

Ontario cops protest plan to scrap gun registry

By Karen Mullins
April 28, 2010

WINDSOR – A Private Member’s Bill that is being considered to scrap the federal Firearms Registry is being protested by Ontario’s Chiefs of Police (OACP) and senior police leaders.

The OACP passed a motion confirming support for the Firearms Registry at its meeting in Windsor and called on Canadian parliamentarians to put public safety ahead of partisan politics.

Chief Daniel Parkinson (Cornwall Community Police Service) said that scrapping the registry would put officers at risk and undermine the police service in solving crimes.

Police officers use the registry to identify and remove firearms involved in dangerous situations. It is also used by law enforcement during investigations to help find the origin of firearms used in crimes and recovered from suspects.

When going on dangerous calls police use the registry to find out who possesses firearms, the number of firearms, and the kind and calibre of firearms that could be encountered.

The registry also helps police to return stolen guns to their rightful owners.

On average the Firearms Registry is queried 11,500 times a day, more than 4.1 million times a year.

“If Canadian Parliamentarians – especially those representing Ontarians – truly care about preventing and combating crime, then they will ensure that police continue to have access to this important public safety tool,” said Chief Parkinson.

“By making information sharing easy, the federal Firearms Registry helps promote consistent approaches to investigations and court proceedings. It is in everyone’s interest to maintain this registry.”

Members of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police serve their communities as the senior police leaders in municipal, regional, provincial, national, and First Nations police services across Ontario.