

that registration leads only to blatant attempts to restrict firearm ownership. Discrimination enters the system when the agency administering the registration process is not completely independent because it has a vested interest in denying firearms to persons it considers undesirable.

Part of the reason gun owners are so adamant against registration of sporting arms is the verbal excesses indulged in by some of its proponents who leave little doubt that they believe there is no justification these days for anyone to own a firearm and whose ultimate aim is the banning of private ownership of all firearms. Some proponents believe and say that gun confiscation is simply a preliminary to their aim of banning hunting.

The Alberta Fish and Game Association proudly asserts that the record of organizations of hunters in wildlife conservation in North America in the past 100 years makes it very clear that it is in the public interest that those people who choose to do so should continue to be able to hunt.

Firearms registration has been tried in many jurisdictions. The expense is great, and nowhere can the exercise be demonstrated to have reduced misuse of firearms. There are probably now 10 million unregistered sporting firearms in Canada. To set out to register them is to impose an intolerable burden on the police or to require the establishment of an entire new agency to register firearms. Either alternative would impose heavy new burdens on the Canadian taxpayer and do little