



SUBMISSION TO CSP6

Canada's National Firearms Association – August 2020

The NFA is the largest advocacy organization representing the rights of firearms owners and users in Canada. I wish to commend President Federico-Villegas for his leadership in making this conference work in this alternative format. As well, I appreciate the opportunity for thorough presentations to be submitted, rather than short verbal statements. The NFA looks forward to the return to circumstances in which delegates will be able to meet to discuss and share ideas face to face. I would like to make six points regarding the ATT and civil ownership of firearms.

First, the President's working paper emphasizes communication and reporting. It is not surprising that states are reluctant to share information about their arms trade activities as such information may have strategic value. Our direct concern is with the apparent interest in domestic control and sharing of information about ordinary citizens who own or use firearms. Recommendation number five from that paper would in effect provide for the creation of a global registry of firearms owners. The NFA strongly opposes such communication as it would merely be a venue to create additional ineffective and offensive gun control regimes while sharing private information internationally for a highly dubious purpose.

Second, the uncontested Canadian research is clear that Canadian firearms control efforts have had no effect on crime rates. Gun control legislation has also not affected homicide or suicide rates. To that end I have referenced Dr. Caillin Langmann, PhD, MD's 2012 paper and linked below his June 2020 statistical analysis paper, both of which support that assertion. The Canadian research has proven that efforts to control civilians and their firearms is highly bureaucratic, inefficient, and has no effect upon reducing criminal misuse of firearms. Dr. Langmann's analysis of government data is clear that none of Canada's firearms control efforts have had any effect upon reducing violent crime, homicide, or suicide rates¹. Gun control efforts in Canada are thus entirely aimed at the wrong targets - civil society rather than criminal activity, and legitimate businesses rather than illicit trade. Ownership and use of firearms for defence, sport shooting activity, hunting, and for historical and personal reasons all have value. We continue to assert that civilians must have improved, not reduced, access to arms, especially for defence². An international agreement protecting the right of self defence would be a much better effort than more gun control.

Third, the activities of hunting, target shooting, collecting, self-defence, and the manufacture and sale of firearms, ammunition, and accessories are essential to support economies around the world. Canada and the United States continue to serve as important examples of this major benefit, with sport shooting, hunting, and civil society's firearms related activities generating billions of dollars of economic gain³. Hunting is not just important in North America. That activity, including safari hunts, is also of important economic significance in Africa where it brings great value to people and their communities. Hunters contribute some \$200 million to African economies each year, and this money directly supports animal conservation⁴.

Fourth, Canadians, including aboriginal people, use firearms and ammunition responsibly in support of hunting, target shooting, history, and defence⁵. These important activities provide healthy economic, recreational and defensive opportunities. Unfortunately, Canada's Liberal government has taken a flawed ideological position that attacks this important aspect of Canadian culture and society, with no benefit to the public. The Canadian firearms control efforts are simply not supported by evidence.

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Fifth, ammunition from military surplus sources is an inexpensive way for former military stocks to be consumed in a safe and responsible manner by civilian enthusiasts far from conflict zones. Efforts to add additional marking to ammunition will merely impede responsible use, and do nothing to stem illegal activities. UN efforts need to remain focused on state actors, terror groups, and areas of conflict, not over regulating civilian firearm communities within stable states.

Sixth, Canadian firearm owner and user groups continue to have serious significant concerns about the frequent misdirected attempts to attach civilian firearms ownership to problems of international mass violence. There is a tremendous difference between the violent activities of state actors and terrorists, and the peaceful nature of people who use firearms and ammunition as tools in their everyday lives. In our estimation, continued attacks on the rights and freedoms of civil society firearms owners will have significant unintended consequences of resistance to gun control efforts and a loss of respect for law and order. The NFA maintains that the ATT should clearly and specifically exclude civilian firearms. Internationally regulatory efforts need to focus on conflict zones, warlords, and bad actors rather than civilian disarmament – when governments do not provide security, or even participate in attacking their own people, it is incumbent on people to protect themselves. Taking away firearms from people makes them and the world less safe.

Respectfully submitted,



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¹ Dr. Caillin Langmann. "Canadian Firearms Legislation And Effects On Homicide 1974 To 2008", in *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, August 2012; vol. 27, 12: pp. 2303-2321., first published on February 10, 2012. See especially his new June 2020 work: Dr. Caillin Langmann. Editor James Curtis West, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, USA. *Effect of firearms legislation on suicide and homicide in Canada from 1981 to 2016*. PLoS ONE 15(6): e0234457. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0234457>, June 18, 2020, also available at: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0234457&fbclid=IwAR1UoPwNDIutZKliXPVzACG7uAVXh2I2SsP95G-jfUMJn0T9uRLhRh6SY>

² Jan Arno Hessbruegge, PhD. *Human Rights and Personal Self-Defense in International Law*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017 contains an excellent presentation of the situation regarding the right of self defense and the international context. It is telling that there is no international agreement protecting personal defense against atrocities or genocide.

³ The economic effect in Canada has been documented in Canada. Tourism Commission. *Sport Fishing and Game Hunting in Canada - An Assessment on the Potential International Tourism Opportunity*. CTC Research and Evaluation, October 2012, pages 3-29.

⁴ Alexander Richard Brackowski. COVID-19, Africa's conservation and trophy hunting dilemma. Menafn.com, June 28, 2020, available at: https://menafn.com/1100398302/COVID-19-Africas-conservation-and-trophy-hunting-dilemma?fbclid=IwAR0P1Xecum1zfGoLtvGDIYyn_8SVZON3Tjb0BActHQZKnIOL3fhWxZBFB08

⁵ See Mauser, Prof. Gary. *Hubris in the North*, Fraser Institute digital Publication, June 2007., for an analysis of the Canadian situation regarding registration.