



**THIS WEEKS POSTINGS TO THE CANADIAN FIREARMS DIGEST  
National and International Gun Control News for the week ending February 21, 2020**

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**POSTS FROM CANADA**

**LIONEL DESMOND'S GUN LICENCE ISSUER DIDN'T KNOW OF HIS MENTAL-HEALTH WOES**

GUYSBOROUGH, N.S. — Lionel Desmond wouldn't have had a valid licence to buy the rifle he used to kill his family if the New Brunswick Firearms Office had been aware of the extent of his interactions with mental health care providers and the RCMP. That's what the Desmond fatality inquiry heard from the operations manager for the provincial firearms office Thursday after Judge Warren Zimmer read her a letter signed by doctors at a Fredericton occupational stress injury clinic recommending an inpatient facility in Quebec take Desmond as a client due to his severe post-traumatic stress disorder and depression, amongst other issues. "If our office would have been privy to this letter it would have changed the outcome of his licence review," Lysa Rossignol testified. By Aaron Beswick - February 22, 2020

<https://www.thetelegram.com/news/canada/lionel-desmonds-gun-licence-issuer-not-privy-to-facts-413696/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/desmond-day-14-1.5470442>

**RCMP AND FREDERICTON POLICE: ACCIDENTAL OR NEGLIGENT DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM?**

A response to one of Dennis Young's many Access to Information Requests showed 100% of all RCMP "unintentional" discharges are caused by user negligence, not equipment malfunction. The same is true of the Fredericton Police Force's mandatory training incident on December 10, 2019, where a firearm was unintentionally discharged during an exercise involving four officers. This was a negligent discharge, the second at the Fredericton Police Station in a year. Published February 21, 2020 by Christopher di Armani <https://christopherdiarmani.com/13698/guns/negligent-discharges/rcmp-and-fredericton-police-accidental-or-negligent-discharge-of-a-firearm/>

**MELILLO WANTS "MILITARY STYLE ASSAULT RIFLE" DEFINED**

Kenora MP Eric Melillo is backing gun owners in the riding, who stand against a proposed gun ban in Canada. He recently spoke about the topic in the house of commons. "I've even heard from many people, who don't even own firearms Madame Speaker, but they are concerned that there is over reach. This government's blanket ban and confiscation of firearms from everyday Canadians will not be beneficial," he said. Melillo says he wants the federal government to clearly define the term "military style assault rifle" as he believed the proposed legislation is too vague. Written by Rikki Watson - Friday, 21 February 2020 <https://www.drydennow.com/local/melillo-wants-military-style-assault-rifle-defined>

**FIREARMS OFFICIAL TELLS INQUIRY SHE WOULD HAVE DENIED LIONEL DESMOND A GUN LICENCE HAD SHE KNOWN MORE**

- Lysa Rossignol, operations manager for the Provincial Firearms Office in New Brunswick, told the inquiry she knew nothing about a December 2015 letter recommending Desmond for admission to a residential treatment program for people suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. The Canadian Press - Published February 20, 2020 <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-firearms-official-tells-inquiry-she-would-have-denied-lionel-desmond-a/>

**'ILLEGAL FIREARMS ARE A PLAGUE:' BUSINESSMAN GETS 5 YEARS FOR ILLEGAL GUN SALE**

At the request of both prosecution and defence, Goldstein convicted Sampogna of a total of six offences involving possession and trafficking of firearms. The main offence involved his selling a 9-mm Luger semi-automatic rifle, along

with ammunition, to a suspected drug trafficker in 2017. Evidence was that Sampogna, 57, of Toronto, had no criminal record, was a keen hunter who legally owned three weapons, and ran his own heating and ventilation business. By Colin Perkel, The Canadian Press - February 20, 2020 <https://nationalpost.com/pmnn/news-pmn/canada-news-pmn/illegal-firearms-are-a-plague-businessman-gets-5-years-for-illegal-gun-sale>

### **NEW LIBERAL GUN MEASURES STACK UP AS BILL C-71 AMENDMENTS WAIT FOR CABINET ORDERS**

- Two dozen Firearms Act amendments from legislation Parliament passed last year, including tougher background checks for licence eligibility and validation before sales, won't be in place until sometime after the spring budget, Public Safety Minister Bill Blair says. "That's work ongoing, but it's regulatory and so there are some budget issues that will be addressed in the coming budget and then regulations will be brought forward to bring into effect all of the measures that were approved in that bill," Blair told iPolitics Wednesday. By Tim Naumetz. Published on Feb 20, 2020 <https://ipolitics.ca/2020/02/20/new-liberal-gun-measures-stack-up-as-bill-c71-amendments-wait-for-cabinet-orders/>

**EXCERPT:** The C-71 measures still not in force come to a total of 24 amendments to sections of the Firearms Act through 13 separate clauses passed last year, including measures addressing the use of violence, or threatened or attempted violence, against an intimate partner or former intimate partner, either directly or through the internet or any other digital network. The amendments have been listed in a document at the very end of an online version of the Firearms Act maintained by the Justice Department.

### **HARDING COMPETES IN NETHERLANDS SHOOT**

Air pistol shooter Allan Harding of Gibsons helped Team Canada reach ninth place at InterShoot 2020, an annual international air pistol and rifle shooting competition in The Hague, Netherlands. The tournament started Feb. 6 and lasted three days. In the team event, Harding competed with Stuart Burns and Robert Katz to finish ninth out of 10 teams. By Sophie Woodrooffe / Coast Reporter - February 20, 2020 <https://www.coastreporter.net/sports/local-sports/harding-competes-in-netherlands-shoot-1.24080277>

### **SOUTHERN ALBERTA FIREARMS PETITION BECOMES MOST SIGNED IN CANADIAN HISTORY AT 175K**

- Medicine Hat-Cardston-Warner MP Glen Motz told LNN, "Let's do things that are going to make a difference for targeting criminals and not the law-abiding Canadians by putting hundreds of millions, potentially billions of dollars, into programs that deter kids from joining gangs, crime prevention issues, addiction and mental health treatment, strengthen border security so we don't have smuggled firearms, and focus police resources on targeting criminals." By David Opinko - Feb 19, 2020 <https://lethbridgenewsnow.com/2020/02/19/southern-alberta-firearms-petition-becomes-most-signed-in-canadian-history-at-175k/>

### **SWISS TRIP FIRST OF MANY PLANNED BY LOCAL BIATHLON SKIER**

Cole Bender credits father for his competitive development. Now training near Vernon with the Sovereign Lake Nordic Centre's high performance ski and biathlon team, Bender came to national attention in 2017 when he won a bronze medal at the Canadian Biathlon Championships. By Rod Link - Feb. 19, 2020 <https://www.bclocalnews.com/news/swiss-trip-first-of-many-planned-by-local-biathlon-skier/>

### **IN PRAISE OF CANADIAN ATHLETES IN THE SHOOTING SPORTS**

Many of Canada's most dedicated athletes are in the shooting sports. Here are a few of Canada's shooting sports ambassadors and their recent accomplishments, most of which go unnoticed outside of small, regional newspapers. Published February 19, 2020 by Christopher di Armani <https://christopherdiarmani.com/13753/guns/target-shooting-competitions/in-praise-of-canadian-athletes-in-the-shooting-sports/>

**DESMOND INQUIRY LOOKS AT HOW AFGHANISTAN VETERAN LEGALLY OBTAINED FIREARM**  
GUYSBOROUGH, N.S. — Just over a year before Lionel Desmond bought a Soviet-era semi-automatic rifle and killed three members of his family and himself, the mentally ill former soldier was forced to hand over all of his firearms to police. National Post - The Canadian Press - February 18, 2020 <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/news-pmn/canada-news-pmn/desmond-inquiry-looks-at-how-afghanistan-veteran-legally-obtained-firearm>  
<https://www.thetelegram.com/news/canada/how-lionel-desmond-kept-his-firearms-licence-413118/>

### **WILL WE SURRENDER OUR GUNS?**

Justice For Gun Owners - February 2020

<https://mailchi.mp/5a32eea6bcb5/get-involved-fight-back-stand-up-for-your-rights?e=bc1823b8e2>

### **'RED FLAG' GUN LAW SOUND PUBLIC POLICY**

Suicide accounts for far and away the largest number of gun deaths in Canada. According to the last stats available from the Canadian Vital Statistics death database, between in the period from 2000 to 2016, 75 per cent of gun deaths were suicides. Suicides accounted for 9,919 of Canada's 13,168 gun deaths during that 16-year period. By comparison, homicides were just 20 per cent. By Douglas J. Johnston, Lawyer and writer. Winnipeg Free Press - Posted: 02/18/2020  
<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/analysis/red-flag-gun-law-sound-public-policy-567963322.html>

**CBC - FIREARMS OFFICERS TELL INQUIRY HOW A VETERAN WITH PTSD WAS ABLE TO KEEP A GUN LICENCE** - Lionel Desmond bought a gun on Jan. 3, 2017, which he used to kill his family and himself. By Laura Fraser · CBC News · Posted: Feb 18, 2020 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/desmond-day-12-1.5466827>

**EXCERPT:** Inquiry counsel questioned why Const. Steven Richard never took the licence that Desmond carried. The licence didn't get listed as being under review until Dec. 29, 2015, although Richard's testimony wasn't at all clear as to why that happened. He told the judge that he tried to call the provincial firearms office but wasn't able to reach anyone until February 2016. In the meantime, he said he might have been able to check on the licence's status — and whether it had been reviewed — by checking a firearms licence database, but he seemed unsure about how accurate the information in that would be. It's unclear whether the officer simply didn't know how to use it or whether there's an issue with its accuracy. Officers with the provincial firearms office may offer more insight when they testify Wednesday.

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2020/02/19/nova-scotia-inquiry-into-lionel-desmond-former-soldier-who-killed-family-looking-into-firearms-licensing.html>

**NEW 'VEXATIOUS' RULES WORRY FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ADVOCATES THAT FEDS CAN ABUSE THE SYSTEM** - A man's request for government records has been denied after he was branded "vexatious" in a ruling that is troubling freedom of information advocates. There are fears government departments could use the "vexatious" label — introduced by the Liberals in the last parliament — as a tactic to prevent the public's right to know. 'When government has a loophole to use, they use it' By Ryan Tumlilty, National Post - February 18, 2020  
<https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/new-vexatious-rules-worry-freedom-of-information-advocates-that-feds-can-abuse-the-system>

### **RED FLAG LAW? LET'S TRACK VIOLENT OFFENDERS WITH FIREARM PROHIBITION ORDERS**

People with a history of violent offences are a proven danger to public safety, yet these are the people our government refuses to track. This is not a Liberal or Conservative issue. This is a Government of Canada issue. Governments of both political stripes failed these three women. Governments of both political stripes continue to fail Canadians from lifelong domestic abusers and murderers like Basil Borutski. Published February 17, 2020 by Christopher di Armani.

<https://christopherdiarmani.com/14107/police-state/red-flag-law-track-violent-offenders-with-firearm-prohibition-orders/>

## **DOWN 20 RURAL SEATS, LIBERALS GO BACK TO THE WELL ON GUN CONTROL**

Rural Liberals warned that the government's gun control policies could cost them their seat. Many of them didn't make it past the election. By Peter Mazereeuw, THE HILL - Feb. 17, 2020 <https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/02/17/down-20-rural-seats-liberals-go-back-to-the-well-on-gun-control/236141>

## **LETTER: PLEASE STOP TRYING TO END GUN VIOLENCE SAYS PARRY SOUND-MUSKOKA READER**

The concept of gun violence is a failed narrative. There are literally billions of guns that have not committed a single violent act. Guns are inanimate. They are not a responsible moral agent. Guns owned by people who do not commit crimes are no more dangerous than people who own guns who commit no crimes. By Robert Burk, Bracebridge - Feb 17, 2020 MuskokaRegion.com <https://www.muskokaregion.com/opinion-story/9851029-please-stop-trying-to-end-gun-violence-says-parry-sound-muskoka-reader/>

## **CSSA COMMENTARY: DOES CANADA ALREADY HAVE A “RED FLAG” LAW?**

Minister Bill Blair appears to have something different in mind when he refers to “red flag laws”. Blair wants to “remove guns from people deemed by the courts to be at risk of hurting themselves or someone else” – a far cry from the law Dr. Drummond seeks. Minister Blair's office also confirmed “red flag” legislation would allow ordinary citizens to obtain a provincial court order to have someone's guns seized if they believe there is a potential threat to public safety. TEAM CSSA E-NEWS | FEBRUARY 17, 2020 <https://t.co/5UnruK3IZk>

## **PETITION AGAINST LIBERAL GUN BAN CLOSES AND MAKES CANADIAN HISTORY**

Saturday was the final day for the petition against the Liberal gun ban that received a Canadian historical record of 174,810 signatures from angry Canadians, many of whom are law-abiding gun owners.

By Sam McGriskin, The Post Millennial - February 17, 2020

<https://www.thepostmillennial.com/petition-against-liberal-gun-ban-closes-and-makes-canadian-history/>  
<https://www.halifaxtoday.ca/local-news/petition-against-rifle-ban-closes-with-174000-signatures-2096629>

## **EDITORIAL: HOW RISING GUN AND GANG VIOLENCE EXPOSES CANADA'S FAULT LINES**

Governments acknowledge these correlations when they implement programs designed to divert youths in low-income areas away from gang life, and to keep them in school. Where they don't tend to acknowledge them is when they announce programs to reduce poverty, or to build new and better transit to under-served areas of Toronto, or to ensure more affordable housing. And yet any one of those efforts is, in the long run, likely to be a more effective and permanent “anti-guns and gangs” solution than putting additional money into policing, cracking down on access to guns, or making it tougher for accused people to get bail. Globe and Mail - Editorial - February 16, 2020

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/editorials/article-how-rising-gun-and-gang-violence-exposes-canadas-fault-lines/>

## **DICKSON TAKES CANADA TO 14TH-PLACE RELAY FINISH**

In her IBU senior biathlon world championships debut, Emily Dickson of Burns Lake helped Canada to a 14th-place finish in the 4x6 kilometre mixed team relay Thursday in Antholz-Anterselva, Italy. She teamed up with Emma Lunder of Vernon and the Gow brothers, Scott and Christian, of Canmore, Alta., and they finished 14th out of 27 teams - 2:57.5 off the gold-medal pace set by Norway. By Ted Clarke / Prince George Citizen - February 13, 2020

<https://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/dickson-takes-canada-to-14th-place-relay-finish-1.24076253>

## **ALBERTA RCMP: PEACE OFFICER AUTHORITIES – STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY**

Attached is the latest response from the RCMP regarding the legal advice the RCMP requested of the Dept. of Justice with respect to the High River Forced Entries. It only took two years and they only searched for records in Alberta – not in

RCMP HQ in Ottawa as I asked. I'll be lodging another complaint with the Information Commissioner if they don't agree to complete the search for record as I requested. RCMP response to Access to Information Act File: A-2016-09452 dated February 7, 2020 received by Dennis R. Young February 12, 2020

<https://dennisryoung.ca/2020/02/15/alberta-rcmp-peace-officer-authorities-state-of-local-emergency/>

**NOTE: This paper was written by Peter Mackenzie, Alberta Justice/Specialized Prosecutions. This is the same official who wrote the four-page legal authorities paper requested by Alberta Justice Minister Jonathan Denis on June 25, 2013 – the paper successive Alberta Governments (PC, NDP & UCP) have refused to release – first denying its existence and then withholding it completely citing Solicitor-Client Privilege. The Alberta Information Commissioner has approved to hold an inquiry into the government's withholding of this record.**

#### **ALBERTA INFORMATION COMMISSIONER APPROVES INQUIRY TO OBTAIN HIGH RIVER RCMP FORCED ENTRIES 'LEGAL AUTHORITIES PAPER'**

Letter from Jill Clayton dated October 8, 2019 – Received by Dennis R. Young October 15, 2019

<https://dennisryoung.ca/2019/10/17/approved-inquiry-into-high-river-rcmp-forced-entries/>

#### **OCTOBER 22, 2018 - SUMMARY OF CHARTER RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY RCMP IN HIGH RIVER STILL HIDDEN FROM THE PUBLIC, ALBERTA LEGISLATURE & PARLIAMENT**

Trust in the RCMP cannot be rebuilt by covering up the truth! By Dennis R. Young – October 22, 2018

<https://dennisryoung.ca/2018/10/22/charter-rights-violations-by-rcmp-in-high-river-still-hidden/>

#### **SENIOR DIPLOMAT IN OTTAWA ESCAPES CHARGES AFTER 'FIREARMS COMPLAINT' BY WIFE**

A senior diplomat has been investigated but not charged following a gun incident in Ottawa. Global Affairs won't identify the diplomat or the country he or she represents. A heavily redacted document from Global Affairs says police called the department's protocol office sometime in the period between June and September. A woman had made a "firearms complaint" about her spouse last summer after an unspecified incident with a gun in the couple's home. The spouse is the deputy head of mission at an embassy. Global Affairs doesn't say whether shots were fired.

By Tom Spears, Ottawa Citizen - Updated: February 14, 2020 <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/senior-diplomat-in-ottawa-escapes-charges-after-firearms-complaint-by-wife>

#### **POSTS FROM THE UNITED STATES & OTHER COUNTRIES**

#### **SAF WARMS OF NEW 'GUN CONTROL PLAYBOOK' TO PUSH 'RED FLAG' LAWS**

Just another gun control strategy guide aimed at preventing gun ownership rather than preventing tragedies. The document was produced jointly by the Alliance for Gun Responsibility, the Giffords gun control group and the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence. "This document," noted SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb, "raises alarms because there's a lot in it about taking someone's guns, but only two paragraphs about returning firearms to their rightful owner." By Second Amendment Foundation, Canada Free Press - February 21, 2020

<https://canadafreepress.com/article/saf-warms-of-new-gun-control-playbook-to-push-red-flag-laws>

**EXCERPT:** Gottlieb's alarms were raised by the inclusion of a letter from a California sheriff's official that referred to a May 2014 multiple murder in Isla Vista, California as "a shooting spree." "Six victims in that rampage were stabbed or slashed to death," Gottlieb recalled. "It also suggests the shooting occurred at the University of California, Santa Barbara campus, but it didn't. The term 'gun violence' appears throughout, but there's not a word about 'knife violence' nor any mention of the fact that the killer bought three firearms, all legally with background checks and waiting periods.

#### **PETE BUTTIGIEG ON THE 2ND AMENDMENT: UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR**

**AMMUNITION** - We received so much positive support from our email on Bernie Sanders, I wanted to continue to share

the positions of the other frontrunners in the race for the Democrat's nomination for president. Pete Buttigieg came in a very close second in New Hampshire and edged out Bernie Sanders in Iowa. Posted on February 21, 2020 by Ammoland  
Read more: <https://www.ammoland.com/2020/02/pete-buttigieg-on-the-2nd-amendment-universal-background-checks-for-ammunition/#ixzz6EefYaw1W>

### **PETITION AGAINST CANADIAN GUN BAN MAKES HISTORY**

On Feb. 6, 2020, the petition against the Liberal's proposed ban of 'military assault rifles' closed with record results. The petition, E-2341, which opened on Dec. 17, 2019, garnered a total of 175,310 signatures — the most signatures for any type of petition in the history of Canada. If passed, the government would begin a buyback program much like New Zealand despite the fact that Public Safety Canada still has no legal definition as to what a “military assault rifle” is. The Liberals, meanwhile, have repeatedly emphasized a ban would not target hunters. The Minister of Public Safety, Bill Blair, has estimated that a buyback program would cost between \$400 to \$600 million. According to studies, there are approximately 250,000 semi-automatic rifles owned in Canada, though they are already heavily regulated. Owning an AR-15 in Canada requires a restricted license and the owner can only shoot at a licensed gun club. Critics of the ban feel the government should focus on fighting actual crime instead of removing guns from law-abiding Canadians.

GUNS.COM - 02/21/20 5:00 AM | By Ben Philippi <https://www.guns.com/news/2020/02/21/petition-against-canadian-gun-ban-makes-history>

### **FEDS: FORMER GREENWICH COP PROVIDED GUNS TO FELON**

Former Greenwich Police Officer Joseph Ryan is accused of providing guns to a convicted felon while the officer was on the force, according to a news release from federal authorities. “The investigation revealed that Ryan transferred firearms to an individual who he knew was a convicted felon, and who helped facilitate heroin transactions between Ryan and Ryan's heroin supplier,” the news release said. By Tara O'Neill - Friday, February 21, 2020

<https://www.ctpost.com/policereports/article/Feds-Former-Greenwich-cop-provided-guns-to-felon-15075148.php>

### **KENYA: STATE SEIZES 6,000 ILLEGAL GUNS, SEEKS PROPER SOLUTION TO MENACE**

Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i gave the report on Friday, saying the government will burn the fresh batch in two months. He said, therefore, that security agents must focus on the smuggling of guns and other illegal items as Kenya cannot keep confiscating and burning the weapons. Dr Matiang'i also noted that the illicit trade generates direct and indirect revenue for terrorists and other criminals. By MOHAMED AHMED - Friday February 21 2020

<https://www.nation.co.ke/news/State-seizes-6000-illegal-guns/1056-5464112-me9fpu/index.html>

**EXCERPT:** In November 2019, President Uhuru Kenyatta presided over the destruction of 8,700 illegal firearms and 366,000 bullets. Kenya's history of publicly burning illegal firearms, which dates back to 2003, is in respect to several United Nations (UN) commitments to eradicating trade in small arms and light weapons.

### **BBC - GERMANY SHOOTING: 'FAR-RIGHT EXTREMIST' CARRIED OUT SHISHA BARS ATTACKS**

A suspected far-right extremist has killed at least nine people in attacks on two shisha bars in a city in western Germany, officials say. Chancellor Angela Merkel said there were many signs the attacker in Hanau had acted out of racism. Federal prosecutors are treating the case as terrorism. Turkey says at least five of the dead were Turkish citizens. The 43-year-old suspect killed himself, police say. He was found dead at his home along with the body of his mother.

FEBRUARY 20, 2020 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-51567971>

## **GUN CONTROL AND FIREARMS POSSESSION IN GERMANY**

The suspected gunman in a far-right extremist shooting attack in Hanau is reported to have had a gun license and legally owned several handguns. DW looks at Germany's gun ownership laws. By Author Ben Knight - February 20, 2020 <https://www.dw.com/en/gun-control-and-firearms-possession-in-germany/a-52450664>

## **DISARMING THE POOR**

As a young, single woman going to law school in Nebraska and clerking at a public defender's office, I began to have serious concerns for the first time about my physical safety. I purchased a handgun and often considered applying for a concealed-carry permit. The problem was that the combined cost of the mandatory class and application fee was about \$200, which at that point in my life was a hefty sum of money. I could not justify spending that on top of the initial costs of the handgun and ammunition. Fortunately, Nebraska allows for permitless open carry of firearms, and I was able to take advantage of this several times for higher-risk situations, like meeting strangers to purchase Craigslist items. By Amy Swearer, NRA/ILA - Thursday, February 20, 2020 <https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2020/2/20/disarming-the-poor/>

## **NZ - GOVT CHARGES AHEAD WITH LAW TO TACKLE GANGS WITH GUNS**

The new laws will include an online, self-service firearms registry, harsher penalties and a new system of warning flags to show if a person may not be a fit and proper person to hold a firearms licence. The National Party is not supporting the Bill saying it was improperly targeted and should be focused on "genuine criminal activity and gangs". By Collette Devlin - Feb 19 2020 <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/119655029/govt-charges-ahead-with-law-to-tackle-gangs-with-guns>

## **TRANQUIL THAILAND'S GUN CULTURE IN SPOTLIGHT AFTER SHOOTING SPREES**

BANGKOK — Normally serene Thailand has been on edge since a rogue soldier went on the rampage in a northeastern city this month, killing 29 people in a shooting spree that ended in a standoff with police at a shopping mall. Ten days later, a man walked into a clinic in a busy Bangkok shopping mall and gunned down his ex-wife before fleeing the scene. He was later arrested. The killings, along with several other high-profile gun crimes, have called attention to the high rate of gun ownership, even though the number and rate of gun killings has drifted downward in recent years. Thailand had about 10 million privately owned firearms in 2016, according to Gunpolicy.org, or one for about every seven citizens. Of those, about 4 million were illegal. National Post - Reuters by Chayut Setboonsarng and Panarat Thepgumpanat - February 19, 2020 <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/news-pmn/politics-news-pmn/tranquil-thailands-gun-culture-in-spotlight-after-shooting-sprees>

## **WHERE DO CRIMINALS REALLY GET THEIR GUNS?**

“The majority of firearms used in criminal activity are obtained illegally,” said David Chianese, a correspondent at Law Enforcement Today, published author and former NYPD detective. “Stricter or additional gun laws do not reduce gun violence.” A 2019 survey conducted by the Department of Justice (DOJ) found that some 43 percent of criminals had bought their firearms on the black market, 6 percent acquired them via theft, and 10 percent made a retail purchase – 0.8 percent purchased a weapon from a gun show. By Hollie McKay | Fox News - February 19, 2020 <https://www.foxnews.com/us/where-do-criminals-get-guns>

## **JOHNS HOPKINS STUDY: NO EVIDENCE ‘ASSAULT WEAPON’ BANS REDUCE MASS SHOOTINGS**

A study released by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health declares there is no evidence “assault weapon” bans lead to a lower “incidence of fatal mass shootings.” By AWR Hawkins - 18 Feb 2020 <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/02/18/johns-hopkins-study-no-evidence-assault-weapon-bans-reduce-mass-shootings/>

## **VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE TURNS DOWN BAN ON MILITARY-STYLE WEAPONS**

A bill that would have banned military-style rifles in Virginia was defeated in the State Senate on Monday, a sign of the limited power of the state's new Democratic majority in enacting the most restrictive elements of its gun-control agenda and a blow to Gov. Ralph Northam's efforts to restrict gun possession. By Timothy Williams, New York Times - Feb. 17, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/17/us/Virginia-assault-weapons-legislature.html>  
<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/washington-secrets/bloombergs-gun-ban-rejected-in-virginia-with-democratic-help>

## **PEOPLE POWER: VA BAN DEFEATED; WA GUN OWNERS CAN TAKE A LESSON**

U.S.A. —(Ammoland.com)- News erupted Monday morning that the proposed ban on so-called “assault weapons” in Virginia—the measure supported by anti-gun Gov. Ralph Northam—was “shelved” in committee on a 10-5 bipartisan vote, handing the governor an embarrassing defeat. According to Fox News, the vote saw four moderate Democrats cross party lines. It came a month after an estimated 22,000 heavily-armed Virginians and supporters from other states descended on the State Capitol in Richmond to “just say No” to new gun control. It follows the actions of nearly all Virginia counties to declare themselves as “Second Amendment Sanctuaries.” What happened in Virginia Monday can now be justifiably touted as “a lesson” for embattled gun owners in other states, especially distant Washington in the Pacific Northwest. There, grassroots rights activists are waging a pitched battle against their own Democrat-controlled Legislature. By Dave Workman | Ammoland Inc. | February 17, 2020 <https://www.ammoland.com/2020/02/people-power-va-ban-defeated-wa-gun-owners-can-take-a-lesson/#axzz6EG3eQkTA>

## **THE HAPPY GUN OWNER? RESEARCH SUGGESTS OTHERWISE**

Researcher Terence Hill, an associate professor of sociology in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences from the University of Arizona, recently found that despite claims, gun owners aren't any measurably happier than those who don't own guns. Similarly, explains Hill, even though gun owners and gun society at large have often claimed that their guns make them feel safe, secure and protected - all feelings that correlate positively with feelings of happiness - in the case of gun ownership, the correlation stops short. The study found instead that gun ownership was unrelated to feelings of happiness. “We want to understand gun owners' subjective experiences,” Hill said. “We're trying to understand when guns promote individual well-being, if at all, and that will add to the discussion of the role of guns in our society.” By Clary Estes, Forbes - Feb 17, 2020 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/claryestes/2020/02/17/the-happy-gun-owner-research-suggests-otherwise/#1aa5757c3714>

## **ATF PROPOSES STEP TO MAKE A NATIONAL GUN REGISTRY EASIER**

Here's what we know. ATF agents have used annual inspections to electronically record the contents of Form 4473's being kept by federal gun dealers. See here and here. We also know that a software company exhibiting its wares at the Shot Show in Las Vegas has crafted a system where ATF can take the contents of all the dealer's Bound Book entries by simply capturing them on a thumb drive. (The Bound Book entries contain all of the buyer's personal information and gun information which is on a Form 4473.) Video | Ammoland Inc. Posted on February 16, 2020 by Ammoland <https://www.ammoland.com/2020/02/atf-proposes-make-national-gun-registry-easier/#axzz6EDkZtKm9>

## **'RED FLAG' GUN-CONTROL PROPOSAL IS A RECIPE FOR DECREASED SAFETY AND LESS FREEDOM**

Even the American Civil Liberties Union says legislation like this is an affront to individual rights and due process. By Jeanelle Westrom, USA TODAY - February 16, 2020 <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/02/16/red-flag-gun-control-proposal-iowa-bloomberg-column/4761638002/>

## **BLOOMBERG/CLINTON TICKET MEANS CALIFORNIA-STYLE GUN CONTROL FOR EVERYONE**

On February 15, 2020, the Daily Mail reported, “Bloomberg is considering making Hillary Clinton his running mate.” Such a pairing would put two of the most pro-gun control politicians in existence together for a ticket that could deal a crippling blow to Second Amendment rights. Consider the various gun controls supported by Bloomberg and Clinton. Both support an “assault weapons” ban, a “high capacity” magazine ban, and the criminalization of private gun sales via the implementation of universal background checks. By AWR HACKINGS - FEBRUARY 15, 2020

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/02/15/bloomberg-clinton-ticket-means-california-style-gun-control-for-everyone/>  
<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/feb/16/michael-bloomberg-campaign-energizes-nra-gun-group/>

## **GUN-FREE BRITAIN? NEARLY 10,000 GUN CRIMES COMMITTED IN ONE YEAR**

The number of gun crimes committed in the United Kingdom has increased by 27 per cent in five years and the number of firearms seized has quadrupled, despite the country having some of the strictest gun control laws in the world. By Kurt Zindulka - 14 Feb 2020 <https://www.breitbart.com/europe/2020/02/14/gun-free-britain-nearly-10000-gun-crimes-committed-in-one-year/>

## **NEWSWEEK - GUN SAFETY REQUIRES MEDICAL INTERVENTION**

Alarming, suicide rates and gun-related deaths are up 33 percent since 1999. Therefore, it is our duty to make patients and their families aware of the mental health options they have and educate them that ERPO laws exist for their protection. Such laws are not meant to permanently restrict one's gun ownership rights. Instead, they help patients and providers weather the current storm presented by gun access and acute mental illness, emotional distress or drug use to improve outcomes in the long term. Early data already suggest that these laws have helped to reduce suicide and homicide rates among gun owners. By Michael Dorritie - On 2/14/20 <https://www.newsweek.com/gun-safety-requires-medical-intervention-opinion-1487423>

## **SENATORS INTRODUCE BILL TO DISCLOSE FEDERAL GUN RECORDS, TRACING DATA**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (KFVS) - A bill to allow for the preservation and disclosure of federal gun data was introduced by two U.S. senators on Capitol Hill. Democratic Senators Dick Durbin, Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and U.S. Representative Barbara Lee introduced the Gun Records Restoration and Preservation Act. The measure would enable the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) to collect, preserve, and disclose gun records and gun tracing data. By Marsha Heller | February 14, 2020

<https://www.wbtv.com/2020/02/14/senators-introduce-bill-disclose-federal-gun-records-tracing-data/>

## **EVERY DAY SINCE PARKLAND, AT LEAST 3 AMERICAN KIDS HAVE BEEN FATALLY SHOT**

According to an analysis of data provided by Gun Violence Archive, roughly 2,641 kids 18 and younger have been killed with guns since the Parkland shooting on February 14, 2018. That figure excludes most suicides, those killed in police-involved shootings, and those who were killed in the course of fatally wounding someone else. February 13, 2020

<https://www.thetrace.org/rounds/every-day-since-parkland-at-least-3-american-kids-have-been-fatally-shot/>  
<https://thecrimereport.org/2020/02/17/2641-kids-killed-with-guns-in-two-years-since-parkland/>

### **GUN VIOLENCE ARCHIVE**

<https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>

## **OTHER ARTICLES ON ISSUES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST**

### **DIANE FRANCIS: A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DERELICT IN ITS DUTIES**

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau still appears to have no grasp of what's happened, much less how it should be resolved.

By Diane Francis, Financial Post - February 22, 2020 <https://business.financialpost.com/opinion/diane-francis-a-federal-government-derelict-in-its-duties>

**O'TOOLE WOULD CRIMINALIZE BLOCKING 'CRITICAL' INFRASTRUCTURE, ALLOW POLICE TO CLEAR BLOCKADES WITHOUT INJUNCTION** - 'It is a form of common law assault and should, in the appropriate situations, be treated as such,' O'Toole said. By Brian Platt, National Post - February 20, 2020 <https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/otoole-says-he-would-criminalize-blocking-critical-infrastructure-allow-police-to-clear-blockades-without-an-injunction>

**ALBERTA MPS ISSUE 'BUFFALO DECLARATION' DEMANDING OTTAWA RECOGNIZE ALBERTA'S WORTH** - Unlike the 2001 'firewall letter', the Buffalo Declaration aims its demands directly at the federal government and the rest of Canada, instead of at Alberta. By Tyler Dawson, National Post - February 20, 2020

<https://nationalpost.com/news/alberta-mps-issue-buffalo-declaration-demanding-ottawa-recognize-albertas-worth>

**EXCERPT:** "One way or another, Albertans will have equality," the letter concludes. It was signed by four Alberta MPs: Arnold Viersen, Blake Richards, Glen Motz and Michelle Rempel Garner. Viersen, Richards and Motz did not respond by press time. The message we are hearing from our constituents across Alberta is: "We will be equal or seek independence." These recommendations must be taken seriously by any leader who wants to ensure the future unity of Canada. They include recognizing that Alberta is not currently an equal partner in confederation, changing the equalization program, and measures to achieve regional balance in parliamentary representation. The full list of recommendations, and the structural issues that precipitated them, can be found at <http://www.buffalodeclaration.ca>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/michelle-rempel-buffalo-declaration-united-conservative-1.5470722>

<https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/alberta-mp-s-take-buffalo-stance-1.4821032>

**THE DEMANDS INCLUDE:**

- A formal acknowledgement of the harm caused by the National Energy Program
- Culturally distinct society status
- Provinces be given exclusive control over resource project approvals
- The repeal of legislation that hurts the energy industry.
- Approval for Teck Frontier mine
- A national energy corridor
- Promote regulation and tax structures that protect Alberta energy over foreign energy
- Phase out Equalization
- Include more Western Canadian justices on the Supreme Court

**MACKAY REFUSES TO BACK DOWN FROM 'THUG' COMMENT AT BARRIE STOP**

'We have one law in this country for all our citizens and we need to restore peace, order and good government,' MacKay says of railway blockade. By Shawn Gibson - February 21, 2020 <https://www.collingwoodtoday.ca/local-news/mackays-conservative-leadership-campaign-stops-in-barrie-to-hear-the-issues-2108533>

**JONATHAN KAY – MEET CANADA'S NEW RACISTS: OUR SELF-MORTIFYING 'PROGRESSIVE' URBANITES** - Witness the white people demanding we strip away democratic Indigenous autonomy and deny First Nations the benefits of resource development. By Jonathan Kay, National Post - February 19, 2020

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/jonathan-kay-meet-canadas-new-racists-our-self-mortifying-progressive-urbanites>

**CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP CANDIDATE PETER MACKAY ENDORSES VIGILANTE JUSTICE TO DEAL WITH PROTESTERS** - Former justice minister applauds far-right vigilante group that called for acts of violence against protesters. Press Progress - February 19, 2020 - <https://pressprogress.ca/conservative-leadership-candidate-peter-mackay-endorse-vigilante-justice-to-deal-with-protesters/>

## **WARMING OVER THE NEXT 30 YEARS... OR NOT**

Despite the constant claim that climate science is completely settled it just keeps throwing surprises at us.

Climate Discussion Nexus - 19 Feb 2020 | Science Notes

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/02/19/warming-over-the-next-30-years-or-not/>

## **PLAUSIBLE SCENARIOS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE: 2020-2050**

by Judith Curry - Posted on February 13, 2020 - 198 Comments

<https://judithcurry.com/2020/02/13/plausible-scenarios-for-climate-change-2020-2050/>

## **GUNTER: IT'S TRUDEAU'S COMMENTS THAT ARE THE NOT HELPFUL ONES**

I'm all for full participation by Indigenous Canadians in national and local political life and in the economy. That means the same rights as all other Canadians. But what we are witnessing with these blockades are special rights for Indigenous people. No one else would be allowed to get away with this level of disrespect for the rule of law for this long. Over the last two days, we have also learned (as if we didn't already know) just how weak a leader Justin Trudeau is. By Lorne Gunter, Toronto Sun - February 19, 2020 <https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/gunter-its-trudeau-comments-that-are-the-not-helpful-ones>

## **LAW SCHMAW**

**The situation is not really surprising. Government and business leaders can't keep telling people we're going to destroy the planet if we keep using fossil fuels, then ask everyone to sit back and watch them build pipelines and approve oil sands development.** Or praise the rule of law but say it's not the government's job to enforce it. CLIMATE DISCUSSION NEXUS - 19 Feb 2020 | News Roundup <https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/02/19/law-schmaw/>

## **JOHN ROBSON: OF COURSE POLITICIANS CAN GIVE ORDERS TO THE POLICE — WHO ELSE DO THEY REPORT TO?**

But as Derek Burney just wrote, enough is enough. Our police forces "are idled, awaiting the direction no one in government seems willing to give." In Canada, as everywhere, governments do three things: make rules, enforce rules and settle disputes about rules. By John Robson, National Post - February 18, 2020

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/john-robson-of-course-politicians-can-give-orders-to-the-police-who-else-do-they-report-to>

## **REX MURPHY: THIS IS THE OUTCOME OF JUSTIN TRUDEAU'S DISASTROUS SLOGANEERING**

This government has been content to drift on the expression of fine sentiments, to earn the lazy applause that comes from saying the right things — such as on climate change and now on Aboriginal discontent. These two issues are now intertwined. Opposition to a pipeline is the flash point of a crisis that's expanding outward to engulf the whole country. And as the blockades swell and continue, discontent in the Western provinces grows. There are two great winds astir in Canada, and it will take far more than slogans to calm them. By Rex Murphy, National Post - February 18, 2020

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/rex-murphy-this-is-the-outcome-of-justin-trudeaus-disastrous-sloganeering>

## **GUNTER: A MISUNDERSTANDING OVER INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY**

But the current gross misunderstanding of just what Indigenous "sovereignty" means comes mostly from myths and fallacies First Nations have told themselves over the last three or four decades; myths and fallacies that have been encouraged and reinforced by politically correct politicians, academics, activists and judges. I'm all for self-governance by First Nations. Indigenous communities should have all the same rights as non-Indigenous ones to be consulted, to fight for their views, set policy and share in the rewards of development. But so long as the current false sense of rights is allowed to fester and grow – that it's their way or no way – Canada will get nowhere. By Lorne Gunter, Toronto Sun - February 15, 2020 <https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/gunter-a-misunderstanding-over-indigenous-sovereignty>

## **JONATHAN KAY: RAILROADING OF ELECTED BANDS BETRAYS PROGRESSIVE HYPOCRISY**

The social-justice extremism that has been largely confined to campus life and obscure pubs has metastasized to the world of normal human beings. Having publicly tattooed their guilty settler souls with every imaginable hashtag, our leaders now apparently find themselves stopped from restoring the rule of law. By Jonathan Kay, National Post - February 15, 2020 <https://nationalpost.com/opinion/jonathan-kay-railroading-of-elected-bands-betrays-progressive-hypocrisy>

## **EMISSIONS – THE ‘BUSINESS AS USUAL’ STORY IS MISLEADING**

Stop using the worst-case scenario for climate warming as the most likely outcome — more-realistic baselines make for better policy. By Zeke Hausfather & Glen P. Peters, NATURE - JANUARY 29, 2020

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00177-3>

**EXCERPT:** In the lead-up to the 2014 IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), researchers developed four scenarios for what might happen to greenhouse-gas emissions and climate warming by 2100. They gave these scenarios a catchy title: Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs)<sup>1</sup>. One describes a world in which global warming is kept well below 2 °C relative to pre-industrial temperatures (as nations later pledged to do under the Paris climate agreement in 2015); it is called RCP2.6. Another paints a dystopian future that is fossil-fuel intensive and excludes any climate mitigation policies, leading to nearly 5 °C of warming by the end of the century<sup>2,3</sup>. That one is named RCP8.5. RCP8.5 was intended to explore an unlikely high-risk future<sup>2</sup>. But it has been widely used by some experts, policymakers and the media as something else entirely: as a likely ‘business as usual’ outcome. When RCP8.5 or its successor SSP5-8.5 are deployed, they should be clearly labelled as unlikely worst cases rather than as business as usual.

**NOTE:** Zeke Hausfather is director of climate and energy at the Breakthrough Institute, Oakland, California, USA. Glen P. Peters is research director at the CICERO Center for International Climate Research, Oslo, Norway.

## **OTHER NEWS SITES**

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**CALIBRE MAGAZINE**

The Canadian Firearms Magazine

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[http://www.canadianoutdoorsman.net/#!/page\\_home](http://www.canadianoutdoorsman.net/#!/page_home)

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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/>