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August 13, 2007

Danny Wheeler

Chairman, Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board
Region of York Administrative Centre
Committee Room A,
17250 Yonge Street,
Newmarket, Ontario



Re: Guns & Gun Crimes:

Dear Danny:

I would like to express my most sincere thanks to you for your hard and dedicated work as Chair of the Region of York Police Services Board, as well as to the rest of your cohorts and for championing this fight on gun crime within our communities.

Unfortunately I have a previous commitment that prevents me from attending this most important issue. However, despite my absence, I respectfully ask that this letter be shared with all stakeholders at Wednesday's meeting [August 29, 2007 1300 hours] so as to contribute my point of view for the record. Assuming my request will be acceptable, I respond accordingly;

Thirty-seven (37) years ago, I first became a provincially certified gun owner, handler and hunter. In the early 1980's I became Federally licensed to own, possess, buy, sell, shoot, collect restricted and prohibited handguns. Naturally, my firearms are always stored, transported and/or carried as per federal regulations outline and mandate. I take great pleasure in announcing that in the fall of this year, I will be registered as a firearms and hunting mentor to our soon to be 12 year old grandson, to instill in him the virtues of being a good conservationist, a knowledgeable woodsman, a safe and proficient gun owner and collector, as well as a respectful harvester of game – should he be successful from time to time, as was taught to me. He too will also be a proud member of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

I truly believe almost all collectors, hunters and outdoors sportsmen are safe and prudent firearms owners and thoroughly enjoy the rights and privileges afforded to them of owning and using a firearm – whether it be long guns or hand guns. The real issue I believe we are facing currently is;

1. the need to strengthened Canada's Criminal Code regarding the penalties for firearm's offences
2. the need to strengthen and revise the immigration system
3. the money and political will to hire more Canada Customs Officers

Guns and Gun Crimes, cont;

4. the money and political will to hire more police officers within Canada dedicated to the war on guns
5. the need for early education of our youth on the dangers of guns and gun crimes and the need to stay in school and graduate

Without doubt, a higher educated society is a less violent and more respectful society.

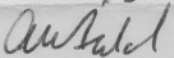
With the rash of television and newspaper headlines highlighting the tortus gun violence within the GTA of late has resulted in this topic being forefront and center, with the Premier [a self admitted non-gun owner and hunter] discussing a national gun ban. This is especially true as it is in an election year [provincial]. Additionally, David Miller, the Mayor of Toronto [a self admitted non- gun owner or hunter] also has been calling on Ottawa to ban the possession and ownership of guns from the general public; save and except those in law enforcement or other entitled specialty positions.

In my opinion, the banning of lawful hunters, farmers and sportsmen and women, collectors and alike from owning or possessing guns is not going to resolve the gun crime issues we are facing throughout York Region and Canada. Moreover, I believe a total ban would deeply divide Canadian's from coast to coast for decades or even centuries to come with a wedge that can only result in everlasting discord.

Finally, I would respectfully submit that hunting of all kinds is not only a vital way of life for many, [guiding, camps, outfitters, sporting goods suppliers, government revenues, travel industry and petroleum suppliers to name a few], but it also serves a valuable evolutionary process of culling species.

Thank you Danny for the opportunity to have my voice heard. I would be pleased to here the results of the meeting and any future session scheduling.

Kindest Regards;



A. W. (Art) Field