

As posted on the message board Canadian Gun Nutz at:  
<http://www.canadiangunnutz.com/forum/showthread.php?t=269112>

#### NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION: ELECTION 2008

The Prime Minister has announced a General Election for October 14th.

This has been a long journey for me. When I entered this fight back in 1994, many of you on CGN were not even old enough to hold a firearms license.

I've seen the fortunes of the Canadian firearms community go from slim to none, to desperate, to being on the precipice of defeating the civil disarmament agenda of the gun control lobby in Canada. Despite the desperate firearms policy announcement of Dion's Liberals in this election.

Suffice it to say, if the Liberal party forms government on October 14th, there will be further firearms prohibitions and confiscations. It's our job to prevent that from happening

The election of January 2006 was a pivotal one. In 2006, it was imperative that the firearms community elect a Conservative government to stave off Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin's handgun ban, and the further entrenchment of the Liberal C68 Firearms Act.

This election is also pivotal. The mandate the Conservatives won in 2006 was not enough to replace the Liberal C68 Firearms Act. There are some factors in this 2008 election that the firearms community must consider as we go forward to October 14th.

#### WORST CASE SCENARIO

If the CPC is held to the same minority they won in 2006, Dion will still be ejected as Liberal party leader and there will be a leadership review and campaign in which Michael Ignatieff and Bob Rae will vie for power. There will be a leadership vacuum in the party for a period, but once the Liberal Party reconstitutes itself under one of these candidates, it will be possible for it to start to rebuild its national support and once again present a serious threat to the CPC in Parliament. The NDP will return to its traditional third party role in Canadian politics, and the Green Party will fade in popularity.

Under this scenario, it will be difficult to get through Parliament the kind of comprehensive firearms law reform we need to drive the final nail in the coffin of Bill C68 and the Liberal civil disarmament agenda. The best we could probably hope for would be legislation along the lines of that already proposed by the government, Bill C-24: paperless federal or provincial firearms registries with government approval required for all firearms transfers, private or business. There is also a danger of another minority CPC government simply devolving firearms control systems to the provinces in order to achieve some kind of peace on the issue. This could mean provinces like Ontario and Quebec maintaining provincial firearms registries, licensing regulations and punitive enforcement environments in regards to lawfully owned firearms and law abiding firearms owners, while provinces like Alberta and British Columbia choose not to continue to go down the failed road of gun control and continue with only federal controls, such as they may be.

#### THE BIGGEST DANGER TO THE FIREARMS COMMUNITY

The continuance of the mandatory license as contained in sections 91 and 92 of the Criminal Code of Canada for firearms ownership. At best, this could be modified to a lifetime license (unless revoked) with no period for renewal. Although this would be certainly less onerous than the licensing system currently in place, it is nonetheless unacceptable. Mandatory licensing for ownership or possession of firearms is neither practical for Canadian realities, nor acceptable for the ownership of private property. The Government of Canada and its bureaucracies must cease making war on Canadians for paper crimes. Firearms licensing must be removed from the Criminal Code of Canada. National Firearms Association has offered an alternative in the Practical Firearms Control System, and will continue to advise the government

to replace mandatory licensing with certification.

The firearms bureaucracy will further entrench itself. It will continue to resist any efforts of the firearms community or government to change or reform firearms regulations. One of the biggest political problems for the firearms community is the culture of the firearms control bureaucracy. The bureaucrats of the Canadian firearms center continue to follow the mandate of the previous Liberal government, and Liberal and Progressive Conservative governments before it; to remove firearms from private hands by any means possible.

There would be no review of OIC's, or restricted or prohibited classifications. The status quo will rule the day, and it will be difficult to convince the government to make changes. Furthermore, another minority Conservative government will continue to be vulnerable to being pressured into more firearms prohibitions and restrictions when future tragedies take place and are exploited by the gun control lobby and opposition parties.

### BEST CASE SCENARIO

If the CPC wins either a strong minority or the best case scenario, a majority in Parliament, this will indicate a major shift in Canadian politics. There will be a power vacuum on the left, with the Liberal, NDP and Green parties all trying to vie for that segment of the vote in order to position themselves as an alternative to the CPC. Traditional Liberal supporters will have to reassess their loyalty to that brand, many of the more left leaning ones will defect to the NDP and Greens.

The political center will move right in Canada.

The Liberal Party will be in chaos as it enters its inevitable leadership race. There will be a huge battle to decide the political future of the Liberal Party. There will be a huge battle in that party to determine what that party should look like. A "centrist " party along the lines of those of Chretien and Martin that can take votes away from the CPC, or a left wing party to coalesce that vote in Canada. However, the opposition parties will be hard pressed to stand in the way of the government's renewed mandate from Canadians and its agenda in the early days of a Conservative majority government.

The Liberals, Bloc and NDP will still oppose firearms law reforms, but if the government has enough seats to pass major legislation, there won't be much they can do about it. Although the opposition parties are ideologically similar on the firearms issue, it will be difficult for them to work together towards a common agenda under these circumstances. Gun control will not be chief amongst their concerns, and MP's of these parties will be more vulnerable to the demands of constituents that the Liberal Firearms Act be replaced. It will be extremely difficult for opposition party leaders to whip votes on government firearms legislation, making it possible for opposition MP's to vote with the government, where constituents demand it.

This is a very similar situation as occurred in the general election of 1993, when the Liberals won their massive majority. Setting the stage for the introduction of the C68 Firearms Act.

### AFTER THE ELECTION

Defeating the Liberal C68 Firearms Act is a symbolic act that will set the agenda of the gun control lobby in Canada back twenty years. Although we will always be vulnerable to attack from regulation, no federal party will be able to introduce comprehensive legislation along the lines of C68 attacking the firearms community for this period.

Ideally, for the comprehensive firearms law reform we want, we need the same set of circumstances as the Liberal Government of Jean Chretien enjoyed in 1993.

However, there is no guarantee. The problem with Conservative majority governments of the past is, well, they've been too conservative. Or shall we say Red Tory. They receive a majority mandate from Canadians, but they don't want to do anything with it.

There is less of a danger of this with this new Conservative Party, and with this Conservative leader. He is cut from a different mold than previous Prime Ministers, he is an economist, former head of the National Citizen's Coalition, a former Reform Party activist and MP. He is not your traditional Canadian Tory. Stephen Harper represents the new face of Canadian conservatism, one that has rejected statism, socialism, red toryism, and all of the failed compromises that have worked Canada into a sorry state over the last 40 years.

The campaign the firearms community will mount to convince the government to come through, substantively and completely, on their promise to replace the Liberal C68 Firearms Act will rival the campaign we fought against it back in 1994/1995.

From meetings, talks and discussions I've had with our friends in the Conservative Party, I am confident that they are sincere in paying off this long standing promise and debt to the long suffering firearms community of Canada. But our biggest enemy here is inertia. Sometimes in the face of difficulties and adversity, it is easier just to do nothing or pursue half measures. The Liberal Government resisted this in 1995 with their C68 legislation, and imposed almost exactly the firearms law the gun control lobby demanded. The Conservatives must be similarly confident.

My predecessor, the late David A Tomlinson, National President of the National Firearms Association of Canada long ago identified a set of political factors that had to be achieved in order that the Liberal civil disarmament agenda be stopped and true reform of firearms laws could take place.

Firstly, there would have to be a political revolution in Canada. This happened with the advent of the Reform Party under Preston Manning, and the wiping out of the red tory movement and the Progressive Conservative Party.

Secondly, the very public failure of a major piece of firearms legislation. This has happened with the Liberal Bill C68 Firearms Act and its universal firearms registry. Civil disobedience on the part of one part of the firearms community, political rejection on the part of the entire firearms community, incompetence on the part of the Liberal government that conceived it, the Liberal justice ministers and the Liberal bureaucrats that attempted to implement it, this all doomed it to failure. The Auditor General's report of 2002 destroyed the credibility of their Firearms Act and their firearms program with Canadians, which will never be reclaimed. It was proven that the Liberals had lied to Canadians. It was proven that the dire warnings of the firearms community in terms of this legislation were irrefutably correct. It is proven that the Liberal C68 Firearms Act has not made Canada safer. It took thirteen years, but it was finally achieved.

Thirdly, the election of a government with a promise to end the offensive Liberal Firearms Act, introduce a new Firearms Act and reform firearms laws. This took place on January 23rd, 2006.

However, it was a minority government without the votes in Parliament it needed to fulfill its promise.

The Conservative Government of Stephen Harper has had only one goal since January 2006; set the national political stage to facilitate its re election with the majority needed to legislate concisely and effectively.

This has not been the main concern of the Canadian firearms community, which has had to continue to suffer under the Liberal Firearms Act and the Liberal Firearms bureaucracy during this time. More of our community have continued to be picked off by the firearms bureaucracy and its enforcement agencies through the many regulatory and paperwork offenses provided for in the Liberal C68 Firearms Act. That firearms bureaucracy has defiantly given the middle finger to the Conservative government during this time, either ignoring them or telling the government to introduce and pass new legislation if they don't like the way the Firearms Act was being enforced. The opposition parties in Parliament have promised to defeat any attempt, however benign, by the government to introduce any firearms law reforms. You saw how they

neutered the Conservative crime bills and others in committee hearings, imagine what they would have done to firearms legislation. The Eastern media, cultural and political elite have been ready to pounce on the government for any attempt at firearms law reforms, to characterize any deviation from the Liberal firearms agenda of the last thirty years as the importation of the Second Amendment.

#### ADVISEMENT OF THE NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION

National Firearms Association's advice to the firearms community is to actively support Conservative Party candidates and the Conservative Party of Canada in this election. In 1993, the firearms community abandoned the Progressive Conservative Party due to it's Bill C17 Firearms Act - the precursor legislation to Bill C68, and contributed to it's worst election defeat in Canadian history. The firearms community instead decided to make an investment in the Reform Party of Canada, the United Alternative movement, the Canadian Alliance Party, and its ultimate successor, the Conservative Party of Canada under Stephen Harper.

Despite its inability to introduce substantial firearms law reform in this Parliament, National Firearms Association advises that the Conservatives are still worthy of the firearms community's support. Party policy is generally sound, its MP's far more educated on firearms issues than those of the other parties, its ideological and philosophical base is far superior to that of the Progressive Conservative Party of the past and the opposition parties of today. The Liberal, NDP and Green Parties all have platforms of destroying the firearms community of Canada, and continuing the Liberal C68 Firearms Act and the civil disarmament agenda.

Bottom line: Stephen Harper must get his majority. With this goal in mind, firearms owners are encourage to vote in advance polls so as to ensure a strong turn out of our support base. We must get out our vote.

Help us do it.

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