

The Coalition News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RESPONSIBLE FIREARMS OWNERS COALITION

AUG/SEPT 1999

Lease Your Next Firearm

Firearms Leasing is Legal - Registration System Doomed to Collapse

As the Government of Canada continues to pour hundreds of millions of tax dollars down the bottomless well of gun control, information recently received by the Canadian Institute for Legislative Action indicates the expenditure will likely be for nothing.

Kathleen Roussel, Communications Group, Canadian Firearms Centre, states in a recent letter to CILA; " Pursuant to the Firearms Act, only permanent transfers, such as a sale, a gift, an inheritance or trade, would trigger the transfer process and \$25 transfer fee. Loans are not considered transfers for these purposes, since they are temporary in nature. Similarly, where a firearm is rented or leased to an individual, it should not be transferred to the person leasing it. The firearm would remain registered it to the lessee (person leasing it out). "

From the above paragraph it can be seen that leasing of a firearm without the transfer of its registration is legal (even in the eyes of the government).

CILA Executive Director Tony Bernardo says; " This is the final proof that Bill C-68 is expensive, inept legislation. The people of Canada deserve quality laws on such important issues, not "feel good" garbage like C-68." He adds; " Working within the law, firearms users in Canada can obtain firearms without paper trails or notifying government. How does this fit into Anne McLellan's "culture of safety"? C-68 has to go."

In order to protect the rights and interests of law abiding firearms users CILA has prepared a Firearms Leasing Agreement. This agreement is suitable for both individuals and businesses and for both leases and subleases. As well, this agreement has equal application for lease of non-restricted, restricted and prohibited firearms.

A copy of the Firearms Leasing Agreement is being provided with this newsletter. Ms. Roussel's letter attesting to its legality is available on the CILA Web Site www.cila.org or by request to National Office.

Reform Party MP Jack Ramsay says a loophole would allow people to avoid the registry by leasing guns instead of buying them. Kathleen Roussel of the Canadian Firearms Centre, which is responsible for implementing the Firearms Act, confirmed that loans and leases are not considered transfers of ownership. Therefore, there is nothing in the legislation to suggest that a person who rents or borrows a rifle would need to have it registered. In a letter to the Canadian Institute for Legislative Action, Roussel said a loan or a lease is not considered a permanent transfer as long as there is a limited time period. "Where two parties enter into a long-term or infinite loan or rental agreement, it may be necessary to look at their intent to determine whether or not we are really dealing with a loan or with a gift or sale," she wrote.

Gunshop owner Reg Dean said the loophole is big enough to permanently disable the new gun registry. "This registry is nonsense," he said. "It's been tried in so many countries and it just doesn't work. It's cost is prohibitive." Reformer Bob Mills, MP for Red Deer, said the leasing loophole is the final volley against a gun registry already under fire from several territories and provinces.

"This whole piece of legislation is ill-conceived. It's not going to work," Mills said. Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Nova Scotia and the Yukon and Northwest Territories are already refusing to enforce the gun registry, he said, adding that the new loophole should finish it off altogether. And the Liberals would face a political firestorm if they try to close the loophole, because they would have to reopen debate on the bill, Mills said. "From a management standpoint, it would be better to let it fade and let it kind of die."

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

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

Email: admin@rfocbc.com

Phone: 604-532-8048

Fax: 604-532-0380

Are You and Your "prohibited" Handguns Grandfathered?

DO YOU OWN PROHIBITED HANDGUNS? (Section 12 (6) guns)

The Government of Canada is preparing to confiscate your legally acquired, legally owned and FULLY REGISTERED property on December 1st of this year...without compensation. The largest legalized theft of private property in Canadian history.

The Government of Canada has paid compensation for prohibited firearms many times in the past: they have no right to steal your property. (The average pay out was \$766.16 between 1995 and 1998).

Our legal team has found several areas where this action violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and we are preparing court documents to challenge it. Research is taking place right now to launch a challenge to the prohibition and confiscation of your property without compensation.

Do You Wish To Be Included In Class Action Lawsuit?

If you are a **non-grandfathered owner** of a prohibited handgun, or if you are grandfathered and own a **non-grandfathered handgun** please fill out the form below and mail or fax it to the CILA National Office.

Note that this list will be kept strictly confidential. If you know others who are affected, please have them fill out the form as well. Please note there is a nominal charge of \$20.00 for administration. This does not commit you to any obligation whatsoever. When the time comes, we will be contacting you individually to inform you of the process, risks and to request your involvement.

PLEASE DON'T DELAY. SEND THE FORM IN TODAY! - We need you on the team.

MAIL TO: Canadian Institute for Legislative Action - National Office:
P.O.Box 44030, 600 Grandview St. S. Oshawa, ON. L1H 8P4
Ph: (905) 571-2150 Fax: (905) 436-7721 e-mail: teebee@sprint.ca

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____
Club: _____
Phone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____
email: _____
Are You Grandfathered? [____] Y/N
Are your Handguns Grandfathered [____] Y/N
Number of Prohibited Handguns at risk of confiscation: _____
Approximate total value of Prohibited Handguns: \$ _____
I am willing to be named as a Plaintiff on this action: [____] Y/N
\$20.00 Administration fee: [____] Cheque [____] Money Order [____] Visa [____] Mastercard
Card # : _____ Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____

THIS INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

DO NOT TURN IN YOUR PROHIBITED HANDGUNS. THIS FORFEITS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS.

AGM A Success June's AGM was considered a tremendous success by all in attendance. Our guest speakers, Len Miller, Barry Penner, MLA and Tony Bernardo, were appreciated by all. The meeting highlight was the national launch of the Firearms Leasing Agreement by CILA. Mr. Penner stated that the B.C. Liberal party is not prepared to endorse the

registration component of the Firearms Act. Our president again pointed out that there is still a critical need for more involvement from our members and B.C.'s clubs. The audience was reminded again of the importance of writing letters to politicians (MPs and MLAs) and responding to the newspapers when firearms issues are raised. Directors were elected for the coming year.
Pres. Harry Sullivan

V.P. Kevin Staines
Sec/Treas Steve McLean
Directors Gordon Bader
Don Bremner
Bill Bobbie
Joanne Easdown
Terry Green
Dwight Heard
Rob Heatherington
Dan Kettner
Kelvin Lapka
Don Nickason

New Range Regulations Are Threatening B.C.'s Clubs

The Province of British Columbia, Minister of Attorney General, Security Programs Division recently distributed a package to all shooting clubs and ranges in B.C. Titled "Guidelines To The Construction of Small Arms Ranges And Shooting Clubs, And Shooting Range Approvals", this document has the potential of shutting down a large number of previously approved ranges in this province. All ranges in the province will be affected; including those that are used by long arms only. The volunteer operated and cash poor clubs in our province are being ordered to comply with these new regulations by December 1st, 1999. These regulations are so stringent that compliance becomes impossible, because of either property restrictions or lack of financial resources to implement improvements. B.C.'s shooting range facilities are operated to give club members and the community a safe and convenient place to sight in hunting rifles and to target shoot with their firearms; both casually and in organized shooting events. Many of these ranges are used as training facilities by police and conservation officers, as well as other agencies whose employees are required to carry firearms as part of their duties. Reports are being received from clubs that the costs of upgrading their ranges to the new standards will cost in the range of \$50,000 and higher, if the changes are even possible on their existing land base. Most of these clubs do not have the financial resources to implement these changes. If the December 1st compliance date is adhered to, it will mean the immediate closure of a large number of shooting ranges throughout the province. Shooters will be forced away from using safe and regulated facilities and back into gravel pits and on to crown land. It will also close down these facilities to government agencies for firearms training and practice. We do not believe that this is what the general public of this province wishes to see happen. These regulations, issued in the name of "safety", are superfluous; evidenced by the fact that only \$4.50 will provide gun club members with \$2 million liability insurance. What better proof of an exemplary safety record!

We urge all our members to become involved in this issue. We urge all casual shooters to join their local club. Contact the club in your area to see where you can help. Contact your local M.L.A. with your concerns about possible range closures. Speak to non-shooters about the folly of these regulations. Communicate your concerns to:

Hon. Glen Clark
Office of the Premier
Room 156, West Annex
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
FAX: (250)-387-1715

Hon Ujjal Dosanjh
Ministry of Attorney General
Room 232, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
FAX: (250)-387-6411

Mr. Tony Heemsker
Chief Firearms Officer
P.O. Box 9217
Station Provincial Government
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9J1
FAX: (250)-387-5687

First Casualties of Range Regulations

Campbell River Fish & Wildlife Assn. and Powell River Rod & Gun Club. These clubs' ranges are both presently closed due to their inability to comply with the new regulations. What club will be next? Contact RFOCBC before requesting a range inspection.

U.S. Purchases & Export Regulations

Many members have recently become concerned with the implementation of the new Import/Export Regulations of Canada and the U.S. At present, individuals attempting to obtain firearms and firearms accessories by mail order from the U.S. are finding that the new regulations are rendering mail ordering an almost impossible task. Purchases in person from a U.S. retailer are not treated in the same manner as U.S. firearms dealer exports. The RFOCBC has been in communication with local representatives of U.S. BATF, the Washington State Firearms Licensing Department, and the U.S. Customs Service. Our contacts inform us that new U.S. Federal law prevents U.S. retailers from selling firearms accessories or reloading supplies to Canadian citizens or Canadian residents who do not possess an entry visa or cannot produce proof of U.S. residency. U.S. Customs informs us that taking your personal property (i.e. what you have just purchased) home to Canada is not illegal. Consequently, some U.S. retailers, who are not comfortable with the new regulations, are presently erring on the side of caution and are refusing to sell to **readily identifiable** Canadians. We suggest that you do not identify yourself as a Canadian and that all purchases are made with \$US cash only. RFOCBC, CILA, the NRA, and others are all currently working on this further hurdle to the shooting sports.

Boring Municipal Elections

Yes we know! It's summertime and the municipal elections are still months away - besides, who cares about municipal politics?

Historically voter turnout is extremely low for municipal elections; but we should all care about what type of individual will be shaping our lives in the future. Where will your city councillor be in ten years? Victoria? Ottawa? The U.N.? Will our senior governments be populated with the same type of individual that is presently enacting the new Import - Export Regulations? Is this what you want? Our involvement is long overdue. Contact your local gun club and request that they become active in identifying the pro and anti firearm candidates in your area. Let's work to ensure firearm friendly candidates will be elected.

An APPEAL for the APPEAL

To The Supreme Court of Canadax

The RFOC of BC is participating as an intervener in the upcoming Appeal of the Alberta Supreme Court Decision to the Supreme Court of Canada. We will be participating with two distinct groups. The first will be under the banner of *The Shooting Federation of Canada*, along with *CILA*, the *Ontario Handgun Association* and other associates. The second will be under the banner of "*Coalition Of Responsible Firearms Owners and Sportsmen*": consisting of *RFOCBC*, *Alberta Fish and Game Association*, *Responsible Firearms Owners of Alberta*, *National Firearms Association*, *Alberta Civil Society Association*, *Alberta Arms and Cartridge Collectors Association*, *The Sporting Clubs of Niagara*, and the *Responsible Firearms Owners of Ontario*

WE NEED ADDITIONAL MONEY TO PAY OUR SHARE OF THESE COURT COSTS. Please consider helping to finance B.C.'s share. A special donation of \$5 or \$10 from each of us will ensure the financial viability of these court actions. Cut out this section and return with your cheque to RFOC of BC, P.O. Box 93052, Langley, BC, V3A 8H2

Your Membership Number _____ Donation Amount \$ _____
PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO RFOC, BC

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
Fyfe Fire Sprinklers - Victoria
Grand Forks Glass Ltd. - Grand Forks
Martlen Enterprises Ltd. - Surrey
Redl Sports Distributors - Burnaby
Shop Easy Foods - Port Alice
Specialty Guns Ltd. - Victoria

Coldstream Truck Parts Ltd. - Vernon
Fyfe's Well Drilling Ltd. - Qualicum
Hunters Sporting Goods - Surrey
Northwest Guides & Outfitters - Smithers
Service Office Supplies Ltd. - Langley
South Coast Signs Ltd. - Surrey
Stone Technical Ind, Ltd. - Campbell River

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 _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____

Postal Code _____ Telephone _____

Age _____ Occupation _____

New Renewal Change of Address

\$15 One Year Membership Cheque

\$25 One Year Silver Membership Visa

\$50 One Year Gold Membership Master Card

And/or Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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 _____

Yes I would like to be an RFOC Volunteer

BC Societies #S-32155 NL 08/99