



THIS WEEKS POSTINGS TO THE CANADIAN FIREARMS DIGEST
National and International Gun Control News for the week ending April 24, 2020

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POSTS FROM CANADA

RCMP FAILS TO STAND ON GUARD FOR THEE: LESSONS FROM CANADA'S WORST MASS SHOOTING

The RCMP “tend to shut down information flow” - By Lloyd Billingsley, CANADA FREE PRESS - April 25, 2020

<https://canadafreepress.com/article/rcmp-fails-to-stand-on-guard-for-thee-lessons-from-canadas-worst-mass-shoot>

EXCERPT: - An active shooter normally draws an emergency alert sent to phones and announced on television and radio. In Canada, COVID-19 prompted such an alert, but with Wortman police opted to warn people by Twitter, which RCMP Chief Superintendent Chris Leathersaid was “instantaneous” and “a superior way to communicate this ongoing threat.” Nick Beaton didn’t think so. “I don’t use Twitter and I don’t know anyone that does use Twitter,” Beaton told CTV News. On the night of Saturday, April 18, Beaton and his wife Kristin watched the news, and by Sunday morning thought the rampage had ended. Kristin Beaton left the house and became one of Wortman’s victims.

NATIONAL POST: TRACING THE KILLERS PATH

Police found Nova Scotia community in flames, with seven homes on fire and 13 people dead. Police had a suspect early, but wrongly believed Wortman was either still trapped within their perimeter around Portapique, or dead by his own hand. By Joseph Brean, • Email: jbrean@nationalpost.com National Post - April 24, 2020

https://nationalpost.com/news/when-police-arrived-in-portapique-n-s-seven-homes-were-on-fire-and-13-people-were-dead?video_autoplay=true

EXCERPT #1: Police knew quite early who their suspect was, but wrongly believed 51-year-old Halifax dentist Gabriel Wortman was either still trapped within their perimeter around Portapique, or dead by his own hand in a burning building, Campbell said. They reasoned this because they knew he owned three real-looking police cars, all Ford Taurus, two of which were on fire at his Portapique home, and the third found parked in Halifax. They called for heavy backup: dogs, tactical officers, helicopters, negotiators. Specialized resources were called up from New Brunswick. It was a manhunt, and they knew the target was heavily armed. But they thought they knew the limits of where he could be, so there was no emergency alert to the wider public. “That was not a consideration at that particular time,” Campbell said Friday. One crucial thing they did not know, until Wortman’s girlfriend emerged at daybreak from hiding in the surrounding forest, was that he owned a fourth fake cruiser, without licence plates. This woman had endured a significant assault by Wortman, and was tied up, but escaped into the woods before his house burned down. Campbell said this assault and her escape “could very well have been the catalyst to start the chain of events,” but said he did not discount the possibility of deliberate planning. They have learned where he obtained the light bar for his car, for example, and also which decal manufacturer provided him sheeting, but not who printed the RCMP detailing. Much of the evidence is lost because Wortman’s Portapique house is burned to the ground.

EXCERPT #2: On Sunday morning, with 19 people already dead, RCMP Const. Chad Morrison was parked in Shubenacadie, between Truro and Halifax, waiting for his colleague Const. Heidi Stevenson, when a police vehicle pulled up. He thought it was her, but it was Wortman who pulled alongside and shot Morrison from the driver’s seat. Morrison drove away, telling dispatch he was heading for medical care. He has survived several gunshot wounds. At that same time, Stevenson was northbound on Highway 2 when she encountered Wortman coming south. Their cars collided head on, and she engaged him, Campbell said, but he killed her, took her gun and ammunition, and set both their cars ablaze. He killed a passerby and left in his vehicle, heading south to a home on Highway 224. He knew the woman who lived there, killed

her inside, and left in her car, a red Mazda 3. His movements indicate he was moving south toward Halifax where he lived and worked, but police said nothing about where specifically he might have been heading. He stopped at the Irving Big Stop gas station at Enfield near the Halifax airport. By coincidence, a police tactical resources vehicle also stopped for gas here. An officer shot him dead at 11:26 a.m. on Sunday.

N.S. MASS MURDERER'S UNIFORM, CRUISER LET HIM KILL AT WILL. HE LOOKED LIKE ONE OF US, RCMP SAY - Hours passed before police realized Gabriel Wortman had slipped through the perimeter at the first crime scene disguised as an RCMP officer. By Christopher Nardi, National Post with files from Bianca Bharti and The Canadian Press- April 24, 2020 <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/nova-scotia-shooter-gabriel-wortman-had-a-domestic-dispute-with-girlfriend-before-going-on-a-killing-spree>

TWEETS: The RCMP has come under fire for its communications strategy as the crisis unfolded on Saturday into Sunday. The force never issued a province-wide emergency alert during the rampage, which spanned more than half a day. After an initial tweet about a Portapique area firearms complaint on Saturday night, RCMP had eventually tweeted about Wortman at 9:04 a.m. local time on Sunday. Less than an hour later, RCMP sent out another tweet telling Nova Scotians Wortman may be dressed in an RCMP uniform and driving a police-marked vehicle. Wortman's girlfriend gave police a picture of his vehicle to circulate online. The RCMP said it was drafting an emergency alert to be broadcast on mobile devices and televisions province-wide when police officers shot Wortman at 11.26 a.m. Sunday. RCMP officials said Tuesday that some of the delay was the result of lags in communications between government and police.

CBC - SOME OF N.S. GUNMAN'S WEAPONS CAME FROM U.S., POLICE SAY

RCMP investigators say Gabriel Wortman used handgun, long guns in mass shooting that claimed 22 lives

By Karissa Donkin · CBC News · Posted: Apr 24, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/investigation-firearms-ns-shooting-1.5544180>

EXCERPT: At Hunt Indoor Gun Range in Truro, which is about 40 kilometres east of Portapique, co-owner Gordon Hunt checked his records on Monday morning. He believes Wortman has never been a member or shot at the gun range. He, too, wonders how Wortman could have gotten the firearms, especially a handgun, which is restricted in Canada. The other question on his mind is how the gunman was able to buy ammunition. "In Canada, you're not allowed to even purchase ammunition unless you have a possession and acquisition card," Hunt said. It's also unclear where and how Wortman learned to fire the weapons. Shooting a handgun would come with a steep learning curve, according to Hunt. "He could have had the restricted firearm there and practised in his home. How to operate the firearm, you could do that by watching YouTube or he may have went somewhere secluded and used it," Hunt said.

DOMESTIC ASSAULT PRECEDED NOVA SCOTIA MASS SHOOTING, RCMP SAY

By GREG MERCER, MOLLY HAYES, CRIME AND JUSTICE, LINDSAY JONES - HALIFAX, HAMILTON, WENTWORTH, N.S. - GLOBE AND MAIL - PUBLISHED APRIL 24, 2020

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-domestic-assault-may-have-preceded-nova-scotia-mass-shooting-rcmp-say/>

OFFICER DOWN: RCMP CONSTABLE HEIDI STEVENSON

This is part of my ongoing series Officer Down – in honour of police officers slain in the line of duty. RCMP Constable Heidi Stevenson's courage and bravery are exactly what we expect from RCMP members. She epitomized our national image of an RCMP officer, both on and off duty, and is rightfully being remembered as a hero. Published April 24, 2020 by Christopher di Armani <https://christopherdiarmani.com/14928/police/officer-down/rcmp-constable-heidi-stevenson/>

RCMP NOVA SCOTIA: DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENTS ON APRIL 18 AND 19

Speaking remarks: Supt. Darren Campbell - April 24, 2020 - Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

<https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2020/speaking-remarks-supt-darren-campbell>

RCMP MEDIA ADVISORY - APRIL 24, 2020

<https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2020/media-advisory-detailed-account-the-incidents-april-18-and-19>

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GUN ADVOCATES QUESTION JUSTIN TRUDEAU'S RESPONSE TO NOVA SCOTIA SHOOTING

Gun control campaigners are praising Justin Trudeau's promise to ban "assault-style weapons" in the aftermath of the horrific Nova Scotia shooting rampage. But gun owners' rights advocates say Trudeau is using a heinous crime and shocking tragedy to ram through reforms that aren't needed and won't work anyway. Welcome to Canada's interminable gun-control debate, now reignited by the country's worst-ever mass shooting. BY MIKE SMYTH GLOBAL NEWS - Posted April 23, 2020 <https://globalnews.ca/news/6856478/gun-advocates-justin-trudeau-nova-scotia-shooting/>
EXCERPT: Gun-rights advocates seethe over these criticisms, arguing legal, semi-automatic rifles like the AR-15 still require a separate trigger pull for each shot, and cannot "spray" bullets like fully automatic military weapons, already banned in Canada. They are also sick of the attacks on the AR-15, which Trudeau is almost certain to ban if his reforms go through. "The AR-15 is no different than any other centerfire, semi-automatic rifle," said Rod Giltaca, president of the Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights. "Classifying firearms based on pistol grips or handguards or colour is completely absurd." Giltaca said Trudeau's public focus on an undefined assault-weapon ban appears to be a political tactic that ignores more pressing questions. Those questions include: How did the shooter get his hands on a real police uniform and such a convincing replica police car? Why were Nova Scotians not warned about the active shooter using the province's Alert Ready cellphone system during 12 hours of mayhem? Why did U.S. citizens receive a direct e-mailed warning from the American consulate in Halifax, while the only Canadian warning came over the RCMP's Twitter feed? And how would an assault-weapon ban have made any difference when it appears the Nova Scotia shooter was already prohibited from owning any weapons, legal or otherwise? "It's all political," Giltaca said. "It's an opportunity for the anti-gunners to say, 'This is all about guns,' when it was not remotely about guns. "The most effective weapon this person had was the fact that he was wearing an RCMP uniform, driving a police cruiser and pulling people over and killing them. "No law in this country could have stopped a madman with this level of determination and resources."

CBC - GUN KILLINGS IN U.S. CITIES: THE SCOURGE NOT EVEN A PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN CAN STOP - Homicide figures are similar, even higher, in some American cities despite stay-at-home orders

By Alexander Panetta · CBC News · Posted: Apr 23, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/pandemic-shootings-usa-1.5541773>

EXCERPT: Gun violence is still short of its worst peaks in the 1970s and 1990s in the United States. Yet it began trending upward in 2015 after years of decline, with both homicides and suicides on the rise. And it's not just an urban phenomenon, as it's frequently portrayed. When taking into account suicides as well as homicides, the three U.S. states with the highest per capita rate of firearm deaths are Alaska, Alabama and Montana.

LILLEY: PM USING NOVA SCOTIA MASSACRE TO PUSH MISGUIDED RIFLE BAN AGENDA

How about the government stops playing politics with this tragedy and the RCMP starts being open with the public about what they know. Then, when the time is right, we can have an adult conversation about all of this.

By Brian Lilley, Toronto Sun - April 23, 2020 <https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/lilley-pm-using-nova-scotia-massacre-to-push-misguided-rifle-ban-agenda>

N.S. MASSACRE: WORTMAN OBTAINED HIS WEAPONS ILLEGALLY; SEE VIDEO OF HIM DURING SPREE - But that, in theory, should end any argument about new gun control legislation would have halted the massacre. By Dave Naylor, News Editor, Western Standard - April 23, 2020 <https://www.westernstandardonline.com/2020/04/https://www.westernstandardonline.com-2020-04-n-s-massacre-wortman-obtained-his-weapons-illegally/dnaylor@westewrnstandardonline.com>

TRUDEAU LIBERALS POLITICIZE AND EXPLOIT TRAGEDY FOR POLITICAL GAIN

Law-abiding Canadian gun owners are the favourite scapegoats of the Liberal federal government. Despite the fact that gun crime in Canada is caused by gangs, and the obvious reality that our country would be safer if we had more law-abiding experienced firearm owners as opposed to dangerous gang members, the Liberals refuse to focus on the actual source of the danger. The Liberals repeatedly pretend that our gun laws are the same as in the United States, despite the immense differences. They ignore that Canada's firearm owners are among the most careful and law-abiding of all our citizens. By Spencer Fernando, Winnipeg, MB, The Post Millennial - 23rd April 2020

<https://thepostmillennial.com/trudeau-liberals-politicize-and-exploit-tragedy-for-political-gain>

EXCERPT: They ignore that in many rural areas, waiting for the police is simply not an option, and that for both hunting and security, it's necessary for people in many parts of the country to own firearms to protect their families. All of this is simply common sense, and you know that. Unfortunately, we see once again that rather than follow facts or reality, the Liberals are seeking to scapegoat law-abiding gun owners following the horrific Nova Scotia tragedy. We all saw how Bill Blair refused to let RCMP commissioner Brenda Lucki answer a question about the shooter, with the Liberals clearly afraid to say whether he was a licensed gun owner, and what kind of gun was used.

CBC - TRUDEAU IS TALKING ABOUT MORE GUN CONTROL — BUT HE HASN'T ENACTED THE LAST ROUND OF FIREARMS CHANGES

- More than 30 amendments to the Firearms Act are still pending, including background check reforms. By John Paul Tasker, Emma Godmere · CBC News · Posted: Apr 24, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/trudeau-gun-control-c71-not-enacted-1.5543032>

WILL THE RAMPAGE IN NOVA SCOTIA PROVE TO BE A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN CANADIAN GUN CONTROL?

Must we wait two years to learn the facts on which the Liberals intend to base their evidence-based policy? How are we to assess that policy, absent those facts? Some of those facts are available now. The police can confirm whether the shooter held a firearms licence within hours, a fact that cannot conceivably prejudice any Serious Incident Response Team investigation. Yet the RCMP has not released this information. By A.J. Somerset, Globe and Mail - April 21, 2020 <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-will-the-rampage-in-nova-scotia-prove-to-be-a-pivotal-moment-in/> A.J. Somerset is the author of Arms: the Culture and Credo of the Gun.

POLICE HAVE 'GOOD IDEA' GUNMAN IN N.S. MASS SHOOTING NOT LICENSED FOR WEAPONS Chief Supt. Chris Leather said Wednesday that “we have a fairly good idea that, in Canada at least, he didn't have a firearms acquisition certificate.” It is illegal to own a gun without the proper licence, which federal legislation formally refers to as a possession and acquisition licence. National Post - by Michael Tutton, The Canadian Press - April 23, 2020 <https://nationalpost.com/pmnews-pmn/canada-news-pmn/police-have-good-idea-guns-used-in-n-s-mass-shooting-were-not-licensed>

NOVA SCOTIA GUNMAN WAS NOT A LEGAL FIREARMS OWNER, RCMP SAYS

The shooter, who killed 22 people over the weekend, should not have had access to weapons, police say.

By Mack Lamoureux, VICE CANADA - Apr 22 2020, 3:11pm https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/3a83av/nova-scotia-gunman-was-not-a-legal-firearms-owner-rcmp-says

EXCERPT: The man who committed the worst ever mass killing in modern Canadian history did not have a firearms license. Nova Scotia RCMP Chief Superintendent Chris Leather said during a press conference Wednesday afternoon just how the killer obtained firearms is “a key part of the investigation.” “We have a fairly good idea that, at least in Canada, he did not have a Firearms Acquisition Certificate,” said Leather.

NOVA SCOTIA ATTACKER DIDN'T HAVE 'FAC' LICENCE, RCMP SAYS

From TheGunBlog.ca -Wednesday 22 April 2020 <https://thegunblog.ca/2020/04/21/bullet-points-week-of-2020-april-20/>
<https://youtu.be/1Hvf5zAhtJo?t=2794> TheGunBlog.ca — RCMP Nova Scotia Chief Superintendent Chris Leather made the following comments today at a media briefing on last weekend’s attacks in Nova Scotia:

Leather: As it relates to the nature of his licensing, whether he had an F.A.C. or not, where he obtained the firearms from, that is very much still part of the ongoing investigation. In fact, it’s a key part of the ongoing investigation.

Reporter: You do not know what he was licensed to own at this point?

Leather: **We have a fairly good idea, at least in Canada, that he did not have an FAC, a Firearms Acquisition Certificate.**

Leather declined to comment on: which firearms were used or how many victims killed by bullet vs. fire, etc.

RCMP: HISTORY OF FIREARMS IN CANADA

Date modified: 2020-04-22

<https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/history-firearms-canada>

SHERIFF MARCO GARMO SELLS GUNS ILLEGALLY, CALLS IT A “HOBBY”

On November 22, 2019, San Diego County Sheriff Marco Garmo and four other people were arrested and indicted on charges of illegal firearm trafficking. Garmo, a 27-year veteran police officer, faces charges of engaging in the business of dealing in firearms without a license, making false statements in acquisition of a firearm, obstruction of justice, aiding and abetting the possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and other offenses. Garmo claimed he had no idea a federal firearms licence (FFL) was required to sell more than five firearms per year. He also claimed he was just a firearm enthusiast whose hobby was buying and selling guns. Published April 22, 2020 by Christopher di Armani

<https://christopherdiarmani.com/13739/police/police-corruption/sheriff-marco-garmo-sells-guns-illegally-calls-it-a-hobby/>

DID NOVA SCOTIA KILLER HAVE A GUN LICENSE? GOVERNMENT, POLICE WON'T SAY

The police and government know. They are just refusing to say. By Andrew Lawton, TRUE NORTH - April 21, 2020
<https://tnc.news/2020/04/21/did-nova-scotia-killer-have-a-gun-license-government-police-wont-say/>

EXCERPT #1: When police respond to a domestic violence call, they know if there’s a licensed gun owner in the home. If they pull someone over for speeding, they know if they’re a licensed gun owner. Authorities would have known the second they ran Wortman’s name in their system if he had a possession and acquisition license. The police and government know. They are just refusing to say. It’s possible this is an example of the police brass tendency to err on the side of silence. It’s also possible the answer to the question would prove inconvenient for the government.

EXCERPT #2: Bill Blair answers a question directed to the RCMP commissioner, attempts to speak to what the RCMP commissioner is thinking, then says it's "inappropriate" to share a pretty key detail about the Nova Scotia shooter.

EXCERPT #3: The Star reported Wortman received a conditional discharge and the weapons ban was lifted nine months later, which perhaps explains a release from the RCMP Tuesday afternoon saying Wortman had no criminal record. It’s

possible to get a firearms license with a criminal record, though it is difficult – especially if the conviction was for a violent crime. Whether Wortman had a gun license or not has no bearing on the level of evil in him and his actions, but is nonetheless important to know as the government positions itself to use these murders as political cover.

RCI - DEADLY SHOOTING RAMPAGE REIGNITES CALLS FOR TIGHTER GUN LAWS IN CANADA 30 years after Polytechnique massacre Canada's gun debate rages on

By Levon Sevunts, RADIO CANADA INTERNATIONAL - Last Updated: Tuesday, April 21, 2020

<https://www.rcinet.ca/en/2020/04/21/deadly-shooting-rampage-reignites-calls-for-tighter-gun-laws-in-canada/>

EXCERPT: Guy Lavergne, a Quebec based lawyer who specializes in issues related to the regulation of firearms, said while the shooting spree in Nova Scotia has caused him “great sadness,” gun control groups were using it to move forward their agenda. Very little is known about the perpetrator, his motivations, the way in which he killed his victims, or his modus operandi, Lavergne said. “Yet, the federal government, and the various groups who wrote that letter to Minister Blair have all determined that it is a gun related issue,” Lavergne said. “I believe that we should focus on finding out what caused this man to act the way he did, before we prematurely conclude that it is a gun problem.” **Dr. Caillin Langmann, an emergency room physician and professor of medicine at McMaster University,** who has written studies on gun laws and incidence of gun violence, said stricter gun control measures championed by the Liberal government and gun control activists have not reduced gun violence in Canada. Langmann said Canada has already adopted very strict gun control legislation in years following the so-called 1989 Montreal Massacre, when a lone gunman killed 14 female engineering students at Ecole Polytechnique and injured 28 others before turning the gun on himself. Lone wolf attacks by determined and resourceful individuals such as the one in Nova Scotia – now officially the deadliest mass shooting in Canada – are very hard to prevent, he said. “It’s like looking for a needle in a haystack,” Langmann said. Policy-makers should focus their energy on investing in social and mental health programs that address the underlying causes of violence and suicide, Langmann said. It is also important to curtail the circulation of illegal guns instead of focusing on gun control measures that affect legal gun owners who are already subject to strict rules and regulations in Canada, Lavergne said. The minority Liberal government will have to seek the support of the left-of-centre opposition parties in Parliament to push the proposed ban on certain types of semi-automatic rifles through.

THE STAR: DEATH TOLL RISES TO 23 IN NOVA SCOTIA SHOOTING RAMPAGE AS MORE BODIES RECOVERED FROM FIRES - HALIFAX

—The death toll of the Nova Scotia shooting rampage has risen to 23, as RCMP confirmed Tuesday they had found bodies at the sites of fires connected to the mass shooting. That’s an increase from the 19 confirmed victims announced Monday, at which point the Mounties said they expected to recover more bodies. The youngest of the confirmed victims was 17 years old. Police also confirmed Tuesday that the RCMP uniform the shooter wore on the weekend while committing his crimes was genuine, while the cruiser he drove was a “look-alike” RCMP vehicle. **The gunman in Nova Scotia’s massacre had an assault conviction in 2002, stemming from an incident the victim describes as a bizarre, violent encounter. Court records show the shooter was convicted but conditionally discharged over the Oct. 29, 2001 assault of another male. As a result, Gabriel Wortman was required at the time “not to own, possess or carry a weapon, ammunition, or explosive substance,” for nine months following the decision and to attend “for assessment and counselling in anger management” as directed by his probation officer.** By Ted Fraser, Staff Reporter, Alex McKeen, Vancouver Bureau - Tue., April 21, 2020

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2020/04/21/death-toll-could-rise-in-nova-scotia-as-investigation-into-mass-killing-continues.html>

LILLEY: TRUDEAU GIVES CHINA A PASS, THEN TARGETS GUN OWNERS

It would have been fine had the PM left it at that. Instead, he used this tragedy to start talking about his gun-control plans before the RCMP had even confirmed that all the bodies from this massacre had been found.

By Brian Lilley - Toronto Sun - April 21, 2020 7:26 AM EDT <https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/lilley-trudeau-gives-china-a-pass-then-targets-gun-owners>

EXCERPT: So, in response to an absolutely senseless and horrific incident in Nova Scotia, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is not only willing to speak out against more than 2 million licenced gun owners, he is willing to act against them and pass legislation or government orders to seize property they legally own that had nothing to do with what happened. Yet, when it comes to China unleashing a deadly virus that has killed close to 170,000 people around the world, Trudeau remains silent for where blame lies. It makes you question who he really sees as a threat.

TORONTO DET. CONST. DARYL GAZEY “NOT CREDIBLE AS A WITNESS” SAYS JUDGE

It’s hard enough, most days, for police to make a case stick in court. That job is even harder when a case is intentionally undermined by an allegedly corrupt cop. Welcome to the story of alleged heroin dealer Siavash Norouzian, undercover Toronto Police Service Detective Constable Daryl Gazey and data from a few of cell phones. It’s a story which, through a series of odd circumstances nobody could foresee, spans almost eight years and ultimately ended with Justice Anne London-Weinstein dismissing all charges against Siavash Norouzian, while ripping Det. Constable Daryl Gazey for “not being honest with the court.” Published April 21, 2020 by Christopher di Armani

<https://christopherdiarmani.com/14243/police/police-misconduct/toronto-det-const-daryl-gazey-not-credible-as-a-witness-says-judge/>

UPDATE: TRUDEAU PROMISES SWIFT ACTION ON GUN CONTROL FOLLOWING NOVA SCOTIA SHOOTING - Ban of military-style assault rifles will be tabled when Parliament returns

By Andrea Gunn

(agunn@herald.ca) The Chronicle Herald - April 20, 2020 <https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/news/canada/trudeau-promises-swift-action-on-gun-control-in-light-of-nova-scotia-shooting-439870/>

<https://globalnews.ca/video/6843026/trudeau-has-every-intention-of-moving-forward-with-further-gun-control-measures-once-parliament-resumes>

BLAIR WANTS STRICTER GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION INTRODUCED ‘AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE’

Canada’s public safety minister says he plans to introduce stricter gun laws as soon as possible despite ongoing uncertainties around Parliament’s operation due to COVID-19 physical distancing restrictions, after a gunman killed at least 18 people in Nova Scotia over the weekend. “It is my intention to bring forward that legislation as quickly as possible, but that has been our intention,” Public Safety Minister Bill Blair said on Monday. By Charlie Pinkerton, iPolitics - Published on Apr 20, 2020 With files from Tim Naumetz, Jolson Lim and Marco Vigliotti

<https://ipolitics.ca/2020/04/20/blair-wants-strict-gun-control-legislation-introduced-as-quickly-as-possible/>

EXCERPT: “I would urge to be patient with the RCMP as they do a very difficult but very important job for us in getting all the facts and confirming their evidence, making sure that all of the steps to preserve that evidence are taken. Canadians deserve answers. The families and the victims of these terrible crimes deserve accurate answers,” Blair said.

<https://globalnews.ca/video/6843592/blair-says-government-remains-committed-to-gun-control-legislation-but-gives-no-timeline>

AS GUN CONTROL DEBATE LOOMS, NO ANSWERS YET ON WHAT FIREARMS WERE USED IN NOVA SCOTIA MASS KILLING - The RCMP declined to say whether the guns were classified as prohibited, restricted or non-restricted, and whether the shooter had a firearms possession licence

By Brian Platt, National Post - April 20, 2020 - 239 Comments

<https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/as-gun-control-debate-looms-no-answers-yet-on-what-firearms-were-used-in-nova-scotia-mass-killing>

CANADA'S PUBLIC SAFETY MINISTER OFFERS CONDOLENCES

Bill Blair says he knows the pain of losing a colleague. He adds that today is not time to argue about gun control. He says right now people should be focused on the investigation and mourning the victim

By: Matt Brand, Halifax Today - April 20, 2020 <https://www.halifaxtoday.ca/local-news/canadas-public-safety-minister-offers-condolences-2268039>

WE NEED CLOSER OVERSIGHT ON HIGH-TECH POLICE PRACTICES

Understanding and safeguarding personal freedom and civil rights is more critical than ever. So who is policing the police? By Anil Anand, TROY MEDIA on April 20, 2020 - <https://troymedia.com/crime/we-need-closer-oversight-on-police-technology/>

Frontier Centre for Public Policy contributor Anil Anand served as a police officer with a Canadian service for 29 years in a variety of roles, including being assigned to Interpol. He has a master of law degree, as well as an MBA, and has taught criminology and community policing courses. His book Mending Broken Fences Policing, looks at the role of contemporary policing in modern society.

AS GUN CONTROL DEBATE LOOMS, NO ANSWERS YET ON WHAT FIREARMS WERE USED IN NOVA SCOTIA MASS KILLING

The RCMP declined to say whether the guns were classified as prohibited, restricted or non-restricted, and whether the shooter had a firearms possession licence.

By Brian Platt, National Post - April 20, 2020 <https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/as-gun-control-debate-looms-no-answers-yet-on-what-firearms-were-used-in-nova-scotia-mass-killing>

EXCERPT: OTTAWA — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says his government will introduce promised gun control legislation when Parliament fully returns, but it's too soon to say whether it would have had an effect on the Nova Scotia rampage that killed at least 19 people. Public Safety Minister Bill Blair said the legislation, promised during last fall's election, will ban "military-style assault weapons," strengthen gun storage laws, and bring in red-flag laws to allow police to restrict access to firearms for someone deemed to be a risk to themselves or others. There is no firm definition of what counts as a "military-style assault weapon" in Canada, though last year Blair's office described them as "military weapons designed to hunt people, and not animals, in the most efficient manner possible that maximizes the body count at minimum effort." Their election platform only named the AR-15 rifle as an example.

AHMAD KADOURA: GANG THUG DENIED BAIL FOR BLATANT HYPOCRISY

Published April 20, 2020 by Christopher di Armani - I must admit I thoroughly enjoy judges who make great decisions while metaphorically slapping criminals upside the head for their own stupidity. The latest example is Quebec Court Judge Dennis Galiatsatos' April 14th decision denying Ahmad Kadoura's bail application. On April 6, 2020, a Montreal SWAT team arrested Ahmad Kadoura, an 18-year-old thug, with a loaded pistol whose serial number was removed.

Kadoura now faces charges of extortion and illegal possession of a loaded handgun, with the possibility of more charges to come. Major cities across Canada face an ongoing threat from gang members who, like Ahmad Kadoura, care far more about their gangster image than public safety. It is only fitting he be denied bail until his trial, even at the risk of catching COVID-19 while incarcerated. At his bail hearing, Kadoura argued he should be released because he could not adhere to the government's social distancing requirements while in custody. Unfortunately for the young thug, police witnessed him blatantly and repeatedly disregarding those same social distancing measures before his arrest.

READ THE REST: <https://christopherdiarmani.com/14854/crime/violent-criminals/ahmad-kadoura-gang-thug-denied-bail-for-blatant-hypocrisy/>

STATEMENT - MINISTER BLAIR RESPONDS TO THE SHOOTING IN NOVA SCOTIA

<https://www.newswire.ca/fr/news-releases/declaration-le-ministre-blair-reagit-a-la-fusillade-en-nouvelle-ecosse-824918886.html>

NEWS PROVIDED BY PUBLIC SAFETY CANADA - Apr 19, 2020, 20:57 ET

<https://www.newswire.ca/news/public-safety-and-emergency-preparedness-canada>

MULTIPLE PEOPLE DEAD, INCLUDING ONE RCMP OFFICER, AFTER SHOOTING SPREE IN PORTAPIQUE, N.S.

Gabriel Wortman, 51, is believed to be the primary suspect in the shooting spree that occurred in and around the area of Portapique, N.S. Multiple sources told Global News that Wortman is dead. A body matching the description of Wortman was seen at the Enfield Big Stop on Highway 102.

By Alexander Quon and Mercedes Stephenson Global News - Updated April 19, 2020 2:20 pm

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6838880/rcmp-active-shooter-portapique-n-s/>

NOVA SCOTIA RCMP ARREST SUSPECTED 'ACTIVE SHOOTER' WITH 'SEVERAL VICTIMS'

The Nova Scotia RCMP arrested a 51-year-old man in connection to a shooting with “several victims” in a rural town on Sunday morning. Cpl. Lisa Croteau, public information officer with the RCMP Nova Scotia, confirmed there are “multiple victims” but could not provide a number or say whether any people had been killed. In a series of tweets, police said they arrested 51-year-old Gabriel Wortman who was considered “armed and dangerous.” No details have been released on the victims or the nature of their injuries. Police had warned that the suspect may have been wearing an RCMP uniform. By Victor Ferreira, National Post - April 19, 2020 <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/nova-scotia-shooting-rcmp>

GUNTER: YET ANOTHER PROBLEM EMERGES IN THE LIBERAL FIREARMS PLAN

It is standard in Canada if you have been convicted of a violent crime, are a registered sex offender, have ever been designated a dangerous offender, are on probation or parole, are subject to a restraining order or peace bond, have been ordered deported or barred from hunting, you lose your ability to buy or possess guns. That makes sense. But as Young points out, the federal government and the RCMP make no effort to keep track of people who have been banned. One of the hoops for legit owners is they report to police any change of address within 30 days or face up to two years in prison. By Lorne Gunter, Toronto Sun - April 18, 2020

<https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/gunter-yet-another-problem-emerges-in-the-liberal-firearms-plan>

<https://dennisryoung.ca/2020/04/19/yet-another-problem-emerges-in-the-liberal-firearms-plan/>



Tony Bernardo

Thank you Mr. Gunter. Another missive of resounding common sense. When a government - under the guise of crime control - places lawful citizens under this type of intrusive scrutiny while giving a free ride to proven criminals, any sensible person must question the true motives of government.

Like · Reply · 26 · 1d

HAMMONDS PLAINS MAN FACING FIREARMS CHARGES AWAITS BAIL DECISION

A Halifax judge has reserved decision at a bail hearing for a Hammonds Plains man who faces 50 charges, primarily for firearms-related offences. Travis James Terry Laing, 29, was arrested last week following an RCMP investigation that began in early January after a report of someone erratically driving a white Ford Crown Victoria with a black hood and roof on Lucasville Road while waving an assault rifle out a window. RCMP obtained warrants to search multiple residences, vehicles and electronic devices over a period of more than two months and seized 17 guns. On April 9, members of the Halifax RCMP street crime unit arrested Laing and two women without incident. Laing was kept in custody but the women were released. RCMP said charges against the women are pending. The charges against Laing include 11 counts of unauthorized possession of a firearm, nine counts of careless use of a firearm, eight counts of recklessly discharging a firearm and seven counts of unauthorized possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle. He also faces seven charges of possession of a prohibited loaded firearm, four charges of dangerous driving, two charges of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, and single counts of possession of stolen property and uttering threats. Police allege the offences were committed between Nov. 8, 2019, and March 22 of this year. By Steve Bruce

(sbruce@herald.ca) Updated: Apr 17, 2020 <https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/news/local/rcmp-seize-17-guns-lay-50-charges-against-hammonds-plains-man-437744/>

LEND A HAND, COMPLETE THIS SURVEY: PHD STUDY ON FIREARMS POLICY

To whom it may concern: My name is Noah Schwartz. I am a doctoral candidate at Carleton University studying firearms policy. I am interested in better understanding the social meanings and personal values that gun owners attach to firearms. Most research done on gun ownership comes from the United States. Little is known about Canada's over two-million licensed gun owners, creating a blind spot for researchers and leading to a misinformed public debate. The purpose of this questionnaire is to better understand what guns mean to the people who own and use them, and how this motivates political action. I am interested in hearing about gun owners' personal involvement in hunting and the shooting sports, and what they think about the role that firearms have played in Canadian history. The survey also asks participants about their involvement with the gun-rights movement, which could be useful for your organization.

I would be grateful if you would be willing to circulate this link to my online survey among your members:

https://carletonu.z1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_blnqMIQyKpWciNv

This project was reviewed and cleared by the Carleton University Research Ethics Board A (Project #112735). If you have any ethical concerns with the study, please contact the Chair of the Carleton University Research Ethics Board (by phone at 613-520-2600 ext. 2517 or by email at ethics@carleton.ca).

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POSTS FROM THE UNITED STATES & OTHER COUNTRIES

GUNMAN WHO KILLED 22 PEOPLE IN CANADA'S WORST MASS SHOOTING OPENED FIRE AFTER

ROW WITH GIRLFRIEND - CANADA'S deadliest mass shooting which left 22 dead was sparked by a violent row between the gunman and his girlfriend, say cops. Gabriel Wortman killed dozens of people across northern and central Nova Scotia last weekend but his partner survived the slaughter.

By Jon Lockett, THE SCOTTISH SUN - 25 Apr 2020, 9:34Updated: 25 Apr 2020

<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/5529761/gunman-killed-22-canada-row-girlfriend/>

CANADA: NOVA SCOTIA KILLER AND THE POSSIBLE DEEPER REASONS BEHIND HIS RAMPAGE

By Jason Unrau, THE EPOCH TIMES - Updated: April 23, 2020

https://www.theepochtimes.com/ns-gunman-and-the-possible-deeper-reasons-behind-his-rampage_3323145.html

EXCERPT: COMMON THREADS: However, there was another side to him, including a guilty plea for a 2001 assault charge, an alleged drinking problem, and an apparent obsession with RCMP police gear, including a police cruiser he purchased at auction and used in his rampage. When Wortman began his carnage late on April 18 by murdering his recently estranged ex-partner and her new boyfriend, authorities say he was wearing an RCMP uniform and driving a mock-up of an RCMP cruiser. An only child, Wortman was raised by his mother after his parents divorced. A 1986 high school yearbook inscription under his graduation photo noted, "Gabe's future might include being an RCMP officer," while a junior high school friend recalled his obsession with air rifles. Details are still scarce on Wortman and his motives aren't yet known, but some common threads with other mass killers can be found.

U.S. JUDGE BLOCKS BACKGROUND CHECKS THAT DENIED AMMO TO LAW-ABIDING GUN OWNERS

IN CALIFORNIA - In a 120-page ruling, U.S. District Judge Roger T. Benitez said the state's program has been used to "systematically prohibit or deter an untold number of law-abiding California citizen-residents from undergoing the required background checks."

“The experiment has been tried. The casualties have been counted. California’s new ammunition background check law misfires and the Second Amendment rights of California citizens have been gravely injured,” Benitez, of the Southern District of California in San Diego, wrote in an opinion posted Wednesday.

By Ryan Sabalow - April 23, 2020 - Read more here: <https://www.sacbee.com/article242248616.html#storylink=cpy>

HOW CANADA CAN MOVE FORWARD FROM THE DEADLIEST SHOOTING EVENT IN ITS HISTORY

Chronicle Herald reporter Andrea Gunn writes that Public Safety Minister Bill Blair has said, alongside an assault rifle ban, the federal government is also considering legislation to “tighten gun storage rules to prevent a diversion of firearms into the hands of people who would commit crimes, reduce the smuggling of firearms across the border and introduce what are sometimes referred to as red flag laws to ensure individuals who represent a significant risk to themselves and others don’t have access to firearms.” In the most recent Throne Speech, the government raised the idea of a gun buyback program. These are welcome measures, whatever we learn in the days to come of the killings and the man who perpetrated them. By David Moscrop, The Washington Post - April 23, 2020

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/04/23/how-canada-can-move-forward-deadliest-shooting-event-its-history/>

U.S. SENATORS THAT USED COVID-19 TO PUSH THEIR GUN CONTROL AGENDA

First, the senators asked ATF to issue guidance urging Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs) to forego the three-day safety-valve provision and suspend delayed firearms transfers indefinitely. Under federal law, if a NICS check is delayed for further research and the FBI’s NICS section is unable to determine that the prospective firearm transferee is prohibited from possessing firearms under federal or state law three business days after the check was initiated by a firearms dealer, the firearms transfer may proceed at the dealer's option. This provision encourages the FBI to conduct NICS checks in an efficient manner and prevents the government from arbitrarily denying an individual their Second Amendment rights through an indefinite delay. According to the 2018 NICS Operations Report only 70 percent of NICS checks that year resulted in an "instant determination," with the remaining 30 percent requiring some analysis or additional research. Despite the fact that 30 percent of checks were subject to some amount of delay, only about 1 percent of all checks resulted in a denial. Such delays have been exacerbated due to recent demand on the NICS. So, under the senators' scheme, the vast majority of law-abiding individuals who have a check delayed would have their firearm transfer upheld indefinitely. The Daily Caller - April 23, 2020 <https://dailycaller.com/2020/04/23/here-are-the-u-s-senators-that-used-covid-19-to-push-their-gun-control-agenda/>

WASH. POST: RESEARCHERS REVIEWED THOUSANDS OF GUN POLICY STUDIES AND TEASED OUT A CONSENSUS

- The findings on stand-your-ground and child access prevention laws are conclusive, the report says
By Christopher Ingraham - April 23, 2020 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/04/23/definitive-guide-which-gun-safety-policies-actually-work/>

EXCERPT: But policymaking requires higher-caliber evidence, from studies that go beyond simple correlations to demonstrate a causal effect. Distinguishing those studies from less-powerful ones was one of the chief objectives of the Rand report. “For our analysis, we looked for studies that made stronger claims to identifying a causal effect of individual laws,” said Andrew Morral, one of the authors of the report. “They had to show that changes (for instance, in suicide rates) that are attributed to the law occurred only after the law was implemented (not before), and did not occur in states where the law was not implemented.” They narrowed down thousands of studies to those that met high standards for causal evidence — just 123 of them since 1995. Taken together, this research yielded a number of conclusions.

THE BLACKLIST MISINFORMATION ON GUNS

Entertainment shows are major vehicles for propaganda about gun control, and shape people's views on the issue. Network executives know this. If the networks' only consideration is really just entertainment value, there would be more scenes of citizens using their guns heroically. Viewers can be forgiven for not knowing that there are millions of defensive gun uses every year, but the executives should know better. By John R. Lott, Jr. , TOWNHALL - Posted: Apr 23, 2020 <https://townhall.com/columnists/johnrlottjr/2020/04/23/the-blacklist-misinformation-on-guns-n2567472>

USA TODAY - FACT CHECK: GUNS SALES RISE AND CRIME FALLS AS THE CORONAVIRUS SPREADS

IN US - While Americans have responded to COVID-19 in myriad ways, some broad trends have emerged as data from the first weeks of the pandemic become available. "Firearm revenue is up 309%. Crime is down. It's almost like guns aren't the problem," a Facebook post from The Shooters Hangout reads.

The number appears to be taken from figures published by the online firearms retailer ammo.com, which said that it experienced a 309% increase in revenue from Feb. 23 to March 15 compared to the previous 22 days. As of April 1, the site reports it experienced a 792% increase in revenue from Feb. 23 to March 31. "Our growth in sales directly correlates with the public's increasing leerness of COVID-19," the company's website reads. By Matthew Brown, USA TODAY - Updated April 22, 2020 <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/04/20/fact-check-gun-sales-rise-crime-falls-amid-pandemic/5162481002/>

CANADA TO TIGHTEN GUN LAWS AFTER MASSACRE

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has vowed to tighten gun laws after the weekend's massacre. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is vowing to move quickly to ban the sale of military-style assault weapons after a deadly shooting spree in Nova Scotia reignited calls for stricter gun control measures. The death toll from the weekend's shooting rampage in the country's east has risen to 20. Police expect this number to grow as they search the charred remains of several houses set alight by the gunman during the 12-hour shooting spree. As shocked Canadians struggle to understand the tragedy, gun control advocates are calling on Trudeau's government to enact the long-promised restrictions. By Levon Sevunts, Newcastle Herald - April 22 2020 - 5:08AM <https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6730893/canada-to-tighten-gun-laws-after-massacre/?cs=7579>

CANADA'S STRICT GUN CONTROL LAWS COULDN'T STOP A DETERMINED MADMAN

From the CCRKBA . . . The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms today said the weekend rampage in Nova Scotia provided more proof that strict gun control laws will not prevent determined individuals from committing mayhem. Authorities now say at least 22 people were killed, as more victims have been discovered by investigators. Many were apparently killed in their own homes while obeying "stay home" mandates due to the COVID-19 outbreak. "We offer our sympathies to our Canadian neighbors, and especially to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for their loss," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. "But we do not believe adding more restrictions on gun ownership for law-abiding Canadian citizens will to anything to prevent such tragedies in the future. By TRUTH ABOUT GUNS - Apr 22, 2020 - 46 comments <https://www.thetruthaboutguns.com/canadas-strict-gun-control-laws-couldnt-stop-a-determined-madman/>

LETTER: LEGALLY OWNED FIREARMS MORE OFTEN PROTECT LIVES, NOT RISK THEM

By David C. Huth, Portsmouth - The Providence Journal - April 22, 2020

<https://www.providencejournal.com/opinion/20200422/letters-to-editor-legally-owned-firearms-more-often-protect-lives-not-risk-them>

EXCERPT: What she and other blame-the-gun people never mention is that legally owned firearms are used far more often to protect lives than to commit crimes. Research funded by the Center for Disease Control found that firearms are used in 300,000 crimes a year versus 500,000 to 3 million times to prevent a crime. A study by the nonprofit Just Facts research organization reported that there were 1,029,615 defensive gun uses in 2019. In 162,000 of them the intended victims "almost certainly would have been killed" if they had not used a gun for protection.

U.K. - SHOCKING MOMENT ARMED GANG OPEN FIRE WITH HANDGUNS OUTSIDE A CHICKEN SHOP IN BROAD DAYLIGHT AS TARGETS DIVE FOR COVER BEHIND THE COUNTER

- Gang appears to fire guns at a group outside DFC Chicken in Hansworth
- Terrified males flee the gang and are seen leaping over takeaway's counter
- Footage shows them sheltering in the eatery as the gang flee in a blue car

By Sebastian Murphy-bates For Mailonline - 21 April 2020 <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8240579/Armed-gang-open-fire-handguns-outside-chicken-shop-broad-daylight-shooting.html>

THE HILL - TRUDEAU VOWS TO PUSH FOR STRICTER GUN LAWS IN WAKE OF NOVA SCOTIA SHOOTING

- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is vowing to push for stricter gun legislation after a mass shooting in Nova Scotia killed 23, including a police officer. Trudeau told reporters on Monday that lawmakers had been working on passing an assault weapons ban before Sunday's shooting, and were planning to press ahead following the attack, according to BuzzFeed News. "I can say that we were on the verge of introducing legislation to ban assault-style weapons across this country," Trudeau said. "It was interrupted when the pandemic caused parliament to be suspended, but we have every intention of moving forward on that measure, and potentially other measures, when parliament returns." By John Bowden - 04/21/20 - 35,508 Shares <https://thehill.com/policy/international/493992-trudeau-vows-to-push-for-stricter-gun-laws-in-the-wake-of-nova-scotia>

CANADIANS MOURN AFTER COUNTRY'S WORST MASS SHOOTING LEAVES AT LEAST 18 DEAD

Canadians today mourned the shocking rampage that left at least 18 dead in rural communities across Nova Scotia, after a gunman disguised as a police officer opened fire on people hunkered down in their homes, setting houses ablaze in the deadliest mass shooting in the country's history. Officials said the suspect, identified as 51-year-old Gabriel Wortman, also died in the attack yesterday. Police did not provide a motive for the killings. By: Rob Gillies, New Zealand AP - 21 Apr, 2020 7:31am https://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=12326254

BIDEN WEBSITE REVEALS ALARMING GUN CONTROL AGENDA

U.S.A. —(Ammoland.com)- Democrat presidential hopeful Joe Biden has plans for American gun owners that are spelled out in a 3,100-word agenda found on his campaign website that includes a ban on so-called "assault weapons," background checks on all gun sales and transfers, restrictions on the number of firearms someone can buy in a month, "safe storage" and enough other red tape to turn the right to keep and bear arms into a heavily-regulated privilege. Ammoland Inc. Posted on April 21, 2020 by Dave Workman <https://www.ammoland.com/2020/04/biden-website-reveals-alarming-gun-control-agenda/#axzz6KcFo28Ny>

DEATH TOLL FROM CANADA'S WORST MASS SHOOTING RISES TO 19

PORTAPIQUE, Nova Scotia—The death toll from the worst mass shooting in Canadian history rose to 19, including a police officer and the shooter, Canadian police said on Monday, adding that they expect fatalities from the weekend killings to rise further. The gunman, who at one point masqueraded as a policeman and also painstakingly disguised his car to look like a police cruiser, shattered the peace of a rural community in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia during a 12-hour rampage that started late on Saturday, authorities said on Sunday. By Reuters - THE EPOCH TIMES - April 20, 2020 https://www.theepochtimes.com/death-toll-from-canadas-worst-mass-shooting-rises-to-19_3319552.html

DUTCH NEWS - GUNS WERE INVOLVED IN 646 INCIDENTS AND 31 DEATHS LAST YEAR, POLICE SAY

There was a 14% rise in the number of incidents involving guns in the Netherlands last year, despite efforts to crack down on the illegal weapons trade, according to new figures from the police and the Dutch public prosecution department. In total, the police registered 646 firearms incidents last year, up 79 on 2018. Despite the increase, the number of people dying from gun-related injuries fell marginally, from 34 to 31. At least one person was injured in a further 131 incidents. CrimeSociety Netherlands - April 20, 2020 <https://www.dutchnews.nl/news/2020/04/guns-were-involved-in-646-incidents-and-31-deaths-last-year-police-say/>

EXCERPT: Police seized 5,700 illegal firearms last year, about the same as in 2018. ‘There is a continual demand for guns within the criminal fraternity,’ police spokesman Dick Schouten said. ‘Weapons and hand grenades continue to find their way to the Netherlands... and the free movement of people and in trade does not make our job any easier.’ The Netherlands, he said, remains an important link in the international arms trade, he said.

THE HILL - AMERICANS WILL PROTECT THEMSELVES IN TIMES OF CRISIS

The truth, however, is that Americans are buying guns because they do not feel safe. Efforts by gun control groups to carelessly paint gun owners as ignorant and paranoid is not new, but to do so during our current pandemic simply ignores our current reality. While some gun control advocates have chosen to downplay the threats posed by state governments’ choice to release prison inmates or to delay policing of certain crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic, most Americans are rightfully worried about the public safety implications of such choices. By Lawrence Keane - 04/20/2020 Lawrence G. Keane is the Senior Vice President and General Counsel for the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the firearm and ammunition industry trade association. <https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/493658-americans-will-protect-themselves-in-times-of-crisis>

FRANKLIN GRAHAM ON CANADA MASSACRE: GUN LAWS DO NOT STOP CRIMINALS

Rev. Franklin Graham reacted to the weekend shootings in Nova Scotia by stressing that gun laws do not stop criminals and do not prevent evil actions. The suspect is believed to have impersonated an officer during the attacks. USA Today noted that the suspect allegedly “donned a police uniform and drove around in what appeared to be a police cruiser as he set fires to homes and went on a gun rampage starting in the small, rural town of Portapique in Nova Scotia.” The attack occurred during a 12-hour time frame. Rev. Graham responded by highlighting the impotency of strict gun control in general and the gun controls in Canada specifically: READ THE REST:

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/04/20/franklin-graham-canada-massacre-gun-laws-do-not-stop-criminals/> by AWR Hawkins 20 Apr 2020 - 479 views

21 YEARS AFTER COLUMBINE: ARE OUR KIDS ANY SAFER?

This was going to be a depressing article. It was going to look back at the mass shooting at Columbine High School in 1999 and then at all the others that have happened since, wondering why we still haven’t solved the problem of gun violence in this country. But if you’re here, you’ve probably clicked on and read articles like that before. They probably made you incredibly angry, sad, scared, and maybe even hopeless. So this is not going to be that article. That’s not the story Shannon Watts, founder of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, is here to tell us.

“The reality is the NRA is weaker than they’ve ever been,” Watts told SheKnows last week. By Sabrina Rojas Weiss - Apr 20, 2020 <https://www.sheknows.com/parenting/articles/2220783/columbine-school-shooting-gun-control/>

NPR - AT LEAST 16 KILLED, INCLUDING POLICE OFFICER, IN NOVA SCOTIA SHOOTINGS

At least 16 people, including a police officer, are dead following a 12-hour shooting rampage in Nova Scotia, according to Canadian authorities. The suspected shooter is also dead. It's thought to be Canada's deadliest mass shooting in recent history. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) identified the alleged gunman as Gabriel Wortman, 51. They

believe he acted alone, leading police on a chase across the northern part of the Canadian province that began Saturday and came to an end on Sunday morning. RCMP identified the deceased officer as Constable Heidi Stevenson, who had been with the force for 23 years. Another officer is receiving treatment after he was injured, but is expected to recover, authorities said. In Canada, which has tighter gun ownership restrictions than the U.S., mass shootings are relatively uncommon. Before this weekend, the nation's worst mass shooting happened in 1989, when a gunman in Quebec killed 14 women after opening fire at a college. By Emma Bowman Updated April 19, 2020 at 11:44 p.m. ET

<https://www.npr.org/2020/04/19/838214113/at-least-10-killed-including-police-officer-in-nova-scotia-shootings>

NOVA SCOTIA: SHOOTER WHO WENT ON RUN ‘IN MOCK COP CAR AND WEARING POLICE UNIFORM’ AFTER SHOOTING ‘SEVERAL VICTIMS’ CAUGHT BY COPS

CANADIAN police caught an active shooter who opened fire in Nova Scotia before going on the run in a fake cop car dressed as an officer. Royal Canadian Mounted Police warned residents in the rural community of Portapique to "stay inside your homes and lock your doors" after 51-year-old Gabriel Wortman's shooting rampage. "Gabriel Wortman, suspect in active shooter investigation, is now in custody," RCMP tweeted shortly after 10.30 am. "More information will be released when available. Thank you for your cooperation and support." By Fionnuala O'Leary, News Reporter, New York - Apr 19 2020, 9:29 <https://www.the-sun.com/news/705184/mass-shooter-caught-mock-cop-car-police-uniform-canada/>

WISCONSIN HANDGUN BACKGROUND CHECKS INCREASE BY 62% AMID ‘SAFER AT HOME’ ORDER

OSHKOSH (WLUK) -- Since the "Safer at Home" order began, gun sales at Jon's Sport Shop in Oshkosh have skyrocketed. "An unbelievable increase. It has finally probably hit the peak and come down some, but it is volatile," Jon's Sport Shop Owner John Gafner said. Gafner says 95% of his customers want the same thing: protection. "They're afraid of the consequences of not having businesses, not having people working, and people stealing in order to survive," Gafner said. Since "Safer at Home" started on March 25, the Wisconsin Department of Justice has processed 18,479 background checks for hand guns. In 2019, the state DOJ processed 11,438 background checks. That's a 62% increase. Hand guns aren't the only item going out with a bang. Ammo is selling fast. By Sierra Trojan, FOX 11 News - Monday, April 20th 2020 <https://fox11online.com/news/local/wisconsin-hand-gun-background-checks-increase-by-62-amid-safer-at-home-order>

‘WE HAVE REDUCED CASES:’ GOV. EVERS REINFORCES EXTENSION OF ‘SAFER AT HOME’ ORDER

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers on Monday, April 20 posted a video on social media reinforcing his decision to extend the “Safer at Home” order through May 26. Gov. Tony Evers on Thursday, April 16 directed Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee Andrea Palm to extend the ‘Safer at Home’ order from April 24 to 8 a.m. Tuesday, May 26 — or until a superseding order is issued. BY FOX6 NEWS, UPDATED AT 11:19AM, APRIL 20, 2020

<https://fox6now.com/2020/04/20/we-have-reduced-cases-gov-evers-reinforces-extension-on-safer-at-home/>

NPR - CORONAVIRUS FEARS HAVE PRODUCED A LOT OF NEW GUN OWNERS — AND SAFETY CONCERNS

- As Americans flock to gun stores in the face of coronavirus fears, many gun dealers report an influx of new customers, taking home a deadly weapon for the first time. In response, long-time gun owners from across the U.S. are stepping up to help these newcomers get some safety training in the age of social distancing. "I want to be a good ambassador for the Second Amendment and for firearms owners," says Chuck Rossi, co-founder of an online gun rights organization called Open Source Defense. A few weeks ago, Open Source Defense launched a type of informal, online training called Office Hours, using a shared calendar that allows users to sign up for a 30-minute video conference with a long-time gun owner. By Leigh Paterson, April 19, 2020 - <https://www.npr.org/2020/04/19/837756082/coronavirus-fears-have-produced-a-lot-of-new-gun-owners-and-safety-concerns>

DONALD TRUMP: VIRGINIA GOV. RALPH NORTHAM DID ‘HORRIBLE THING’ WITH GUN CONTROL
President Trump commented to reporters during a question and answer session on Friday that Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D) did a “horrible thing” to his state via gun control. By AWR Hawkins - 18 Apr 2020
<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/04/18/donald-trump-virginia-gov-ralph-northam-did-horrible-thing-gun-control/>
https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2020/04/18/trump_an_appropriate_time_to_bring_up_second_amendment_virginia_using_pandemic_to_take_your_guns_away.html

SCI LEADS ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVERNORS ON HUNTING & FISHING SEASONS

On March 31, SCI President Steve Skold sent a formal letter to all 50 governors urging them to support hunting and fishing seasons while taking the necessary precautions to keep their residents safe and healthy while also highlighting the economic impact that sportsmen and women have in each state. His letters emphasized the mentally restorative benefits of spending time in nature during this stressful time as well. SCI also joined a long list of other hunting and conservation groups in submitting a letter to all 50 governors through America's Wildlife Conservation Partners. Ammoland Inc. Posted on April 18, 2020 by Ammoland <https://www.ammoland.com/2020/04/sci-leads-engagement-with-governors-on-hunting-fishing-seasons/#axzz6K5Jjk38>

THE OUTDOOR WIRE - APRIL 16, 2020

A FEW MINUTES WITH....JOE BARTOZZI, NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION (NSSF)

OUTDOOR WIRE's JIM SHEPHERD: Lately, NSSF has - quietly - done some big things. For example, convincing the administration to declare the firearms industry a critical piece of the nation's infrastructure. That was a big deal. NSSF's BARTOZZI: That's also a key element - but for a couple of reasons. First, local law enforcement is frequently supplied by local gun shops. They're where they get their essential tools. And, the ability to defend yourself is an individual right under the Second Amendment. But it's tough to defend your essential individual rights if you can't get the tools to defend yourself. So the critical infrastructure designation was something we knew was Important for everyone. READ THE REST: <https://www.theoutdoorwire.com/features/3542d301-95f9-4a39-9318-d2c2edd4d715>

WOULD BIDEN FOLLOW IN OBAMA'S FOOTSTEPS ON GUNS?

But Obama, in his endorsement, did not make mention of where he and the former VP stand today on important criminal justice reforms or gun policies. He noted that running for president in 2020, compared to Obama's initial run in 2008, is very different; “there's too much unfinished business for us to just look backwards.” Looking back at where Obama's presidency stood, succeeded and failed on gun issues, though, it is not completely clear how many of Biden's proposed gun and criminal justice-related policies will take up the last Democratic president's stances — or compete with those of President Donald Trump. By Dawnthea Price Lisco - April 15, 2020 <https://gunsandamerica.org/story/20/04/15/barack-obama-joe-biden-guns-2020/>

US GOVERNMENT REIGNITES DEBATE OVER 3D PRINTED GUNS

A letter from 26 states to the Trump administration wants it to crack down on a producer of 3D printed guns. But it's already too late. By Will Heasman - Apr 15, 2020 <https://decrypt.co/25574/us-government-reignites-debate-over-3d-printed-guns>

THE NRA HAS ALL THE RESOURCES YOU NEED TO LEARN TO SHOOT SAFELY

The NRA is a premier leader in firearm safety and education. If you're a new gun owner, or if you want to introduce someone to this right, start with gunsafetyrules.nra.org. Also, check out the NRA's Guide for New Shooters. Next, check out the NRA-created videos on safety, proper gun handling and more on our YouTube channel. Be sure to check out our video “NRA Mentor – Gun Safety,” as it simply and clearly goes through the rules for real gun safety. Gun-control groups

love to use the phrase “gun safety,” as they know “gun control” is not popular, but the truth is the NRA has long been the leader in real gun safety. The NRA’s Rules of Gun Safety, which include, “Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot,” can be found at [gunsafetyrules.nra.org](https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2020/4/15/the-nra-has-all-the-resources-you-need-to-learn-to-shoot-safely/). By A1F Staff - Wednesday, April 15, 2020

<https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2020/4/15/the-nra-has-all-the-resources-you-need-to-learn-to-shoot-safely/>

HOW ANTI-GUN MOVEMENTS DRIVE UP GUN SALES AND OWNERSHIP

U.S.A. -(AmmoLand.com)- While the chart is impressive, the actual numbers tell the details of gun sales. In 2001 with George W. Bush as President, gun sales were 8.9 million. In 2019 gun sales were 28.4 million. That’s over 300% increase in gun sales. It is driven almost entirely by the fear of confiscation and guns being banned. When “W” was President, gun owners felt safe from confiscation and gun bans. Overturning the Clinton gun bans was one of the reasons Bush was elected. Had liberal gun grabbing democrats not pushed their agenda, there would be 200,000,000 fewer guns in America and 50,000,000 fewer gun owners. The net result is Donald J Trump winning the Presidency in 2016. So, THANK YOU! Gun Al Gore lost his home state of Tennessee when he called for a universal ban on handguns, and with it the Presidency in 2000. Hillary Clinton lost Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Florida after calling for the confiscation of AR patterned rifles in 2016, and will now never be President. Barack Obama took a pass on gun confiscation and won the Presidency twice.

Ammoland Inc. Posted on April 15, 2020 by Don McDougall <https://www.ammoland.com/2020/04/how-anti-gun-movements-drive-up-gun-sales-and-ownership/#axzz6KGjP7moI>

OTHER ARTICLES ON ISSUES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

MORTON: IT'S SALES TAX TIME FOR ALBERTA, WITHOUT COSTING A PENNY MORE

So where is this new oil going to come from? Alberta has the third-largest proven oil reserves in the world. Yes, in the world, behind only Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, both of which are strategically problematic. Unless policies from Ottawa prevent it, capital investment will return to the western Canadian energy sector. There is light at the end of the tunnel. But now is the time for Albertans to get off the energy roller-coaster. Even with sustained growth in global consumption, the price of oil will continue to be volatile. It would be stupid to keep on making the same mistakes of the past. It’s GST time for Alberta. By Ted Morton, Calgary Herald - April 24, 2020 <https://calgaryherald.com/opinion/columnists/morton-its-sales-tax-time-for-alberta-without-costing-a-penny-more/>

Ted Morton is an Executive Fellow at the School of Public Policy at the University of Calgary and a former minister of finance and energy in the government of Alberta.

THE GOVERNMENT MAY BAN COVID-19 ‘MISINFORMATION.’ CAN THEY REALLY DO THAT?

On April 2, a journalist asked health minister Patty Hajdu about a Bloomberg news report citing U.S. intelligence that had concluded China covered up the extent of its Covid-19 outbreak. The minister responded by telling the journalist that he was “feeding into conspiracy theories that many people have been perpetuating on the internet.” In other words, Hajdu labelled the Bloomberg report fake news. Her reaction surprised many journalists because evidence has been building since January that China has lied about the death toll. On Friday, local officials in Wuhan revised their tally upwards by 50 per cent to 4,600 dead, adding more evidence to the cover-up theory. Now those same journalists are raising concerns that Hajdu’s government is considering a law to punish people who “knowingly spread misinformation that could harm people.” CBC reports that such laws are already in place in Singapore, Thailand and South Africa, and a British MP is pushing for fines against social media companies for failing to take down Covid-19 fake news. By Josh Dehaas,

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION FOUNDATION - Apr 20, 2020 <https://theccf.ca/the-government-may-ban-covid-19-misinformation-can-they-really-do-that/>

WHAT WOULD CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY LOOK LIKE UNDER FORMER LIBERAL PM LOUIS ST. LAURENT? By Shane Miller, The Epoch Times - Updated: April 20, 2020 https://www.theepochtimes.com/what-would-canadian-foreign-policy-look-like-under-former-liberal-pm-louis-st-laurent_3318329.html

EXCERPT: The current Liberal government thinks our unique interests are synonymous with whatever the imagined “consensus” at the U.N. is and is desperately afraid of doing anything to disrupt it. Consequently, it makes foreign policy rudderless since the U.N.’s fatuous promotion of universal values is empty. On paper, the body is preoccupied with furthering certain liberal values but has no way to enforce any sort of standard as it allows any state to be a member no matter their character or governing styles. Since 2016, the Liberals have been pursuing a seat on the U.N. Security Council, which means having to curry favour with some of the world’s dictators and despots to get the required votes, not to mention the political costs in terms of the concessions made to those whose votes Canada is counting on, possibly at the expense of raising the ire of traditional allies. Given how the Chinese regime has co-opted the U.N. and the World Health Organization, and Ottawa’s uncritical obeisance to its dictates, it’s even more clear that this is not a good approach to foreign policy. Member states are not involved in these forums so they can participate in some grand, noble project; they treat them as an extension of great power competition, which manifests in the ridiculous spectacle of China’s presence on a U.N. panel concerning free expression, because values don’t matter as much as who can wield influence. Shane Miller is a political writer based in London.

MALCOLM: WE DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Anyone who raised questions about the link between the new coronavirus and China’s lone biosafety level-4 laboratory located in the same city were attacked and maligned, including True North’s Candice Malcolm. Back in January, Candice raised some of these concerns on her podcast and on social media. But, as has become a sad sign of our times, agenda-driven journalists quickly attempted to discredit these questions. But the theory that COVID-19 leaked from a Chinese laboratory is looking more credible with each passing day. By Candice Malcolm, TRUE NORTH - April 20, 2020 <https://tnc.news/2020/04/20/malcolm-we-deserve-to-know-the-truth-about-the-origins-of-the-coronavirus/>

WASH. TIMES - WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION PEDDLED CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY’S LIES

Trump gives WHO a lesson in accountability. By Robert Knight - - Sunday, April 19, 2020

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/apr/19/world-health-organization-peddled-chinese-communis/>

EXCERPT: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is blaming President Trump for “delays” confronting the coronavirus epidemic in the United States. Do you know what House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was doing on Feb. 24, nearly two months after China admitted it had a crisis in late December? She was on TV, touring San Francisco’s Chinatown, urging people to congregate and patronize local businesses. This was more than three weeks after Mr. Trump issued travel restrictions on Chinese visitors on Jan. 31.

GOLDSTEIN: TRUDEAU'S CLIMATE PLAN HAS BECOME A FARCE

The only time emissions decrease significantly is during global recessions, as occurred in 2008, when Canada’s fell by 62 Mt, or 8.4%, between 2007 and 2009, before starting to rise again as the economy recovered. The same thing is going to happen this year because of the economic crash caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, although we won’t know the numbers until 2022. That because the only thing that cuts emissions is devastating recessions, making the cure far worse than the disease. By Lorrie Goldstein, Toronto Sun - April 18, 2020

<https://torontosun.com/news/national/goldstein-trudeaus-climate-plan-has-become-a-farce>

CANADA SHOULD TAKE ITS CUES FROM COUNTRIES WHERE THE VIRUS IS UNDER CONTROL, NOT FROM THE WHO - One of the lessons from SARS, according to our own SARS Commission, was that “reasonable steps to reduce risk should not await scientific certainty.” As Canada continues to battle the spread of COVID-19, it may be prudent to tweak that advice ever so slightly: “Reasonable steps to reduce risk should not await permission from the WHO.” Canada has models for relatively successful containment in countries such as Taiwan and South Korea – countries that, notably, didn’t wait for WHO instruction to impose lockdown measures. When the time comes to ease up on travel restrictions and isolation measures here in Canada, perhaps that’s where we should be looking for guidance, too – and not with indiscriminate fidelity to the WHO. By ROBYN URBACK, GLOBE AND MAIL APRIL 16, 2020
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-canada-should-take-its-cues-from-countries-where-the-virus-is-under/>

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