

## **UPDATE – MEETING WITH MP LOCKHART – APRIL 13, 2018**

The following is a brief update of the meeting with the MP for the Fundy-Royal Riding which was held at the PSC Clubhouse on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The following were in attendance:

MP Alaina Lockhart	plus two assistants
Ron Whitehead	Petitcodiac Sportsman's Club
Tom Nowlan	Petitcodiac Sportsman's Club
Sharon MacDougall	Havelock Sportsmen's Club
Mike McDermott	Havelock Sportsmen's Club
Dean Toole	Sussex Fish & Game
Jim Cormier	Sussex Fish & Game
Eric Tracy	Shepody Fish & Game
Harold Morgan	Shepody Fish & Game
Greg Taylor	Canaan River Fish & Game
Reace Black	Canaan River Fish & Game
John Baxter	Albert County Hunters
John MacDonald	Albert County Hunters
Chris Lynch	Hampton Rifle & Pistol
Jon Reicker	Hampton Rifle & Pistol

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Prior to the meeting with MP Lockhart we met as a group to discuss issues and this was a very productive meeting.

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Please note that this is a very short report in comparison to those we have put together in the past and I have purposely done this since I found this meeting to be very unproductive.

Chris Lynch and Jon Reicker from the Hampton Rifle & Pistol Club were welcomed as a very important part of the Fundy-Royal Firearms Committee. It should be noted that they have 500 plus members.

It was noted that the President of the NB Wildlife Federation did not appear nor was a delegate sent from the Federation. Several members stated their displeasure noting that the Federation should be involved.

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MP Lockhart appeared at 1:30 PM as expected with two assistants; she was not in a jovial mood at all and stated that she was taken back somewhat by our recent report that we had forwarded to her prior to the meeting.

MP Lockhart did address a few issues but overall the main issues were not addressed.

She told us that she had managed to have them put a hold on the UN Firearms Marking Regulations but could not tell us for how long these regulations would be put on hold.

Originally Minister Goodale's office stated that these regulations would be put in place through use of a technical amendment by June 1<sup>st</sup>. According to MP Lockhart and now Minister Goodale's office they will be delayed until December 2018. According to MP Lockhart she had this done as a result of our concerns with these regulations. She could not tell us how long they would be delayed. It is quite possible that the Bill will not be passed until the fall in any case so this delay is nothing different.

MP Lockhart attempted to assure us that when and if we request a reference number to authorize a transfer of a long gun that the only verification made would be to ensure that the person receiving the transfer still had a valid PAL. This would not be an opportunity to verify all previous criminal history of a person. This is totally contrary to all previous information given by Minister Goodale's office.

**A discussion on obtaining a reference number for the private transfer of firearms then followed. MP Lockhart assured us that this will not be voluntary but will be a requirement under the new legislation. It was stated that due to the manner in which the Bill had been presented many readers assumed that this was not a legislated requirement and was totally voluntary. When we questioned what information they will collect MP Lockhart was of the opinion that it was just the PALs of both parties. This was most certainly contrary to the belief of most Canadians who believe that a request for a reference number would amount to a complete re-evaluation of the individual regarding his/her eligibility (enhanced reliability).**

MP Lockhart stated there would be no new fees established under this Bill although section 54 seems to establish a fee structure and coupled with the *Firearms Fees Regulations* seem ready to do just that.

There was considerable discussion and after the meeting we had a second meeting with only the Committee and most agreed that MP Lockhart did not have enough knowledge of current firearms issues to be able to adequately comment on most of these issues.

MP Lockhart stated she would get back to us with more answers in writing but it is believed any further face to face meetings with her would not be useful.

It was noted, as it was at previous meetings, voters such as us were not aware of her Party's Firearms platform prior to the last election. MP Lockhart said that she distributed it herself and we should have known about the platform.

One of the Committee members mentioned that he had asked her directly at the Albert County Exhibition prior to the election what was the Liberal's position on firearms and she stated they had not put forward anything in this regard. This seemed to indicate that

her position was not truthful. It was then stated that we would make sure we knew what the platform of all candidates was the next time.

It was also stated that if ordinary Canadians want more firearms restrictions on Canadians it was due to the fact that the government fails miserably in informing them of the restrictions that are now enforced on us all.

Finally one of the Committee members brought forth the following, which was a speech presented by MP Lockhart in the House on March 28<sup>th</sup>;

*I want to take this opportunity to thank Ron Whitehead and the representatives from many of the sportsmen clubs and fish and game clubs in Fundy Royal for lending me their time and for providing candid feedback, which I was pleased to see had an impact on the drafting of this legislation. It has been my priority to identify the realities of firearm ownership in rural Canada, and to bring that perspective to be considered alongside urban concerns, which are legitimate and do need to be addressed.*

*In my riding, a firearm is seen as a tool. For generations, law-abiding Canadian gun owners have safely used their firearms for hunting and sport shooting, as well as predator and pest control. Canadian farmers, hunters, and sport shooters are among the most safety-conscious gun owners in the world.*

*This is in stark contrast to other cultures, where firearms are used as weapons. A weapon is something that is used with the intent to injure, defeat, or destroy. Our challenge is to address the crimes that are being carried out by weapons, while respecting law-abiding firearm owners. It is a fine needle to thread, but through consultation, I believe the minister has found that balance.*

*I am very pleased that the conversations I have had with my advisory council are reflected in the legislation as it was tabled. I would like to take a few minutes to reflect on what I heard from this group.*

I had no knowledge of this until it was brought to my attention and my comment would be as follows;

***Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive.***

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After the meeting the Committee met again to consider what we would now do. It was unanimously agreed that we would continue on right to the end but agreed it was not useful to meet again with MP Lockhart,

We all pledged to educate our club members on the Bill and all firearms legislation as soon as possible.

The Petitediac Sportsman's Club has invited all members and the general public to an information session on Bill C-71 at 7:30 PM on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. It was hoped that

as many members of the Committee as possible would show up to show their support and lend their knowledge and understanding to the session. However this is not a rally.

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**The following is a list of questions that the Committee previously asked MP Lockhart that went unanswered:**

1. What are the financial and human resources required to put this Bill in play? What has been budgeted? What is the cost to Canadian tax payers? Has a cost-benefit analysis been done?
2. How did we, (owners and shooters) of restricted firearms, abuse the system making it necessary to prevent us from transporting our firearms to gun shows, gunsmiths, dealers, etc.?
3. Why did you establish a system whereby the RCMP could arbitrarily classify firearms without being responsible to the Government as it is now?
4. Long gun registry info – who has maintained this info that was supposedly destroyed? (This question has been asked since day one but has never been answered).
5. Background checks - Where will the financial and human resources come from to perform these checks? Who will perform these checks and the resulting evaluations? What are their qualifications? What will the criteria be? Did not the current 5 year evaluation work? Where are the results of studies conducted to show that the existing background checks have proven inadequate?
6. How can the government legitimately restrict Canadians as a result of shootings in the U.S.A?
7. Minister Goodale stated that 69% of Canadians in urban areas support an outright ban on firearms. Explain the logistics of this poll.

Ron Whitehead  
Committee Chairman  
Fundy-Royal Firearms Committee  
April 16, 2018