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Re: **Information related to Bill C-19 addressed to the Honourable Members of the Canadian Senate as they prepare to receive Bill C- 19 from the House of Commons.**

This submission explains why Bill C-19 should be opposed.

At close to 10 a.m. , on March 3, 2005, near Mayerthorpe, Alberta, four young men were murdered while serving as RCMP peace officers. The "Fallen Four" were ambushed as they entered the killer's Quonset hut. Sixteen shots from the assassin's "high power" assault rifle were fired at the four RCMP, (in about as much time as it takes the reader to say "bang" 16 times). The targeted four were hit eleven times. They all were alleged to have died quickly. The killer then shot himself, leaving a national tragedy and many questions.<sup>(1)</sup>

At the nationally broadcast memorial service, many times it was mentioned that we (Canadians) would not forget the memories of Brock Myrol, Peter Schiemann, Tony Gordon, and Leo Johnston. Go back in time to March 3, 2005. Throughout the afternoon and evening the tragic news spread from coast to coast, of a town in Alberta called Mayerthorpe and a massacre of RCMP officers. The nation needed answers to many questions:

- how did this happen?
- why?
- how did the killer come to possess firearms ?
- did person(s) help the killer?
- could it have been avoided ?
- and many other significant questions.

In our Justice system , the "police" are tasked with the duty of gathering the facts relating to the above questions. Justice required a top-notch police investigation in this case. Top-notch police investigations are enhanced by the use of operational "tools". Consider how Canadian laws, regulations and policies were used in the " Mayerthorpe" investigation , namely

- long gun " registry records
- search warrant laws.
- a " Mr. Big Sting ", a police investigation technique.

Found on the suicided killer's body was an unfired Winchester rifle, serial # G1597531. On Nov. 30 2002 , a Mr. John Hennessey had registered that rifle in the federal "long gun" registry<sup>(2)</sup>. When in early March 05, the RCMP , asked J. Hennessey , how his Winchester rifle came to be found at the scene of a national tragedy , he lied. He didn't deny it was his gun, he lied when he told investigators that the rifle had been stolen months earlier. The Investigators also knew from recovered cell phone records (of the killer) that the killer had placed multiple phone calls to John Hennessey's grandson, Shawn Hennessey , in the hours leading up to the shootings.

Days after the murders in statements given to the investigators , the killers mother claimed Shawn Hennessey was involved in her son's marijuana grow op. When the RCMP asked Shawn H. how the killer acquired his grandfathers Winchester rifle , he lied , he said he didn't know. Shawn also told the police he had no idea how the killer got from his aunts to the crime scene just prior to the murders<sup>(1)</sup>

Early in March of 2005 , the police investigation suspected Shawn Hennessey was some how involved in assisting the killer. They requested , from a judge, and were granted search warrant(s) on members of the Hennessey family. The information entered , ( probable cause ), were the reasons the investigators held these suspicions.

- -one of three firearms carried by the killer was registered to John Hennessey
- cell phone records linking Shawn Hennessey and the killer hours before murders.
- statements from the killer's mother, re. Shawn Hennessey's involvement in killer's grow operation.

It should be noted that at the preliminary hearing of charges against Shawn Hennessey and his brother in-law Dennis Cheeseman , the killer's mother , while under oath testified , she had never heard of Shawn Hennessey (ever), meaning part of the info entered to get the search warrant(s) was not accurate. If not for the Winchester "long gun" registry records the police may not have been able to have acquired search warrants. Without search warrants how would the investigators have acquired the info to lay charges and get convictions ( x2) if not for "long gun " registry records?

Consider further that John Hennessey purchased/acquired that Winchester , serial # G1597531, Aug 28 1989, at a yard sale at a private residence in Calgary.<sup>(3)</sup>(this would be 16 years before it was found at the scene of a national tragedy) . Had John Hennessey NOT registered his rifle in 2002, the chances the police would be matching serial # G1597531 to ANYONE are remote to non-existent. We are going to "scrap" a tool indispensable in four Canadian Hero's murder investigation? This is a dishonour to their memory is it not? The point being the long gun registry didn't save the four RCMP officer's lives however it was invaluable in assisting in determining how their lives were lost.

Further , moving for the time away from the Mayerthorpe case , and to the "big picture" and the Canadian Firearms Act or Program. For close to ten years the Conservative Party of Canada ( and many media) have been suggesting the "long gun " registry cost taxpayers over one billion dollars. This is not accurate; the " Program" audited in 2002 and 2006 by the Auditor General of Canada, cost \$946 million dollars<sup>(4)</sup>; the registry component of the program was never individually audited . The credibility of the program has been negatively impacted by these fictional cost allegations. How many times has the reader encountered slogans like:

- "billion \$ long gun registry is useless"
- "criminals don't register firearms "
- "the registry doesn't save lives". Fiction !

What is a "long gun"? ( I am serious). It is not defined in the Canadian Criminal Code, nor the Firearms Act, nor does the term "long gun " ever appear in an Auditor General Report. The "assault rifle "used" by the killer near Mayerthorpe was a long barrel firearm. pre 1992 in Canada , it would appear one did not need a gun license to possess "long guns" ( non-restricted firearms) or to purchase gun ammo for these weapons. Nor was there any requirement to register this weapon of mass destruction. The reader might want to consider , under Bill C-68, the Firearms Act , how many hundreds of thousands of firearm license applications were processed, and under the program how many firearms licenses were granted to people acquiring a license for the first time (ever) ? And at what cost to the taxpayers?

" Criminals don't register firearms" Consider: We in Ontario have thankfully suffered very few incidence of on-duty police being "gunned down" in the last few decades. However on Mar. 8 2010, OPP officer Vu Pham was fatally shot ( on purpose in the head ) by licensed Fred Preston using his registered Browning "long gun ". Officer Pham and other OPP were dispatched to keep the peace ,after having been informed that Mr. Preston was hunting his sister in law with his registered Browning "long gun", from his truck. Officer Pham pulled over Mr. Preston and when exiting his patrol car was killed by Preston<sup>(5)</sup>. Criminals do register firearms, unfortunately civilian license and registration of firearms is hoped to suppress the misuse of guns, but like " drunk driving" laws, not all lives can/may be saved. **Bill C-19** would/will eliminate a vital component of our public safety system for the 90% plus Canadians, that don't have guns, don't use guns and are "unarmed" including the vast majorities of millions of women and children. Another tragedy recently occurred near Claresholm Alta. A criminal with registered firearm murdered three people and seriously wounded another before taking his own life.

Public Safety and criminal acquisition of firearm(s). It would seem obvious that suppression of criminal acquisition of guns would be immensely positive in the fight against violent "gun crime". From many law enforcement agencies I have learned criminals in Canada acquire guns in two ways.

Virtually all guns in criminal's hands have either been unlawfully smuggled into the country and delivered to criminals or criminals steal firearms from domestic sources ( business , private owner etc. ). It should be noted that a majority of firearms smuggled into Canada are not "long guns" or non-restricted class firearms, more often they are handguns or military/para-military guns. Conversely far more hunting style rifles and shotguns are each year reported to the police as stolen. Allowing "legitimate " guns into the possession of criminals seriously compromises Canadians public safety.

Consider from 1998 to 2010 and incidence of report to police of stolen firearms. It would appear that registration of all firearms , including "long guns " has had a significant impact on the suppression of gun theft and hence suppression of criminals acquiring guns. Six years after "long gun " registration requirements, reports of stolen firearms are a fraction of what they were prior to "long gun" registration requirements (January 1, 2003). See Chart 1.

Year	1998 (6)	1999 (6)	2000 (6)	2001 (6)	2002 (6)	2003- 2007	2008 (7)	2009 (7)	2010 (7)
Number of firearm theft reports	3,613	3,378	2,733	2,706	4,090	?	107	284	678

Chart 1

It would seem gun thieves or potential gun thieves became aware that if they were caught in possession of a registered "long gun" that had been reported to police as stolen, they would faced serious penalties if convicted ( up to life in prison Criminal Code 98). And now for fictional or undisclosed reasons the government is going to wipe out a tool that has shown merit in keeping "legitimate " guns in "legitimate" gun owners' possession. WHY?

Further consider from the Justice realm. Canadian courts are used by the justice system to help identify individuals in Canada who have been shown beyond reasonable doubt to be "public safety threats ". Individuals found in court to be a threat to society are to be denied access to weapons through court orders. See Chart 2.

The Last 20 Years	Year	1989 (8)	1999 (8)	2009 (9)
	# of Canadians Prohibited from Gun Possession		7,554	18,774

Chart 2

How, today in Canada with over 1/4 of a million individuals IDed as public safety threats ( with court prohibitions on possession and acquisition of weapons including guns and ammo) , how are the roughly 70,000 duty police officers to enforce these 1/4 million plus court orders without a complete gun registry? Of the 7.4 million roughly registered firearms today over 90% are registered as "non-restricted"<sup>(16)</sup>. If Bill C -19 is passed records telling police where over 61/2 million guns are currently legitimately stored or housed in Canada will be lost. In the year 2000 , James Roszko, the Mayerthorpe killer, was convicted of a crime in court and was given a court order prohibiting him from possessing weapons. Ultimately the investigators discovered eight firearms in the killer's Quonset hut. Of those eight, seven were "long guns" and one was a handgun. Other than the "Hennessey rifle" the authorities seem to only be able to speculate as to how the other guns ended up in the killer's Quonset hut. Why is a government who states that its tough on violent gun crime, subtracting tools from the police tool box? Shouldn't we be keeping/adding tools ?

Can/may we as Canada demonstrate to the global community the way a nation may regulate civilian guns in a responsible fashion as opposed to say American style ? It would appear the world needs guidance as there seem to be too many countries where public safety and justice are denied by men with guns running rough-shod over men without guns, women and children . I and many others, are hoping that at least 10 Conservative Senators will act responsibly and save a public safety tool. For example, the Senate could ask the House to pass a bill to decriminalize possession of unregistered non-restricted firearms. This would save registry records , but eliminate criminal liability for non-compliance with current registration laws.

Thank-you for your time. If the reader has any questions please contact me.

  
Geoff Currie

## Sources

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Mayerthorpe Fatality Inquiry Report March 3, 2011  
Assistant Chief Judge Daniel R Pahl  
Mayerthorpe Criminal Proceedings : Sentencing January 30, 2009  
RCMP Deputy Commissioner Rod Knecht
- (2) Information received verbally over the phone (March 30, 2011) from Alta Crown Alan Mickle (780 422 9479 )
- (3) Information received verbally over the phone ( tape recorded) from John Hennessey ( 780 674 4052) April, 2011
- (4) A Status Report from the Auditor General of Canada to the House of Commons 2006  
Canadian Firearms Program Chapter Four , page 95
- (5) Special Investigations Unit : Investigation Report August 25, 2010
- (6) Registrar of Firearms Report to the Solicitor General on the Administration of the  
Firearms Act 2002 , page 28
- (7) Uniform Crime Reports from Canada Justice Statistics for 2008-2010 cansim  
table # 252-0051
- (8) Registrar of Firearms Report to the Solicitor General on the Administration of the  
Firearms Act 2002, page 26
- (9) Commissioner of Firearms Report 2009, page 36
- (10) Commissioner of Firearms Report 2009, page 28



Tony Gordon



Brock Myrol.



Leo Johnston



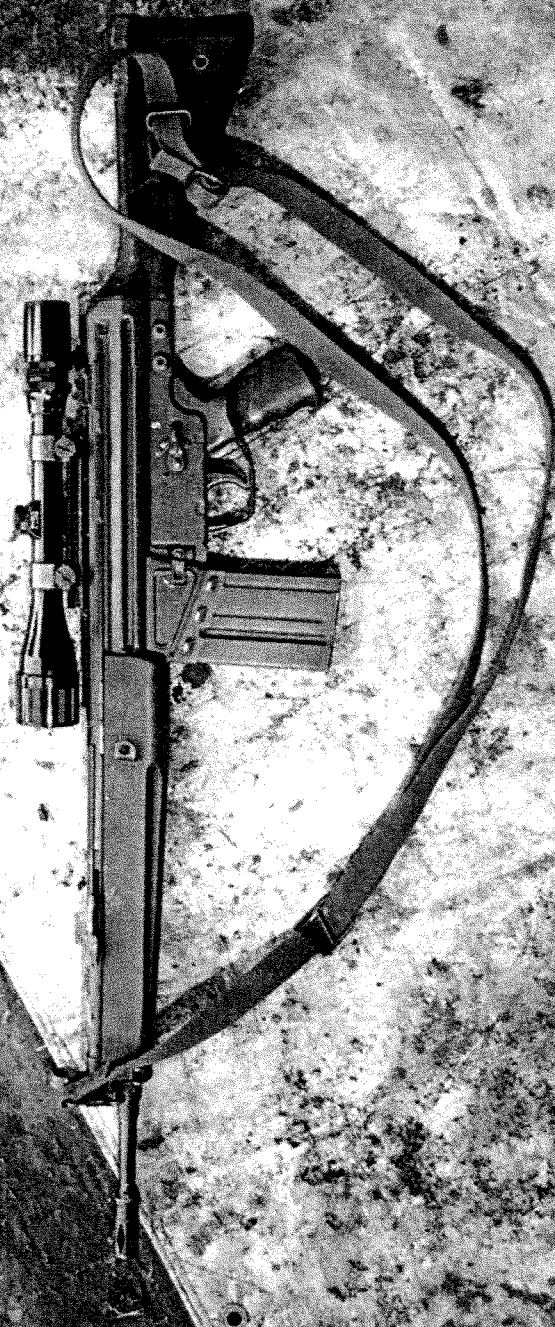
Peter Schiemann.



RCMP 0258.0001



The murder weapon  
H.K. model 91



ROME



The Winchester rifle registered to J. Hennessey and the Beretta pistol carried by the killer but not fired.

RCMP  
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