

## COMMENTARY: GREEN PARTY OF CANADA SPEAKS OUT FOR GUN OWNERS



In the spirit of non-partisan support for all federal parties who stand up for gun owners, it is notable that the Green Party of Canada may be building a bold policy platform to win our allegiance.

Will it translate to votes and seats in the upcoming federal election? Green Party leader Elizabeth May, M.P. (Saanich-Gulf Islands) and recent Green acquisition Bruce Hyer, M.P. (Thunder Bay Superior North) are declaring their own war on the RCMP for the recent Swiss Arms and CZ-858 rifle reclassification. For the first time in memory, the Parliament of Canada may have more than one political party competing for the firearms vote. After years in the political wilderness, are gun owners being presented with a choice?

Should responsible firearms owners care that they are receiving new-found support from a party with only two M.P.s sitting in the House of Commons? Absolutely. May and Hyer are not your garden variety politicians. Both are capable of exposing the issues they endorse under the bright lights of public scrutiny. Perhaps the Green Party has been convinced to help us expose the unworkable *Firearms Act*.

Elizabeth May was arguably the most effective speaker in past televised leadership debates, and is regarded as personable and open-minded by many House of Commons colleagues. She was named one of the world's most influential women by *Newsweek* in 2010 and voted Parliamentarian of the Year in 2012. Against his party's wishes, Bruce Hyer steadfastly opposed the long-gun registry on behalf of his constituents and eventually left the NDP to sit as an independent before he joined the Greens.

Check out this excerpt from a recent Elizabeth May letter to a gun owner:

"Thank you for your message regarding the RCMP prohibition of SAN Swiss Arms PE90 Classic Green carbine and Czech CZ858 (2P, 2V, 4P variant) rifles. This unfortunate situation

shows that our country's current firearms regime lacks transparency and may be unnecessarily complicated.

“The Green Party of Canada supports fair, balanced gun control legislation that protects the legal rights of hunters, sport shooters and collectors, while helping to keep our communities safe. Greens believe that responsible citizens pursuing legal activities with firearms ought to be free from the threat of criminalization, and that firearms regulations should be clear and straightforward. The re-classification of any legal firearm to prohibited status needs to be backed up with justification, and the reasons for prohibition made clear and public.”

For his part, Bruce Hyer has penned a searing letter under his House of Commons letterhead to RCMP Commission Bob Paulson. Hyer is demanding an explanation for the reclassification that the Mounties have so far side-stepped. He says he may need to meet with Paulson, Deputy Commissioner Henschel of Specialized Policing Services and the Director of the Canadian Firearms Program. This guy is playing some hardball for gun owners' rights.

At this stage, May and Hyer are seeking buy-back compensation for affected gun owners. It's not the optimum goal of most gun owners, but it does show that the Greens are willing to dust off the firearms file. They know that gun rights may not find favour with many Canadians, yet they are willing to go there anyway. We continue to hope that the Conservatives will ramp up fairness in firearms laws, too, but the process has been unnecessarily agonizing to date.

While the Green Party's new policy direction reveals hope, Elizabeth May clearly requires counsel from a gun owners' perspective. Speaking during the debate to end the gun registry, she advocated against transporting firearms in vehicles. She needs to better understand that while criminals ignore gun control laws, sport shooters are handcuffed by them. May has also indicated her party wants the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty approved and signed by Canada. As usual, the gun bloggers are already at work cutting May to ribbons for appearing two-faced. Let's take a beat and simply ask her if she might reconsider those previous anti-gun notions. People change – and the CSSA will find out if the Greens are squarely on the side of gun owners long before the election.

Here's what gun bloggers don't know – Elizabeth May and Bruce Hyer are close to Garry Breitkreuz, M.P., who is the best friend of Canadian sport shooters in Parliament. Hyer and Breitkreuz share duties as co-chairs of the parliamentary Outdoors Caucus and May is a member, too. The record shows that May and Hyer have long been vocal boosters of wilderness conservation through responsible environmental stewardship.

Should firearms owners consider getting cozy with the Green Party? Perhaps, given that we might finally have an answer to that burning question the Conservative government asks when it pushes us onto the back burner: “Who else are gun owners gonna vote for?” If the government thinks supporting sport shooters in mere half-measures is sufficient, maybe May and Hyer have provided the answer.

Bottom line is, it's still too early to tell. Ms. May's statement show a gleam of light and truly, the firearms community will never be safe until all political parties support us. This simple fact

makes her perceived direction worth heeding. Political leopards can change their spots, it has happened many times before and will again.

The time may come when gun owners need to decide whether supporting the Greens would risk splitting the vote in Justin Trudeau's favour. That would be a problem for everyone – and a risk that Prime Minister Harper should not be willing to take. That puts the (musket) ball in his court.

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## **COMMENTARY: IS SEEKING WORKABLE SOLUTIONS WITH LEGISLATORS SUCH A BAD THING?**



As the debate for firearms freedoms gathers steam, the comments of some gun owners on social media sites is bewildering.

Freedom is an emotional issue that invites anger, bravado and frustration. All those emotions are planted daily into the nation's firearms forums and blogs. Meanwhile, anti-gun advocates need only sit quietly and enjoy the show as firearms owners feast on their own. Exchanging ideas on forums is a good thing, but publicly ripping fellow gun owners to shreds demeans the integrity of our goals. To the latter group we implore: Just. Stop. Typing.

It should be obvious by now that the Canadian Shooting Sports Association (CSSA) board of directors rarely engages in public debates through social media. We do have a few hardy souls who help to keep the CSSA record straight in blogs and forums, and we are grateful to them for injecting some sanity into the discussion. But, publicly unfolding an organization's strategic planning usually backfires, so we don't do it. Does your company willingly hand over its business plan to its competitors?

The anonymous nature of forums provides an ironic battleground that can create enemies among those who share the same goals. Witness all the sniping among unnamed gun owners in blogs. Insulting personal attacks do not beget useful policy, but it does provide much late-night entertainment for the anti-gun crowd. No doubt they sleep very well after delighting in the inner turmoil of irate gun owners.

Internal debate can help define the message, but some forum threads escalate until common sense goes missing. By way of example, some bloggers have suggested that the CSSA is perfectly fine with maintaining the crippling legislation contained in bills C-17 and C-68. With this, the mind reels. Countless media interviews, parliamentary testimonies and position papers over many years show that CSSA is a pioneer in seeking an end to all legislative shackles that torment gun owners. Maybe the wonky rants are coming from over-zealous firearms newbies or anti-gun trolls. Unfortunately, both factions lob grenades into the social media debate that spawns predictable back-biting carnage.

Here's the thing: Bloggers can stop asking the CSSA board to take part in social media debates. It doesn't serve our end game and we won't take our eye off the big prize. Rolling back gun control laws means focusing on the small group of elected Canadians who have the juice to effect change. Our debate is taking place in the political inner circle. Regardless of all the white noise on current gun forums, the real action is inside that circle. Would any gun owner seriously suggest we abandon that approach?

There are only two ways to effect real political change: 1) rebel and try to take over the government, or 2) negotiate with those who already run the place. Any other option is more about attempting public relations rather than government relations. Throwing eggs at the doors of Parliament and threatening to cease supporting the government 20 months before an election is a waste of time, energy and membership dues. Everyone has a voice, but it requires some finesse to find ears willing to listen. At the same time, gun owners do themselves a favour by politely writing to their M.P.s for a return to legislative fairness that is in everyone's best interest.

The CSSA approach is frustrating some gun owners and we know that. Our representatives who function within government circles have been called "toadies" who are accused of drinking the government's gun control kool-aid. We make no apologies for searching for a solution that works for both gun owners and the government. It is the only outcome that can work. If this approach isn't effective in a year from now, there will be plenty of time to cast aspersions toward a government that failed us. That Plan B is a last resort.

Unfortunately, some gun owners have already embraced Plan B. Condemning the current government 20 months out from the federal election is handing the keys to a Liberal party poised to rid Canada of all privately-owned firearms.

And that's no plan at all.

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**HELP SUPPORT THE GREAT WORK THE CSSA DOES TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS. [DONATE HERE](#)**

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**CSSA 2014 Annual General Meeting and Banquet**  
**Saturday, April 26, 2014 - 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM - Salon ABC**  
**Marriott Fallsview, 6740 Fallsview Boulevard,**  
**Niagara Falls, ON L2G 3W6 (905) 358-4701**



The Canadian Shooting Sports 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for April 26, 2014 in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Special rates are available at the Marriott Fallsview so book with us soon.

To reserve rooms at the special CSSA rate contact the Marriott Fallsview at the phone number above.

### **CSSA 2014 Annual General Meeting Update**

Following is information on the voting procedures and ballots.

**Voting and Proxy Procedures:** In order to ensure all members have an opportunity to vote at the Annual General Meeting, we use the following procedures in relation to ballots and proxies. You will find your ballot/proxy with several items listed for your input. If you are not able to attend the AGM, the document permits you to vote on the issues contained and send in your ballot by mail, fax or email. It also asks whether you will assign your proxy to the Chair of the meeting (usually the President) or to someone else who will be in attendance. It also gives you the option of instructing your proxy to vote in a specific manner if you wish.

**Important Note:** All ballot/proxy forms must be received at the CSSA office by 4:30 pm Friday, April 18, 2014 to be valid. No proxies will be accepted after that date (including the AGM meeting). These may be mailed into the office. Faxes and scans of the original document will also be accepted.

### **STICK TO YOUR GUNS DINNER**

Niagara Falls 2014  
Saturday April 26, 2014

Marriott Fallsview  
6740 Fallsview Boulevard  
Niagara Falls, ON  
Cocktails at 6:00 - Dinner at 7:00

Book your tickets before April 11th and receive \$20 worth of FREE raffle tickets.

Your \$60.00 donation/ticket includes:

A great evening  
Finest Roast Beef / Chicken All-you-can-Eat Buffet  
Thousands of \$\$\$\$ worth of raffle prizes and auctions

### **Great Guest Speakers**

**Garry Breitkreuz M.P.** (Yorktown-Melville) SK  
**Kory Teneycke** - Vice-President of Sun News Network  
**Dr. Caillin Langmann** - MD, PhD, Scientific researcher

### **TO ORDER TICKETS:**

Phone 416-679-9959 Fax 416-679-9910  
Toll Free: 1-888-873-4339  
E-mail orders to: [info@cdnshootingsports.org](mailto:info@cdnshootingsports.org)

### **DON'T FORGET TO ENTER THE CSSA GUN DRAW – WIN TWO RIFLES!**

1. Winchester's 1873 rifle was the “Rifle that Won the West.” It was chambered for new, more powerful cartridges like the .44-40 and the .45 Colt.



2. The new Uberti Silverboy is the ultimate small-bore lever-action rifle chambered in .22 LR. This is an all-original lever-action firearm, based on the classic styling of the old west lever gun. The Silverboy embodies the best features of the proven lever-gun design that goes back as far as the mid-1800s.



Be the proud new owner of these gorgeous new rifles. Donate \$10 to the Canadian Shooting Sports Association and you get a free chance to win these great guns. Three chances for \$20, ten for \$50 and a \$100 donation can get you 20 chances. As a special bonus, a \$100 donor will also receive a free one-year gift CSSA membership. Keep it yourself or give it to a friend or family member.

These rifles will find a new home at CSSA's Annual General Meeting on April 26, 2014 in the Niagara region. Help us continue to defend your sport, your guns and your rights. Your donation helps us help you. To purchase tickets call the CSSA at 1-888-873-4339. Thanks!

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**NIPISSING RIFLE AND REVOLVER CLUB 2014 GUN SHOW:** Sunday, September 7, 2014 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. – 1867 Bond Street, North Bay, Ontario (at Gormanville Road) – Ontario Fur Harvesters Building – Admission is \$6 (seniors \$5)

Buy, sell trade and display – Rifles - Shotguns - Hand Guns - Cartridges – Archery – Militaria  
Knives - Fishing Equipment – Taxidermy - Trapper's Displays - Books - Antiques - Crafts

Tables for rent – act now! For information call John Black at 705-495-1524 or email [johnlindablack@cogeco.ca](mailto:johnlindablack@cogeco.ca) Wayne Montgomery at 705-474-6656 or email [sundance@ontera.net](mailto:sundance@ontera.net)

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**20TH ANNUAL EGANVILLE GUN SHOW:** Eganville Gun Show on August 16 from 9 a.m. To 4 p.m. and August 17 from 9 a.m. To 3 p.m. At Eganville Arena, 178 Jane Street, Eganville, Ontario. For information contact Basil at 613-628-3296 or see [www.edsc.ca](http://www.edsc.ca)

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**14TH ANNUAL PERTH GUN, HUNTING AND SPORTSMAN SHOW 2014:** June 14-15 at the Perth & District Community Centre in Perth, Ontario. \$45 per 8 foot table for the weekend. Each year the show is getting bigger and better with over 2,000 visitors expected. There will be over 225 tables of hunting, fishing and outdoor items. Table inquiries: call Jeff at 905-623-1778. Cedarmountain Rod & Gun email [Canadiangunowner@rogers.com](mailto:Canadiangunowner@rogers.com)



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**CANADA IN THE ROUGH – AMAZING ATLANTIC ADVENTURE:** This week Keith Beasley and Mike Roundhouse of Rocky Outdoor Gear venture to Atlantic Canada and enjoy the greatness of Prince Edward Island. They target the amazing Atlantic flyway and its outstanding goose and duck numbers, especially the Black Duck. While there, they get an offer they can't refuse and venture out in the big blue ocean and tangle with a 900 lb. tuna! See the teaser at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=331jEguyFUA>

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**ROB FURLONG'S STRAIGHT SHOT:** Link to Rob Furlong's latest *Straight Shot* episode where he reviews the SR25 rifle with Darren Cole, President of One Shot Tactical. Share it with all your gun-loving friends and family. <http://bit.ly/1kUYMzR>

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**STOEGER CANADA HIRES NEW GENERAL MANAGER:** Stoeger Canada (1990) Ltd. announced today the promotion of Mr. Spyros Chrysochou to the position of General Manager of the Company. Before his promotion, Mr. Chrysochou previously served as Stoeger Canada's National Sales Manager for Law Enforcement and Defense. Prior to joining Stoeger Canada, Chrysochou served as Hunter Education Coordinator for the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and in other management and sales capacities in Ontario.

"Spyros brings a continued, strong connection with our customers to this important position," commented Jeff Reh, President of Stoeger Canada. "We are very confident that under Spyros' leadership, Stoeger Canada will not only continue its emphasis on prompt and effective customer service but will also open new product lines and new service opportunities for the Canadian market."

Stoeger Canada is the exclusive importer and distributor within Canada of goods and services made by the global network of companies owned by Beretta Holding S.p.A. Those companies and products include Beretta (for firearms of many types, including tactical, hunting and shooting sports shotguns, handguns, rifles and related clothing and accessories), Benelli (hunting and shooting sports shotguns as well as tactical shotguns), Franchi (hunting and shooting sports shotguns), Sako and Tikka (hunting and tactical bolt action rifles), Uberti (Old West replica firearms), Steiner and Burris (high quality binoculars, rifle scopes and targeting scopes) and Laser Devices Inc. (tactical and civilian laser aiming devices and flashlight accessories).

When asked to comment on his new position, Chrysochou replied "I am honored to assume this responsibility and I look forward to continuing Stoeger Canada's increasing engagement within the hunting, shooting sports, law enforcement and military communities. The future of Stoeger Canada is bright and we have many new initiatives being planned that we will unveil in the months and years to come."

Chrysochou's promotion to General Manager was occasioned by the passing of Stoeger Canada's previous General Manager, Mr. John Mock, who died of a heart attack on February 16. Of that,



Reh noted "No one more than John would have wanted both the Company and all within it to continue in his absence. John set a legacy for intelligence and inspiration that we will always aspire to meet and I know that promoting Spyros from within our organization and continuing the close bonds within our company and with regard to our customers are exactly what John would have hoped for." (**Stoeger Canada media release – March 19, 2014**)

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**FORMER COP SAYS “MOUNTIES TRAMPLING GUN OWNERS:** The RCMP recently reclassified the Swiss Arms Classic Green carbine as a prohibited weapon. With the stroke of a pen, the Mounties essentially criminalized more than 1,000 Canadians who own the weapon. How or why they did this remains confusing and, as yet, unanswered by the RCMP.

This was done without the consideration of the federal government, responsible for changes to the Criminal Code of Canada and the Firearms Act, which defines what is a restricted weapon and what is a prohibited weapon. On the surface, this seems to be a dramatic overreach. The RCMP was given the responsibility for administration of the Firearms Act in 2006. Administration is one thing — deciding what should or should not be legal is a whole other kettle of fish.

Federal Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney called for an “urgent review” of the “unfortunate decision” and vowed not to let it happen again. The government later issued an Order in Council granting amnesty as a temporary measure to blunt what the Mounties tried to do.

This comes after last summer’s controversy in High River, Alta. The RCMP in that flood-ravaged town entered residences that were vacated on police orders when the waters were at their zenith. The Mounties kicked in doors and seized whatever firearms they could find, ostensibly for safety reasons. Since then, they have been anything but transparent in explaining themselves to the public.

I am often accused of being an apologist for the police. In reality, I explain things in a manner the police cannot seem to do themselves. But this latest action, and what happened in High River, simply puzzles me.

The police are not legislators. Our system of government requires that we elect MPs and the party with the most members in the House of Commons forms government. The government has the right and responsibility to enact legislation that the RCMP are to enforce. They cannot and should not have the legal ability to decide themselves what should or should not be criminalized. The commissioner of the RCMP, Bob Paulson, has his hands full trying to combat the culture of bullying and harassment in that organization. Why he would agree to this bureaucratic overreach is stunning.

Canada is not a police state. If Paulson does not understand this, he needs to be replaced. And frankly, that’s not the only reason.

*Leo Knight is a former police officer, security expert and host of [primetimecrime.com](http://primetimecrime.com). (Opinion column – 24 Hours Vancouver – March 18, 2014)*

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**JOHN LOTT DEBATES ANTI-GUNNIES:** Video of University of California at Berkeley Debate on Gun Control – if you have time, this is a good debate (2-to-1 panelists, so the other side got twice as much time, but it still worked out well).

<http://crimepreventionresearchcenter.org/2014/03/video-of-university-of-california-at-berkeley-debate-on-gun-control/>

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#### **POINT AND COUNTERPOINT:**

Guns Far More Likely to Be Used in Suicide Than in Killing Bad Guys: Why firearms are, in fact, a healthcare issue – <http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2014/03/guns-far-more-likely-to-be-used-in-suicide-than-in-killing-bad-guys/284537/> (By **Olga Khazan** – **The Atlantic** – **March 20, 2014**)

vs.

Would Banning Firearms Reduce Murder and Suicide? A Review of International and Some Domestic Evidence – <http://www.garymauser.net/pdf/KatesMauserHJPP.pdf> (By **Don B Kates** and **Gary Mauser** – **Spring 2007**)

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#### **THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

The CSSA is the voice of the sport shooter and firearms enthusiast in Canada. Our national membership supports and promotes Canada's firearms heritage, traditional target shooting competition, modern action shooting sports, hunting, and archery. We support and sponsor competitions and youth programs that promote these Canadian heritage activities.

To join or donate to the CSSA, visit: <http://www.cdnshootingsports.org/membership.html>

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CANADIAN SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION / CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR  
LEGISLATIVE ACTION

116 Galaxy Blvd, Etobicoke ON M9W 4Y6

Phone 416-679-9959, Fax: 416-679-9910

Toll Free: 1-888-873-4339

E-Mail: [info@cdnshootingsports.org](mailto:info@cdnshootingsports.org)

Website [www.cdnshootingsports.org](http://www.cdnshootingsports.org)