

GUNTER: More concerning revelations about the Liberals' latest gun bans

By Lorne Gunter, Toronto Sun - Oct 17, 2020

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I shudder to think what gun owners in this country would have done without Dennis Young, the firearms researcher who has provided so much useful information on federal gun control efforts over the past 25 years.

Working out of his home in Alberta, Young, a former Mountie and Parliament Hill staffer, has dug up more dirt on the Liberals' sneaky efforts to restrict and outlaw guns than any team of researchers.

For instance, it was Young whose determined access to information requests led to most of what we know about the RCMP's systematic gun grab in High River, Alberta in 2013. Following a devastating flood that spring, Mounties went house-to-house in the evacuated town kicking in doors and seizing hundreds of legal guns without warrants.

A couple of years ago, some police chiefs started spinning claims that most guns used to commit crimes in Canada were not smuggled into the country, but rather were stolen from legal Cana

The point of these claims was to show that more gun controls would work to lower crime.

If most crime guns are smuggled in and never legally possessed in the country, then what is the point of putting more restrictions on legal Canadian owners?

However, if police could show that most Canadian crime guns start out as legal guns here, then gun control would be politically sellable.

Young pulled apart this misinformation trick.

He discovered, for instance, that in Toronto police seized a total of 1,740 firearms in 2017. Just 148 were legally acquired in Canada. That's under 9%.

One of my favourite Young stories was the way he merely pointed out that every time a legal firearms owner moves, he or she is obliged to inform Ottawa of his or new address. Ottawa tracks the whereabouts of every law-abiding owner in the country.

Yet, there are 460,000 Canadians who have been forbidden by the courts from owning guns, usually because they have robbed a bank or beaten a spouse or failed to abide by gun registration rules.

However, the government has no clue where these people are or even whether they still possess firearms. Ottawa doesn't track people who have proven they might be dangerous with guns

Now Young has done it again.

Young has discovered that the infamous 1995 firearms act, Bill C-68, was co-drafted by the Coalition for Gun Control, Canada's leading anti-gun lobby group.

It's as if the Chretien government of the day was letting insurance industry executives rewrite personal injury laws or environmentalists dictate federal environmental regulations.

Again using access to information searches, Young has uncovered memos from Justice department bureaucrats detailing the close involvement of Coalition activists in drawing up the law and its subsequent regulations.

The memos are available on thegunblog.ca and detail the timelines of meetings and deadlines for submission of drafts.

Why do 25-year-old photocopies matter as anything more than historical proof the Liberals cannot be trusted on gun issues?

Because C-68 contained a provision permitting cabinet to declare whole categories of guns illegal and order their seizure without any debate in Parliament.

And it was this provision – still in effect – that was used May 1 of this year to outlaw as many as 400,000 guns in Canadians' possession with the mere stroke of a cabinet pen.

This past May, the Trudeau government ordered the owners of nearly 9,500 popular models and variations of shotguns and rifles to stop buying and selling them, transporting them or even shooting them, or face prison.

That is thanks, in large part, to regulations written a quarter century ago by anti-gun zealots working with the federal Liberals