



# *The Coalition News*



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RESPONSIBLE FIREARMS OWNERS COALITION - Aug/Sept 2000

## *Many Changes*

Much has occurred since the publication of our last newsletter. For many of you the following will be old news. The decision on the constitutionality of jurisdiction regarding licencing and registration by Canada's Supreme Court was handed down on July 15. This decision was not favourable to the provinces or Canada's gun owners. The Supreme Court affirmed that the federal government is within its constitutional jurisdiction to make laws on firearms licencing and registration of long guns. The complete decision can be obtained by visiting the CILA website at [www.cila.org](http://www.cila.org) Many more challenges to this legislation are possible and will occur. The government of Nunavut has already announced its' intention of another challenge.

As predicted, the Canadian Firearms Center has lowered the cost of a Possession Only Licence to \$10.00. This new price is in effect until October 15<sup>th</sup>, when it is to increase to \$60.00. The lower price is being used as an inducement to gun owners to apply for a licence early and avoid a last minute rush. Less than 20% of gun owners have a licence or have applied for one with only five months to the deadline. The cheap inducement may very well be extended. The fees for Possession and Acquisition Licences have not changed. For those of you that have decided to obey this law, we ask that you wait until the last possible moment to submit your application. October 14<sup>th</sup> for the cheap POL and November 15<sup>th</sup> for a PAL.

The \$25.00 transfer/registration fee has been dropped for all guns that are transferred until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2000. This is welcome news for our gun dealers and for those wishing to sell or purchase a handgun. It is not expected to have any effect on Canada's newest and largest gun market, the Parking Lot Emporium.

The licence application forms have also changed and are now available from your local Post Office or online from the CFC at [www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca](http://www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca) The new forms are a great improvement but still contain questions that many people find quite objectionable. Of particular concern is the government's new definition of a common law spouse - **a person with whom you have lived as a couple for three months or more**. **The ramifications of this definition as precedence are immeasurable.** What is the next step? Common law responsibility for a half-hour in the back seat of a Chevy?

Sixty people, thirty teams of two, are now working in the Outreach Program. Eleven permanent locations and nineteen mobile locations were proposed for B.C. These teams are being provided to "assist" gun owners with the licencing requirements and to provide, free of charge, photographs that are required for your licence application. Times and locations for your area can be obtained from the CFC website. For those of you that are going to comply with the law, we ask that you take advantage of the free service offered but wait until the last moment before mailing.

**You do not have to register your firearms until January 1, 2003.**

**REGISTRATION LEADS TO CONFISCATION**

**RFOC BC, P.O. Box 93052, LANGLEY, B.C. V3A 8H2**

**Phone: 604-532-8048**

**Web Site: <http://www.rfocbc.com>**

**Email: [admin@rfocbc.com](mailto:admin@rfocbc.com)**

**Fax: 604-532-0380**

## Summary of key statistics as at July 16, 2000

<b>Licences*</b>		
<b>Valid Licences</b>		<b>466,862</b>
Before Firearms Act	250,058	
After Firearms Act	216,804	
<b>In process</b>		<b>134,199</b>
<b>Refused</b>		<b>3,079</b>
FAC refused before Firearms Act	2,250	
Refused after Firearms Act	829	
<b>Revoked</b>		<b>1,166</b>
FAC revoked before Firearms Act	59	
Revoked after Firearms Act	1107	
<b>Application Backlog</b>		<b>47,453</b>
<b>Participation to date</b>		<b>652,759</b>
* After Firearms Act = since Dec.1/98		
Before Firearms Act = 5 years previous		
<b>Firearms</b>		
<b>Number of Restricted Weapons (as of 98/12/31)</b>		<b>1,148,823</b>
<b>Number of New Firearms Registered</b>		<b>419,821</b>
<b>Firearms in the system</b>		<b>1,568,644</b>
<b>Registration Apps in Process</b>		<b>109,810</b>
<b>Firearms Known to Police</b>		<b>1,678,454</b>

## How Many Gun Owners Are In Canada?

The Mauser-Buckner study "*Canadian Attitudes Toward Gun Control: The Real Story*" concludes that between 23% (acknowledged) and 28.5% (adjusted) of Canadian households contain firearms. Although reported as a "minimal estimate", the 28.5% calculation is probably very close to the actual number. How many households are in Canada? Statistics Canada reports 10,922,042 (1996) households in Canada. Now let's do the math. 28.5% of 10,922,042 is only 3,112,782 households containing a firearm. "What about multiple firearms' owners in a household?" you say. Mauser-Buckner also reported that of the households containing firearms 10.5% contain multiple owners. 8.6% with two owners the balance of 1.9%, more than two owners (let's assume 4). Back to the math and we find a total of 3,557,809 gun owners in Canada. A far cry from the 7 million mantra that constantly bombards us all. Is the Mauser-Buckner study 100% off target?

## Inflated Support

Puffed up membership numbers issued by various pro-gun organizations confuse the actual participation of gun owners in the "gun lobby". Are not the only "real" members those among us that actually write a cheque to an organization? Or shall we include those with "family" memberships that include three-year-olds and the dog named Spot? Shall we include club members whose only contribution is a small fee in order to qualify for federally required insurance? Shall we include all the members of a club that send in small donations - as low as twelve cents per club member? What are the real numbers? A lot smaller than many of you are led to believe.

## Can We Double Our Size Within The Next Month?

Easily. All we need is for each member to sign up at least one more supporter. Let every member set a goal of signing up two gun owners in the next month. With close to 400,000 gun owners in the province we have a lot of potential members just waiting for your pitch. The recent advertisements that were placed with the *Sun* and *Province* were read by thousands of gun owners, but the response was minimal. We believe that many were reluctant to support an organization that they knew little about. It's up to you to sell this organization - the executive cannot do it alone.

## Gun Owners Not Rushing

The CFC produced the accompanying chart on July 16. Their attempts to lure gun owners to licence or at least licence early seem to be falling on deaf ears. Of note is the observation that only 400,000 applications have been filed in the previous twenty months. A comparison with the June 25 statistics shows only a 45,000 increase in the past three weeks. A monthly rate of 60,000. With only five months to the December 31<sup>st</sup> requirement to have all gun owners licenced; the remaining 2,900,000 owners will have to be licenced at a rate of 580,000 per month. The CFC spin-doctors are already hard at work. Their latest claim is that 800,000 of their estimated 3 million gun owners are giving up their guns; bringing their new estimate down to 2.2 million owners. Sure we believe them - and we're also looking for a few bridges to buy.

The registration numbers are even more cheerful. Although 420,000 guns have been newly registered, this number includes all those that have been registered by museums, retailers and others. We estimate that only 75,000 have been registered by individuals. Remember, your long guns do not have to be registered until January 1, 2003. Plenty of time for us to change the present government and change the law.

### ***Your New Executive***

Gordon Bader  
Surrey  
Don Bremner  
Surrey  
Bill Campbell  
Vancouver  
Joanne Easdown  
Coquitlam  
Terry Green  
Parksville  
Dwight Heard  
Coquitlam  
Rob Hetherington  
Kamloops  
Dan Kettner  
Surrey  
Kelvin Lapka  
Maple Ridge  
Steve McLean  
Surrey  
Don Nickason  
Surrey  
Kevin Staines  
Surrey  
Harry Sullivan  
Langley  
Robin Watt  
Nanaimo

## ***Major Changes to RFOCBC***

The membership in attendance at the 2000 Annual General Meeting voted unanimously to change the one-year membership dues to \$20.00 per year. This change was brought about by the announcement that, starting in September, the *Coalition News* will be replaced by the *Canadian Shooting Sports* magazine. *Canadian Shooting Sports* is the brand-new glossy magazine that has recently been introduced by the Canadian Shooting Sports Association (formerly Ontario Handgun Assn.). This new magazine is devoted to firearms and the shooting sports only, and is not another hunting and fishing magazine. All members will begin to receive the magazine in mid September - please give us your feedback.

We have decided to eliminate the Silver and Gold categories of membership. We wish to thank all those that are silver and gold members; the additional monies raised are sorely needed. We would ask that, in the future, affordable donations are included in addition to your membership dues. This would help immensely with the additional costs associated with providing the new magazine.

## ***AGM a Success - But Not Well Attended***

Our Annual General Meeting was held on July 19<sup>th</sup> in Cloverdale BC. Guest speakers included two Canadian Alliance MPs, Mr. Darrel Stinson and Mr. Myron Thompson, as well as CILA Executive Director, Tony Bernardo. The Canadian Alliance and the Progressive Conservatives both had tables and volunteers selling memberships for their respective parties. *Rob Hetherington* and *Goldie Stone* were in attendance promoting Cowboy Action Shooting; a great family fun shooting sport. Only ninety-one members were in attendance to receive the updates on the political and legislative issues surrounding firearms. Next year, let's show our guests some interest and enthusiasm by having a large turnout.

## ***HACS Coquitlam Show OK For Another Year***

The Following article was taken from the Vancouver Sun, July 19<sup>th</sup>  
*Council will continue allowing the Heritage Arms Collectors Society of B.C. to hold its annual historical arms show in a city-owned facility, but with conditions. The arms show cannot include the sale of T-shirts and bumper stickers with pro-gun slogans of questionable taste. Cathy Burpee, of the group Together Against Violence, showed city council this week a T-shirt sold at the April arms show which featured the words, "Guns Don't Kill People . . . Governments Kill People." She also read bumper sticker slogans that included, "A man with a gun has more fun," and "Gun control is a steady hand." Council defeated a motion to prohibit any gun-related use of city facilities but warned the decision may be reconsidered if such T-shirts and bumper stickers are sold at future arms shows.*

Don't these people have anything better to do? Pro firearms groups were not allowed a delegation (new rules limiting the number of delegations, not an anti-gun bias), but some executive members were in attendance to show the flag. Members should contact *Together Against Violence* to find out what T-shirts and bumper stickers are "approved" by their organization.

## ***ATTs Improve Again***

Transporting your handgun has become a little easier. BC's CFO is now allowing transportation to the US border and your gunsmith on the same ATT as your regular province wide authorization. This is only for the guns that you own. Listing of your owned guns is not required. You may now request your ATT to include the border if you regularly shoot at a US destination; details will be required. Also, you can request that the address of your regular gunsmith(s) be added. You will be required to submit the name and address of the gunsmith. This common sense approach will greatly simplify the amount of paperwork that restricted gun owners must endure. We look forward to the day when ATTs are eliminated and the possession of a licence is all that is required to transport our guns for lawful purposes.

DON'T MISS THE.....

# Gun and Sportsman Expo! October 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.

At Abbotsford Fish and Game Club - Hall at 4249 Lake Mount Road

Never Shot? Come Try!  
Buy, Sell, Trade  
Rifles Shotguns, Handguns  
Tons of doorprizes!  
Gun Raffle!

For more info: [trygve@look.ca](mailto:trygve@look.ca)  
Or visit Abbotsford's web site at  
[www.Abbotsford-Fish-Game.org](http://www.Abbotsford-Fish-Game.org)  
or call 604-850-1292

## *Support Those Who Support You*

**RFOC BUSINESS ALLIANCE MEMBERS**  
We wish to thank the following companies for their generous and loyal support

Caldwell Industries Co. Ltd. - North Vancouver  
C.Brown Transport and Leasing – Langley  
Fyfe Fire Sprinklers Ltd. - Victoria  
Grand Forks Glass Ltd. – Grand Forks  
Martlen Enterprises - Surrey  
Rainbow Mechanical Ltd. – Surrey  
Riverbend Metal (1997) Corp. – Surrey

Coldstream Truck Parts – Vernon  
Ellenbee Superior Electric - Port Alberni  
Fyfe's Well Drilling Ltd – Qualicum  
Hunters Sporting Goods Ltd. - Surrey  
Northwest Guides and Outfitters- Smithers  
Redl Sports Distributors - Burnaby  
South Coast Signs Ltd.- Surrey

## PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

**FOR THOSE LAPSED MEMBERS THAT RECEIVED A RED INSERT FORM:**  
This is your **FINAL NOTICE**. Renew now to continue receiving information on firearms issues.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

**RESPONSIBLE FIREARMS OWNERS COALITION OF BC**

Member No. _____	Date _____		
Name _____		\$20.00 One Year Membership	\$ 20.00
Address _____		Donation	\$ _____
City _____ Province _____		Total Enclosed	\$ _____
Postal Code _____ Telephone _____		Method of Payment (check box)	
Age _____ Occupation _____		Cheque ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___	
New <input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	Change of Address <input type="checkbox"/>	Credit Card # _____

**Make Cheque Payable & Mail To:**  
RFOC BC PO Box 93052  
LANGLEY, BC V3A 8H2 Telephone: (604) 532-8048 Fax (604) 532-0380

Exp.Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Yes I would like to be an RFOC Volunteer  
BC Societies #S-32155 NL08/2000