



Canadian Shooting Sports Association
Association des Sports de Tir du Canada

Leading the way...Chef de file

Fier d'appuyer
Proud Supporter of



ELECTION ALERT – SEPTEMBER 2008

“The federal Conservatives are not merely the best friends we have in Ottawa, they’re the only friends we have in Ottawa!”

Have they been perfect? No. But the stubborn fact remains: EVERY OTHER POLITICAL PARTY IN OTTAWA SUPPORTS A BAN ON HANDGUNS AND (ALL) SEMI-AUTOMATIC FIREARMS. A vote for any other party is a vote for gun bans and confiscations. If you value your firearms and your rights, please vote for Stephen Harper’s Conservatives.

What have Stephen Harper’s Conservatives done for us?

- Introduction of legislation (Bill C-24) which abolishes the requirement to register non-restricted firearms. This legislation was introduced in 2006 and again in 2007 after the Throne Speech. However, the three Opposition party leaders have continued to support the long-gun registry despite its cost overruns and failures.
- Abolition of the Firearms Centre as a stand alone agency and transfer of responsibility for the Firearms Centre back to the RCMP to focus gun control efforts on the criminal use of firearms (2006).
- Introduction of the Tackling Violent Crime Act, which cracks down on the use of restricted or prohibited firearms in criminal activity and firearms crime that is gang related. (Received Royal Assent in February 2008). Mandatory prison terms for serious firearms offences increased to 5 years for a first offence and 7 years for a second or subsequent offence. The Government proposed more stringent prison terms for third convictions, but the Opposition parties removed these provisions.
- The Tackling Violent Crime Act also introduced a reverse onus on bail for those charged with serious firearms offences that are gang related.
- Introduction of an amnesty for firearms owners who may possess unregistered non-restricted firearms with a license or an expired license. (First introduced in 2006, extended in 2007 and again in 2008). This provision removes non-registered long gun owners from criminality until the long gun registry can be dismantled.
- Fee waiver put in place in 2006 for all firearms license renewals (extended in 2008).
- Ending the requirement physically to verify non-restricted firearms (2006).
- Regulatory amendment introduced in 2008 to permit holders of expired Possession-Only Licenses to renew those licenses. This provision removes expired POL holders from criminality.
- Deferral of the United Nations firearms marking regulations until 2009 pending the completion of an independent study to examine the utility and impact of the proposed regulations.
- **Support for licensed law-abiding firearms owners in the face of calls for the banning of particular firearms that have been used by hunters, collectors and sport shooters in Canada for decades. On numerous occasions Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day has stated,**

“There will be NO new gun bans.”



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WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

YOU NEED TO BECOME INVOLVED!!!

We know you have heard this before and you will keep hearing it from us. *Unless we are part of the political process, we will be victims of it.*

How best to confront this Liberal threat? Simple, make sure they are not in power as of October 15. Our best asset to accomplish this is you, our membership.

The polls show the Conservatives are leading but by a narrow margin. Another minority government is not good enough. The opposition parties, united in their disdain for our way of life and our rights, could force through legislation to confiscate our property. We need a majority CPC government to ensure our protection.

- First and foremost, **volunteer** your time to the local Conservative candidate. In many cases, it is not the candidate with the most money who wins, but the one with the most volunteers. *To find your candidate, go to www.conservative.ca.*
- **Donate.** You'll get 75% back when you file your income tax return.
- **Encourage** your fellow firearms owners to put lawn signs in front of their houses. They do make a difference.
- **Talk** to other firearms owners, talk to your relatives, talk to your friends, talk to anyone who stands still long enough to listen.
- Most important of all: **Get Conservative voters to the polling stations** by offering to drive people you know who will vote Conservative. This is going to be the election with the lowest voter turnout so the party that gets the most supporters to the polls will win.
- And finally, **VOTE!!!**

The guns you save will be your own.

Swing Ridings

A number of swing ridings have been identified and could mean the difference between another minority government and a Conservative majority. If you are a resident of any of the following ridings, you and your fellow firearms owners can make a huge difference by contacting your candidate and volunteering.

British Columbia:

Vancouver Quadra, Vancouver Island North, West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country, Fleetwood-Port Kells, Newton-North Delta, Burnaby-Douglas, Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca, Richmond, Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge-Mission, North Vancouver.

Ontario:

Parry Sound-Muskoka, Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, St. Catharines, Hamilton East-Stoney Creek, Brant, Thunder Bay-Superior North, Oakville, Thunder Bay-Rainy River, Huron-Bruce, London-Fanshaw, Ottawa-Orléans, Simcoe North, London West, Barrie, Kitchener-Conestoga, Halton, Peterborough, Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing, Burlington, Mississauga South.



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Quebec:

Louis-Hébert, Ahuntsic, Beauport-Limoilou, Brossard-La Prairie, Papineau, Charlesbourg--Haut-Saint-Charles, Hull-Aylmer, Honoré-Mercier, Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot, Pontiac, Jeanne-Le Ber, Laval-Les Îles, Gatineau, Chicoutimi-Le Fjord, Brome-Missisquoi.

Still not convinced? Consider the following statements from the opposition leaders:

"A new Liberal government will make our cities, our communities, and our schools safer by getting military assault weapons off our streets," said Mr. Dion at an event at Dawson College. "Military assault weapons have no connection to hunting or sport shooting, and serve absolutely no purpose in our society. No one outside of the military needs these weapons and we would all be safer without them in Canada."

The Liberal party website goes on to define a 'military assault weapon' as the following:

Military assault rifles are defined as fully-automatic and selective-fire rifles along with selected semi-automatic rifles designed for military purposes and possessing military features such as: use of a large capacity magazine, folding/telescoping stock, a protruding pistol grip, a bayonet mount, or threaded muzzle or flash suppressor. It is these military features – features whose sole purpose is to render the rifle a more effective tool for killing other people – which make these rifles a threat to public safety. This prohibition would cover the short-barreled Beretta CX4 Storm rifle which was obtained legally by Kimveer Gill and used in the Dawson College shootings two years ago and the Mini-Ruger 14, the weapon used by Marc Lepine at L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal in December 1989 to kill 14 young women. This "definition" includes many current sporting firearms. For example, many Browning rifles have a muzzle brake from the factory.

New Democratic Party Leader Jack Layton has urged the federal government to ban private ownership of semi-automatic rifles like those used in the 2006 shootings at Montreal's Dawson College. "I'm here to urge [the government] to keep up the pressure for the reform of gun laws so that the kinds of guns that were used here would no longer be permitted," the NDP leader told a packed hall of students and staff. Layton said Ottawa needs to bring about stiffer laws to restrict the importation of illegal firearms, as well as maintaining the federal gun registry.

Jack Layton has also made public statements supporting the prohibition of all handguns, echoing the calls from Premier McGuinty and Mayor Miller. This policy would ban some 2,200,000 firearms presently used in legal ways by legal firearms owners.

Green Party Policy: We will introduce balanced and fair measures to eventually ban handguns and semi-automatic firearms (from their website).

The Bloc Québécois has reiterated the same policy as the NDP – ban everything (handguns and semi-autos).



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CILA

Another perspective: Robert Jordan, in Hemingway's "For Whom The Bell Tolls," sides with the Communists not because he is a Communist but rather because they are the only ones fighting the evil and brutal Franco Fascists in the Spanish Civil War. He reasons that even though he does not believe in the Communist Manifesto, still he wants to see Franco overthrown because of the horrible abuses the Fascists are perpetrating against the Spanish people. In other words, "the enemy of my enemy is my friend."

In a similar vein, the firearms owners who are not on side with the CPC for whatever reason can with clear conscience vote for and support the CPC in the upcoming election because all other parties want to see civilian gun ownership in Canada eradicated, the sooner the better, and in the case of the Liberals they will stoop to any low to achieve this end.

We already know to which lengths they will go, and will use the bodies of the victims of violence as a soapbox to stand on as they hoodwink the uninformed public once again. These very victims are the direct result of the policies of criminal coddling and civilian disarmament—both physical and psychological—that date back four decades at least.

This is about a lot more than our lifestyle. It is about a lot more than our inconvenience or expense. This is literally about the very survival of the Western democratic state with its respect for basic human rights and freedoms. It is about the survival of Canada.

There is only one party that does not intend to take us immediately much farther down the road to tyranny, and that is the Conservative Party. While they are not perfect by a long shot, nor do they represent my views in their entirety, again by a long shot, still they are the best we've got at the current time. They are the only party even thinking about moving in the right direction, however incrementally small the steps may be.

Vote which ever way you want, but consider this: A vote for anyone other than the Conservative Party is a vote to have our firearms stolen from us and our freedoms permanently eradicated.

COURT ACTION UPDATE

We have just received a court date for the SAP Challenge. On January 6, 2009, we will appear before the Court of Appeal for Ontario to ask for leave to appeal to the Ontario Supreme Court. Just as a reminder, we are challenging the refusal of the provincial Chief Firearms Officers to issue the Special Authority to Possess transport permits, at the instruction of the CFC. The SAP is the only method currently available to transport prohibited rifles to a range for competition and practice. The Firearms Act does not allow an ATT to be issued for that purpose. You can take them to a gunsmith, a gun show, to a display but you can't shoot them. A very narrow interpretation of the Firearms Act resulted in a CFC directive to cease the issuing of the SAP permits and we are challenging them.

PS: VOTE !!!! Apathy is our biggest enemy.