

# ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS

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December 20, 2006

Honourable Marie Poulin, President  
Liberal Party of Canada  
81 Metcalfe Street, Suite 400  
Ottawa, Ontario  
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Dear Mme. Poulin:

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H.), our 80,000 members, and 640 members clubs across the province, I am writing to express our profound concern over the adoption of Resolution #42 at the recent Liberal Party Convention. As you know, Resolution #42 reads as follows:

WHEREAS automatic and semi-automatic *weapons* are illegal for hunting purposes; and  
WHEREAS automatic and semi-automatic *weapons* do not support the hunting culture found in all parts of Canada;  
BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to support legislation to eliminate the personal use of automatic and semi-automatic *weapons*.

National Women's Liberal Commission  
Liberal Party of Nova Scotia

I know that you have heard from other stakeholders across Canada on this issue, and in fact, I am aware that you have received expressions of concern from some Members of Parliament.

Our opposition to the resolution is based on two factors: 1) the glaringly incorrect information on which the resolution itself was based; and 2) the ongoing failure of the Liberal Party of Canada to understand that legal, law-abiding hunters, target shooters, farmers and other firearms owners in Canada are not the problem, nor are they in any way a threat to the public safety.

It seems apparent from the wording of the resolution that whoever crafted it has no knowledge of firearms. Fully automatic firearms are of the type that when the trigger is pressed, the firearm will continue to fire until the trigger is released, or the magazine is empty. Very few of these types of firearms are in the possession of private citizens, are classified as prohibited, and have never been used for hunting. In fact, as of April 10, 2005, they can no longer be transported to a shooting range for target practice.

Semi-automatic firearms require the trigger to be pressed and released for each shot. **Semi-automatic firearms that are not classified as restricted are perfectly legal for hunting in Canada.** These include centre-fire rifles used for hunting deer and coyotes and target shooting, semi-automatic shotguns which are used for both hunting and target shooting, and semi-automatic .22 rimfire rifles that are used for target practice and the hunting and/or control of small game.

It is important to note that these firearms have been used for hunting for almost 100 years. **In fact, if the author(s) of the resolution had taken the time to consult your own badly flawed Bill C-68, they would have found that these firearms are recognized in that legislation as being used for hunting.** At the very least, you would have discovered that in the absence of the word "restricted," the resolution is glaringly wrong.



CONSERVATION PLEDGE

I give my pledge, as a Canadian, to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my Country – its soils and minerals, its air, water, forests, and wildlife.

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Notwithstanding the blatantly incorrect nature of Resolution #42, the fact that delegates chose to support the resolution is merely the continuation of a longstanding failure on the part of the Liberal Party of Canada, and the previous Liberal government, to recognize and understand that legal, law-abiding firearms owners are not responsible for the carnage on our streets, and do not deserve to be the target of this resolution and indeed, previous legislation introduced by your government.

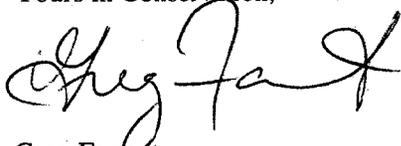
Criminals who use or have used firearms in the commission of a crime are, upon conviction, generally prohibited from being in possession of firearms for life. However, given the absence of a registry to track these offenders once they are released, and the lack of a requirement to force them to report their whereabouts to local law enforcement, they are not required to abide by the same rules and regulations that legal, law-abiding firearms owners must abide by, despite the fact it is this same group of previous offenders who represent the greatest threat to the public safety.

It is particularly galling that Resolution #42 should come out of the National Women's Liberal Commission, under the leadership of the Chair of the National Liberal Women's Caucus who, when sitting as a member of Conservative Party of Canada on January 21, 2004, spoke in opposition to Bill C-68, and in particular, the long gun registry.

By allowing this resolution to stand uncorrected, the Liberal Party of Canada will be again focusing their efforts in the wrong direction, much as the onerous requirements Bill C-68 does, despite **the complete absence of any quantifiable evidence to suggest that a long gun registry has done anything to save lives and the lack of any evidence to suggest that legal, trained firearms owners are a threat to the public safety.**

Irrespective of the policy process, I trust that when an error has been made, that the Liberal Party of Canada will want to do the right thing and immediately take the necessary steps to correct the situation. On behalf of the O.F.A.H., our members and lawful firearms owners across the province, I am requesting that you either scrap this badly flawed policy in its entirety, given the absence of any evidence to support it, or at the very least, amend the policy to reflect reality.

Yours in Conservation,



Greg Farrant  
Government Relations Manager

GF/jb

cc: Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister  
Honourable Stéphane Dion, Leader of the Official Opposition  
Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety  
Honourable Victor Toews, Minister of Justice  
Honourable Belinda Stronach, Chair, National Liberal Women's Caucus  
Ontario M.P.'s  
Provincial C.W.F. Affiliates  
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Michael A. Reader, O.F.A.H. Executive Director