

Swiss Arms Letter Campaign

03/06/2014

Dear Fellow Firearms Enthusiasts,

As you are probably aware as it is front page news in every outlet in Canada right now, the RCMP has declared a war on law abiding gun owners.

In the past week, without the blessing of the electorate, they have:

- 1) Banned the entire Swiss Arms Sporting family of rifles
- 2) Banned the CZ858-2 rifles with an end game to roll in the rest soon
And
- 3) Changed the definition and categorization of antique firearms

These moves unilaterally made by the RCMP have put thousands of otherwise law abiding citizens in legal jeopardy.

While there have been announcements of “amnesties” and such announced, the current legal framework of the firearms act does not allow non-restricted firearms that are not “registered” to be afforded any protection as they cannot now be registered. A double whammy!

We need to band together and act. Without action, we will allow this to pass and pave the way for many more prohibitions and confiscations.

I humbly ask that you heed my call to action and contact your MP, the Prime Minister and the Minister responsible for this portfolio.

How to Most Effectively Communicate With Politicians:

1. Express gratitude for his services and other things he or his party has done.
2. Be respectful and courteous. (None of us responds positively to rudeness or sarcasm)

3. Keep it focused and short. State clearly the one issue you are concerned about.
4. Give them direction: Tell him what action you would like him to take.
5. Remind them you are a voter. Explain that the response to this issue will influence how you vote in the next election.
6. Timing: Get engaged early. Don't wait for the issue to be at the 3rd reading stage before contacting your representative. By then it is too late.

Contact information for MP can be found via your postal code here:

<http://bit.ly/1jDA3zz>.

Contact information for Stephen Harper can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/N7LVyt>.

Contact information for Steven Blaney, the Minister of Public Safety that signed this prohibition order, can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/1koLWJI>

Real letter and faxes are by far the most effective correspondence and carry the most weight. But if you only have time for an email, it still makes them notice.

However, if possible placing telephone calls, and arranging face-to-face meetings with your local MP and conservative party representatives, to let them know this.

We here at TSE are already on this and will be continuing the fight on many levels.

We will keep you posted!

Sincerely,

JR

Owner

The Edge Group

Sample letters that I think are very effective (I did not write them, but I like the tone and content of them):

Sample letter #1

Dear Right Honourable Prime Minister Stephen Harper,

I write to you today as a proud citizen of Canada and safe, lawful firearms owner.

I think we can agree, the recent firearm reclassification fiasco has caused much embarrassment to the Conservative Government of Canada and damaged its loyal Conservative support base. Unbelievably, after the RCMP was publicly admonished in the House of Commons by Minister of Public Safety Steven Blaney, the RCMP turned around and DID IT AGAIN by prohibiting a second type of rifle!

Initially, I was happy to see Minister Blaney announce an amnesty to begin to address this bureaucratic miscarriage of justice by the RCMP. And then I got to thinking what the term 'amnesty' actually means. Here is what I found;

Amnesty by definition

1. a general pardon for offenses, especially political offenses, against a government, often

granted before any trial or conviction.

2. an act of forgiveness for past offenses, especially to a class of persons as a whole.

3. a forgetting or overlooking of any past offense.

How ironic is it that I need an amnesty to prevent the RCMP from seizing my private property and charging me with possession of a prohibited firearm, not to mention that I would face three years in prison, WHEN WE HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG! We have lawfully bought property that was initially approved by the RCMP to be owned after a stringent examination prior to being issued an

FRT#.

This amnesty leaves a lot of questions unanswered:

Are people who own these affected firearms allowed to take them out and shoot as if they are still un-restricted?

Do the prohibited/restricted storage requirements apply or the un-restricted storage requirements apply?

Does the amnesty mean law abiding citizens will have their firearms seized but not charged?

This amnesty needs clarification for a start.

I think it is abundantly clear to you now that there is only one acceptable fix for this situation, the Firearms Act must be rescinded BEFORE the next election. Nothing short of this will address the issue. Sweeping legislative changes must be enacted to recognize the rights of law-abiding Canadians to own and use firearms responsibly.

There can be NO COMPROMISE!

I remain, a loyal Conservative voter,

Sample Letter #2

Dear Right Honourable Prime Minister Stephen Harper;

Thank you for announcing a five year amnesty on March 3 2014 for the effected owners of the Swiss Arms and CZ858 rifles.

I do hope that this is however the first step in a multiple part plan. The amnesty alone will not fix the issue and only grants the owners 5 years until they have criminal charges brought against them. Without being meant for a bigger purpose while you delay charges against these owners this amnesty is at best a stop gap measure.

If this amnesty is not combined with a dismantling of the firearms act and sensible redraft it's nothing more than lip service. This has gone past the point of return and the only way to fix the Swiss Arms, CZ858, and the antiques issue is a full out dismantling of the current firearms act. Simply returning the classifications will not fix the issue as it will happen again when your government is no longer in power. The issue was caused by the deliberate poor wording and onerous laws written within the firearms act.

I request that you dismantle and redraft the Firearms Act as promised prior to your being elected to government. This is the only solution that will legally fix the current issue, as the reasons for reclassification are embedded in, or up for interpretation by poor wording in the firearms act, and if the Firearms Lab is correct these decisions are by law irreversible.

Nothing short of a dismantling and redraft of the firearms act before the next federal election will be acceptable at this point, and it is the only way to fix these issues legally. Until you completely dismantle and redraft the firearms act the time, effort, and finances that I would have put into your Party I am now directing to support the lawsuits of law abiding firearms owners and the Canadian firearms organizations.

Thank you for your time and consideration into this matter. I assure you that should you act on these matters responsibly you will consolidate my vote and financial support for well into the future.

Respectfully yours,

Sample letter #3

Dear Right Honourable Prime Minister Stephen Harper;

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the recent RCMP actions to reclassify two commonly owned firearms from non-restricted directly to prohibited.

As I am sure you are aware, the RCMP have reclassified the Swiss Arms Classic Green and the CZ 858 rifles, which have both been legally sold within Canada to responsible firearms owners for over a decade, from non-restricted status directly to prohibited status without the notification or consultation of firearms owners. As has occurred in the past, it is quite likely there will be little or no compensation for firearms owners that will be forced to surrender these very expensive firearms for destruction. This is essentially theft of these firearms by the RCMP and a punishment of responsible, law abiding firearms owners. I hope the current governing party of Canadian Parliament, the party in which I have placed my unwavering trust to represent myself and the citizens of Canada since I became of voting age, will go above and beyond to rectify this situation in a very timely manner.

Though I do not own one of these firearms, this overnight and "under-the-table" reclassification is of great concern to me and other law abiding firearms owners as it not

only demonstrates the RCMP's lack of respect for individuals such as myself, it suggest a potential precedent for the reclassification of other firearms I do own. I am requesting that you bring these concerns to the caucus of the Conservative Party of Canada and assist the party in acting quickly to reverse this reclassification and provide the RCMP with a set of legally binding terms for classification of firearms. It is my hope the RCMP will be directed to re-evaluate the current classification of ALL firearms as the current classification of many firearms is largely unnecessary as many firearms are currently listed as restricted or prohibited when they should reasonably be listed as non-restricted.

Please help your government show firearms owners you still stand behind them as you did with the dismantling of the infamous long-gun registry.

Thank you very much for your time,

Sample letter #4

Dear Right Honourable Prime Minister Stephen Harper;

I am writing you today to express my disappointment with the current issue regarding the prohibition of the legally owned Swiss Arms and CZ 858 semi automatic sporting rifles.

An amnesty has been issued by MP Blaney, however, an amnesty is designed for a criminal to turn over property that was illegally obtained or used illegally. Ten thousand sport shooters are not criminals, at least not until a few days ago. The firearms act is an outdated, convoluted and ineffective piece of legislation created as a knee-jerk reaction to a terrible tragedy. It impinges on the freedoms of law-abiding sport shooters yet does nothing to protect people, fully automatic weapons are already prohibited.

It is also already illegal to convert a semi-automatic weapon into a fully-automatic.

It is ludicrous to prohibit any rifle which has the "potential" to be made fully automatic. It is akin to banning butter knives as they can be converted into a dangerous weapon used to rob banks.

Criminals do not buy semi-automatic weapons from the store in order to convert them into fully automatics. Criminals buy the real thing off the black market.

Criminals do not abide by magazine capacity limits. It is sport shooters who are handicapped by these limits during shooting competitions.

The firearms act has now allowed the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to seize upwards of 15 million dollars of privately owned property. Now Canada could potentially see ten thousand law abiding citizens of Canada defy this irrational legislation all the way to a prison cell. It should not be up to the RCMP to decide who to make a criminal. This should be the responsibility of a competent and neutral third party assigned by those who we elect. This should be done within the boundaries of a firearms act that is well designed and intended to punish those who abuse firearms, not sport shooters.

You used to believe in the rights of the farmer, rancher, and rural voters, many of whom also enjoy the shooting sports. I ask you when did your support for law-abiding gun owners change?

Sincerely,