

7 May 2010

Chief William Blair
President
Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
582 Somerset Street West
Ottawa, ON K1R 5K2

Dear Chief Blair:

As Chief of Police of the largest municipal police agency in Atlantic Canada, I am writing to express my continued support of the national firearms registry.

Halifax Regional Police has long supported the registry given that it is a valuable investigative tool for law enforcement. Through regular updates from our National Weapons Enforcement Support Team, I am keenly aware that our officers regularly utilize the national firearms registry to prevent crimes, investigate offences and trace firearms.

Over the last six months, Halifax Regional Police has hosted its own gun amnesty program and also participated in a provincial gun amnesty initiative, both of which netted a significant number of firearms and countless rounds of ammunition. Throughout both campaigns, the national firearms registry was accessed extensively and played an important role in the success of the gun amnesty programs.

In the words of Detective Tim Moser, Operations Manager for NWEST Eastern Region, the national firearms registry is extremely useful to police, and anyone who suggests otherwise either doesn't understand the registration process or is unaware of how to apply the vital information it provides. If the registry were to be abolished, it would eliminate officers' ability to hold people responsible for firearms offences and critically hamper our ability to investigate gun crimes.

This is particularly disconcerting to Halifax Regional Police given that we have recently been confronted with a series of shootings, which created a sense of unease in our community as it relates to public safety. Our concerted investigative effort in response to these incidents netted a number of arrests of people involved in the criminal element who were known to carry and use firearms and resulted in the seizure of several firearms. NWEST officers played an integral role in this overall police operation and in doing so, they accessed the firearms registry extensively.

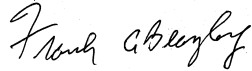
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Thank you for the opportunity to lend both my personal and organizational support for the continuation of the national firearms registry. While I can provide myriad examples of how the registry has been used to assist in investigations involving firearms in Halifax Regional Municipality, suffice it to say that it has repeatedly proved invaluable in helping to ensure community safety.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank A. Beazley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Frank A. Beazley, O.O.M.
Chief of Police