

# **Banning Hand Guns Just Makes it Look Good**

**By Christine McHale  
August 3, 2007**

**With the recent spate of shootings and killings in Toronto, the McGuinty Government is once again calling for a total ban on hand guns in Canada.**

**This sounds like a wonderful idea. How dare the Federal Conservatives not think this would be the greatest thing since the invention of sliced bread!**

**Maybe it is because Conservative governments prefer to actually accomplish something and not just make it look like you're doing something.**

**Remember the long gun registry? Great idea put forth and implemented by the Liberals, federal yes, but Liberals just the same. Only problem is criminals just don't seem to pause from their hectic crime schedules to take the time to properly and legally register their guns. Wonder how they could be encouraged to be more law abiding?**

**In Canada, hand guns have been heavily restricted since the 1920s.**

**Why penalize law abiding Canadians? The vast majority of guns used in crimes come from the US, smuggled into Canada. Illegal guns are being smuggled into Canada in ever increasing numbers. Banning hand gun ownership by responsible, law abiding people will not stop this.**

**Proponents claim that many guns used in crimes were stolen from homes where they were legally being kept, so a total ban on hand guns would eliminate this source. The problem is that less than one third of guns used in crimes are stolen from homes. The vast majority are smuggled in from the US, and the US isn't about to change its gun ownership laws so that supply will last for a long, long time.**

**According to the RCMP, the vast majority of illegal guns smuggled into Canada come through native reserves where little or no border security exists.**

**Also, consider that when the Federal Liberals passed the long gun registry, they exempted natives. Why?**

**There are statistics now that show the gun registry actually caused an increase in guns being stolen from private gun collections since the owners' registration information, such as what guns they had and where they lived could be accessed by criminals who now knew which homes to break into and what they could expect to steal.**

**Federal Conservative Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day stated that the money needed to implement a total ban on hand guns would be better used to fight gun crime by hiring more police and concentrating on tighter border controls to stem the smuggling of illegal guns from the US. Bet he knows that criminals will always be around and their demand for hand guns, easily concealed, will always be around, and other criminals, looking to make a fast buck by smuggling and selling illegal hand guns will always be around. Mr. Day must have looked into a crystal ball.**

Ontario's Attorney General Michael Bryant stated that banning all hand guns would reduce the supply. He said it was a question of supply and demand. Stem the supply and you'll go a long way to solving the problem is his thinking. How Liberal of him. Better give him Stockwell Day's crystal ball.

Now if we could find a way to stem the demand we might have something. But that's just not going to happen. Unless we enact tougher laws to deal with those pesky and persistent criminals.

Consider the war on drugs all around the world. Dents have certainly been put in the supply of drugs, but the demand just kept going up and is higher than ever. This just causes the price of drugs to increase and makes illegal drug production and smuggling more lucrative then ever.

Michael Bryant is dreaming if he thinks that reducing the supply by banning legally owned hand guns in Canada will not cause smugglers to just smuggle in more hand guns. After all, the cost of hand guns will only increase, and the smugglers will only be too happy to make more money filling in the shortage of hand guns available to criminals caused by and total ban on hand guns by law abiding Canadians.

The answer is to increase the penalties if you're caught. Longer prison sentences and heavier fines.

Consider Jesse Imeson. He is alleged to have killed three people. In Canada, if convicted on all three counts he will get, at most, 25 years in total for all three killings, since sentences are served concurrently in Canada, unlike consecutively in the US. Subtract from the 25 years, time spent in jail while waiting for trial times two, since this time counts as double time off, and then subtract any reduction in sentence he may get for good behaviour behind bars, and he may be out in about 15 years.

Use the US system and he would get, if convicted on all three killings, three consecutive life sentences, so that's 75 years and even if you subtract time behind bars while waiting for trial and time off for any good behaviour, and the public would not have to worry about Imeson for at least 50 years.

Consider the case of a man, caught with a loaded gun in Yorkdale Mall in Toronto, arrested, then release on bail, who shot and killed a used car salesman just days later. If he had been denied bail, the used car salesman, would, in all likelihood, be alive.

That's a system that works to protect law abiding Canadians. Not like a long gun registry or hand gun ban that penalizes law abiding Canadians, may look good on paper, but accomplishes little in real life.

One other note about the long gun registry. Since it's inception, I wonder how many criminals have taken the time to register their long guns? About as many as will NOT bother to obtain hand guns by other means than stolen from homes of private collectors or gun enthusiasts, if a total hand gun ban is implemented in Canada.

**Big fat ZERO!**

Yes, we really do get the government we deserve.