIN DUMB

- The idea that the Second Amendment could be used to keep the federal government in check is ludicrous, scoffed Biden during a Sunday campaign event in New Hampshire, adding that it would take nothing for the U.S. government to massacre its dissenting citizenry. The art of persuasion is a thing of the past, apparently. Biden’s total embrace of authoritarian rhetoric began with him bemoaning the fact that children today are taught active shooter drills in school, claiming it is “because we’re unwilling to have a rational policy that says you cannot have 20, 30, 40, 50 clips in a weapon.” By Becket Adams, Washington Examiner - February 10, 2020

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/joe-bidens-gun-control-rhetoric-is-historically-and-legally-illiterate-and-just-plain-dumb>

CNN - COUNTY POLICE HAVE SEIZED HUNDREDS OF GUNS WITH 'RED FLAG' LAW IN TWO YEARS SINCE PARKLAND SHOOTING

- Officials from the Broward County Sheriff’s Office turned to a new tool they’d gained under the state’s nascent red flag law, filing a lengthy petition with a state court that argued the man posed a high risk of danger to others and should have his access to firearms restricted. Within hours, a judge had agreed, and authorities

seized nine guns and multiple rounds of ammunition from his possession. Similar scenarios have played out in communities across the country as a growing number of states passed red flag, or Extreme Risk Protection Order laws, as they try to prevent the next mass shooting. Florida's Republican-led legislature passed their own version into law less than a month after 17 people were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland in February 2018. Seventeen states and the District of Columbia now have one, too. By David Shortell, CNN - Mon February 10, 2020 <https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/10/politics/parkland-red-flag-laws-guns-seized/index.html>

GUNS AND SOCIAL MEDIA: THE SOLDIER BEHIND THAILAND'S MASS SHOOTING

On Saturday he went on a rampage, turning the city into an urban warzone and chronicling the carnage in live Facebook updates that drew comparisons with the 2019 attacks on mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. He first stole weapons from the camp's arms depot, killing a soldier as he raided the arsenal -- a place he knew well after working as a squad leader there. During his rampage he appeared to have picked off victims with deadly accuracy, including shots to the head that left some survivors needing brain surgery. To add to the horror of the attack, he live-streamed slivers of it on Facebook where he also mused callously about the fate of his victims. By Nakhon Ratchasima (Thailand) (AFP) Issued on: 10/02/2020 <https://www.france24.com/en/20200210-guns-and-social-media-the-soldier-behind-thailand-s-mass-shooting>

EDITORIAL: THE RISING THREAT OF 'GUN SANCTUARIES'

A few New England towns have joined the misguided Second Amendment sanctuary movement. It's dangerous. By The Editorial Board, The Boston Globe - Updated February 9, 2020 <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/02/09/opinion/rising-threat-gun-sanctuaries/>

BBC - THAILAND SHOOTING: SOLDIER KILLS 21 IN GUN RAMPAGE

Jakraphanth Thomma on Saturday killed his commanding officer before stealing weapons from a military camp. The suspect continued his attack in a shopping centre, where he is still believed to be holed up, initially posting updates on his social media. The gunman's motives remain unclear.

What is the situation now? The Terminal 21 shopping centre in Nakhon Ratchasima, also known as Korat, remains sealed off on Sunday. February 9, 2020 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-51427301>

GOOD VERSUS BAD GUNS

Along these lines, Amy Swearer, a senior legal policy analyst with the Meese Center for Legal and Judicial Studies at The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, has compiled a list for its journalism website, The Daily Signal. It lists reported instances throughout December 2019 where a responsible citizen with a firearm proved instrumental in stopping carnage. Swearer reports that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concluded almost all major studies on defensive gun use have found **Americans use firearms defensively between 500,000 and 3 million times every year.** "The vast majority of these defensive gun uses receive little or no media attention," she writes. By Mike Masterson - February 8, 2020 <https://www.nwaonline.com/news/2020/feb/08/good-versus-bad-guns-20200208/>

OTHER ARTICLES ON ISSUES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

"The real danger is the gradual erosion of individual liberties through automation, integration, and interconnection of many small, separate record-keeping systems, each of which alone may seem innocuous, even benevolent, and wholly justifiable." -- U. S. Privacy Study Commission. Source: 1977 <http://libertytree.ca/quotes/U..S..Privacy.Study.Commission.Quote.3121>

CLIMATE ZEALOTS HAVE TAKEN CANADA HOSTAGE. AND OUR PM IS MISSING IN ACTION

Meantime we are days away from the most significant policy decision this government will make — presuming it remains the government. By Rex Murphy, National Post - February 14, 2020 <https://nationalpost.com/opinion/rex-murphy-climate-zealots-have-taken-canada-hostage-and-our-pm-is-missing-in-action>

DIANE FRANCIS: RAIL BLOCKADES COULD TURN INTO A FULL-BLOWN SECESSION CRISIS — AND TRUDEAU'S GOVERNMENT IS TO BLAME

Five years of pandering and subsidizing 632 First Nations leaders has led to this catastrophe. By Diane Francis, Financial Post - February 13, 2020 https://business.financialpost.com/diane-francis/diane-francis-rail-blockades-could-turn-into-a-full-blown-secession-crisis-and-trudeaus-government-is-to-blame?video_autoplay=true

CHRISTINE MARIE BLATCHFORD: May 20, 1951 - February 12, 2020

The staff and Board of Directors of the Justice Centre are saddened to learn that renowned Canadian journalist Christie Blatchford has passed away. <https://www.jccf.ca/>

EXCERPT: The Justice Centre was pleased to award Ms. Blatchford the annual George Jonas Freedom Award in 2019, given each year to a Canadian individual or organization in recognition of significant contributions to defending Canada as a free society. A video of Ms. Blatchford's riveting speech, given to an audience of 300 Canadians in Toronto on Friday June 14, 2019, can be found here, <https://jccf.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c05a091cdb4f8bb4b60b53c73&id=f32281cc6e&e=08aa7ff17b> starting at 45:46. Ms.

Blatchford's captivating remarks were preceded by an introduction by lawyer Marie Henein, commencing at 34:00. The fireside chat with Ms. Blatchford begins at 120:27. Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms, #253, 7620 Elbow Drive SW • Calgary, AB • T2V 1K2 - Phone: (403) 475-3622 • Email: <mailto:info@jccf.ca>

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/tough-but-fair-journalists-remember-award-winning-columnist-christie-blatchford-1.4808934>

CBC - ARE CONSERVATIVES OFFERING A NEW APPROACH TO CLIMATE POLICY, OR MORE OF THE SAME?

So far, we're not seeing a substantial shift away from what Andrew Scheer was offering in October. By Aaron Wherry · CBC News · Posted: Feb 11, 2020 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/conservative-party-climate-change-mackay-otoole-gladu-1.5458278>

THE COMMISSIONER OF CANADA ELECTIONS VS. EZRA LEVANT: A FAUX PAS DE DEUX

This is something millions of Canadians still recoil against. The other has dedicated an array of bureaucratic resources to enforcing a law that is so whimsical, vague, self-contradictory and ultimately oppressive that some are comparing it to soft Stalinism. And so far, the enforcers seem to have identified just one target: Levant's Rebel News. To official Ottawa, he must seem irresistible as well. His enemies – and, when they're not studiously ignoring him, mainstream media commentators – deride him as far-right, alt-right and even anti-Muslim.. By Grant A. Brown, C2C - February 9, 2020

<https://c2cjournal.ca/2020/02/the-commissioner-of-canada-elections-vs-ezra-levant-a-faux-pas-de-deux/>

EXCERPT: Among the most revealing exchanges is when Levant says, "I'm just asking you to confirm that not a single, other, loving book of Trudeau is being investigated." The investigators, of course, do not answer – while revealing they know of "over 24 books that were published around that period." Denouncing Ottawa's "bureaucrats and their blackface boss", Levant declares that he will dedicate himself and all his guile and resources to "smashing this law."

MACKAY'S JERUSALEM MISSTEP REVEALS DEEPER FLAW IN WESTERN THINKING ABOUT

MIDDLE EAST - The belief that maintaining the status-quo can somehow lead to peace in the Middle East is flawed and problematic.

By Sam Eskenasi, True North - February 7, 2020 <https://tnc.news/2020/02/07/eskenasi-mackays-jerusalem-misstep-reveals-deeper-flaw-in-western-thinking-about-middle-east/>

EXCERPT: It began when, earlier in the week, he told The Post Millennial in an interview that it was premature for him to commit to such a decision despite the fact that it is officially part of Conservative Party policy. While it is understandable that MacKay is looking to be diplomatic in order to ensure that he has the broadest support possible for his leadership bid, veering so far away from what is clear party policy is a serious misstep.

ERIN O'TOOLE STANDS BY PAST SUPPORT OF GENDER IDEOLOGY BILL

In 2013, O'Toole was one of only 18 Conservative MPs who supported Bill C-279, a private member's bill sponsored by NDP MP Randall Garrison. If passed, C-279 would have added self-declared "gender" as a protected identity in the Canadian Human Rights Act and Criminal Code. By True North Wire - February 7, 2020
<https://tnc.news/2020/02/07/exclusive-erin-otoole-stands-by-past-support-of-gender-ideology-bill/>

REX MURPHY: EZRA LEVANT WROTE A BOOK CRITICAL OF THE LIBERALS. NOW HE'S BEING INVESTIGATED - Can anybody give the name of any other book, ever, which has been the subject of an investigation by the Commissioner of Canada Elections? By Rex Murphy, National Post - January 31, 2020
<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/rex-murphy-ezra-levant-wrote-a-book-critical-of-the-liberals-now-hes-being-investigated>

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