

**Frank J. Elsner**  
Chief of Police  
Chef de police



18 May 2010

190 rue Brady Street  
Sudbury, Ontario  
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Mr. John Rafferty, MP  
P. O. Box 10472  
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Dear Mr. Rafferty:

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[www.police.sudbury.on.ca](http://www.police.sudbury.on.ca)

I am writing you in regards to the impending vote in Parliament concerning the private members bill to scrap the long gun registry.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors and Executive of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police held in Windsor, Ontario on April 27 and 28, 2010, the Board unanimously passed a resolution supporting the long gun registry and that Parliament reject the private members bill that would effectively scrap the long gun registry. This is not new, as the O.A.C.P. has long supported the continuance of the firearms registry

I am well aware of the opposition to the registry by a number of people in Northern Ontario. However, I believe efforts to gain enough support in Parliament to pass this bill are misguided and based on misinformation that has been circulating for years. On the issue of scrapping the registry, public safety must always outweigh partisan politics.

Contrary to the assertions of some, the registry has been operated effectively and efficiently since the Royal Canadian Mounted Police took over administration of the system in 2005. As well, the cost of maintaining the registry on an annual basis has vastly been reduced to approximately 4 million dollars a year.

Far more concerning, Canadians have been told police don't need or use the registry. Canadian police officers query the Firearms Registry, on average, 11,500 times a day over 4,100,000 times a year for many reasons:

- It is used in criminal investigations to determine the origin of firearms used in crime and recovered from criminals
- It is used to identify and remove firearms from dangerous situations
- It is used to return recovered firearms to their rightful owners
- It is used to provide police officers with reliable information on who possesses firearms, the number of firearms and the kind and calibre of firearms one is likely to encounter

- It is used to create accountability for the sale and disposition of firearms. It creates a trail to determine the origin of crime guns
- It is used to encourage responsible gun ownership and the safe storage of firearms.

In essence it has become an effective law enforcement tool for front line officers who put themselves at risk for community safety on a daily basis.

As well, the vast majority of police leaders, Police Associations and Police Services Boards are united in our position that scrapping the registry would be a mistake and would take away an important community safety initiative.

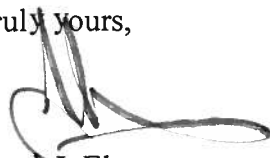
Police have no interest in criminalizing those who don't register their firearms. Certainly, there are other options available in our legal system to move people to compliance of registering their firearms. A license simply tells us a person has a right to own a gun while the registry tells us what guns the person actually owns. There is a huge difference between the two. Knowing what guns a person owns can mean the difference between the ability of the police to legally obtain authorization to search and seize firearms in a potentially dangerous situation and having that situation turn tragic because of the lack of pertinent information which is currently available through the registry.

There are many examples where the registry has been instrumental in effectively achieving what I have stated above which I would be very willing to share with you.

As the Chief of Police of Greater Sudbury Police Service, I am requesting that you do not support this private member's bill. If you require any further information on this very important issue, please visit [www.truthsandmyths.com](http://www.truthsandmyths.com) or call me directly at your convenience.

I remain,

Truly yours,



Frank J. Elsner  
Chief of Police

cc: Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police  
Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police  
Mr. Glen Thibeault, MP Sudbury  
Mr. Claude Gravelle, MP Nickel Belt