



FIREARMS COMMITTEE YEAR END REPORT

BCWF members need and expect to have someone in Ottawa standing up for their rights to own and use firearms. If the BCWF is not doing a good job in representing BC gun owners at the Federal level then it would be surprising if our members did not look for another organization that does. Fortunately, BCWF has long had a representative in Ottawa who has fought for their rights to own and use firearms. More should be done, that is true, but there is no need to consider affiliating with another organization.

I propose that BCWF and its members devote further resources to working with national pro-firearm organizations that already are active in Ottawa but maintain BCWF's independence. Here are four specific recommendations to further these objectives:

1. BCWF should continue its efforts to work with other associations, such as the Canadian Shooting Sports Association and the Canadian National Firearms Association.
2. BCWF member clubs should be encouraged to voluntarily support other associations financially, such as CNFA, CSSA, and BCWF PAA, in addition to maintaining their membership in BCWF.
3. BCWF members (but not clubs) should be encouraged to join other associations, such as CNFA and CSSA.
4. In order for the BCWF to do more to stand up for our gun rights in Ottawa, the travel budget for the Firearms Committee should be increased.

It is particularly important to ensure that our rights are respected now that we have a new Government that promises to "tighten up" firearms laws on law-abiding Canadians. Here are a few of the current federal government's promises:

- **Repeal changes made by Bill C-42** that allow restricted and prohibited weapons to be freely transported without a permit, and we will put decision-making about weapons restrictions back in the hands of police, not politicians;
- **Require firearms vendors to keep records of all firearms inventory and sales to assist police in investigating firearms trafficking and other gun crimes;**
- **Immediately implement the imported gun marking regulations that have been repeatedly delayed by the previous government;**
- ***[These last two promises essentially re-introduce the long-gun registry under an even more Draconian format.]***

To support my four recommendations, here are a few brief supporting arguments:

First, that BCWF should expand its efforts to work with other associations, such as the Canadian Shooting Sports Association and the Canadian National Firearms Association.



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The BCWF should not affiliate with any other organization because BCWF is a charity, but BCWF should ensure that adequate resources are made available to ensure that our representatives can travel to Ottawa more frequently than previously to inform the government about our members' wishes.

BCWF already has a (part-time) volunteer representing them in Ottawa. I am a long standing member of the Firearms Advisory Committee of the Minister of Public Safety as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the Outdoor Caucus Association Canada. As well, I have worked with the various national and provincial organizations for more than 10 years on behalf of BCWF members to protect our gun rights. More needs to be done.

Second, more BCWF member clubs should be encouraged to voluntarily support other associations financially, such as CNFA, CSSA, and BCWF PAA, in addition to maintaining their membership in BCWF.

Financial support for these pro-gun organizations is vital given the enormous challenges involved in maintaining a presence with the federal government. Since BCWF cannot do this alone, it must rely upon other organizations to carry most of the responsibilities. It is incumbent upon BCWF members to financially support organizations that are working on their behalf.

The BCWF cannot do everything. It is a charity that is primarily focused on wildlife conservation in British Columbia. Wildlife conservation is an important goal and is worthy of support of all gun clubs in the province. But so are gun rights.

Third, I would encourage BCWF members (but not clubs) to join the CNFA or the CSSA.

There is no reason individuals cannot hold membership in other organizations as well as remaining members of the BCWF. The CNFA and the CSSA are important national organizations that play distinct roles in fighting for our firearm rights. They deserve our support.

My final recommendation is that, in order for the BCWF to do more to stand up for our gun rights in Ottawa, the travel budget for the Firearms Committee should be increased to include at least two annual trips to Ottawa to meet with MPs. As well, Firearms Committee members are planning to meet each of the newly elected BC MPs immediately in their home ridings.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Gary Mauser
Firearms Committee Chair

Notes:

At the present time, there are four important lobby groups in Ottawa that speak for Canadian firearms owners:

Canadian Shooting Sports Association,
Canadian National Firearms Association,
Outdoor Caucus Association Canada, and
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.



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Each of these organizations has strengths and weaknesses, but I believe they all play important roles in supporting Canadian firearms owners.

In addition, there are two associations of Members of Parliament that promote hunting, fishing, firearms rights and rural interests in Parliament:

Conservative Hunting and Angling Caucus, chaired by Bob Sopuck (MP, Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette, Manitoba);

Outdoor Caucus Association of Canada, co-chaired by Bob Zimmer (MP, Prince George-Peace River) and Peter Stoffer (MP, Sackville-Preston-Chezzetcook, Nova Scotia).