

**OFAH ZONE “H” report for BPSA
Stu Paterson - May 2017**

**“opinions expressed in this report are
not necessarily those of BPSA, its
members or directors”**



1. Last month I reported on the controversy surrounding the federal BILL C-47, an act to amend the export and import rules governing the trade of arms. It was introduced in the commons on the same day as the federal pot legalization bill. Was it a bid by the Trudeau Liberals to sneak in this legislation with few people noticing? The bill is described by delegates to the latest OFAH Zone H meeting as “a stealth or back door gun registry”. Under the law, government inspectors would be allowed to enter any place without a search warrant to search for guns and ammo. All firearms and parts records would be required to be kept and be accessible to the federal government. Fines for breaking this law will increase from 25 to 250-thousand dollars. Gun parts valued at under 100-dollars are governed by this bill. A broker permit will be required by every firearm owner.

The Executive Assistant to Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MP Larry Miller has circulated the following material regarding this bill, on behalf of our member of parliament

Please see the links below for an article written by David Rutledge and a video he has created regarding Bill C 47 - An Act to amend the Export and Import Permits Act and the Criminal Code (amendments permitting the accession to the Arms Trade Treaty and other amendments).



The article can be found here: <https://hoplitetactical.com/articles/100-gun-rights/250-canada-update-to-bill-c-47-petition-it-s-fully-sponsored> .

The video can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_YOfQ7wGv4.

Mr. Miller has sponsored a petition regarding Bill C 47 that can be found here: <https://petitions.parl.gc.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1073> .

A hard copy of the petition will also be available for signing in Mr. Miller's office and we can provide hard copies if you would like to distribute them for signing.

For the petition to be considered valid and pass certification please ensure the following;

- would have to contain at least 25 signatures along with addresses
- Petitioners must not sign for anyone else
- Written addresses may be in the form of complete home addresses or simply the names of the petitioners' town and province of residence
- Petitions must contain original signatures written directly on the document and not pasted or otherwise transferred to it

Dianne Ackert, Executive Assistant, Larry Miller, MP

This Bill, C-47 has been given second reading in the commons. Now we learn that further discussion of it has been delayed by the government until next year.



MP Gerry Ritz has been very vocal about C-47:

[Gerry Ritz](#) - Conservative MP for Battleford/Lloydminster, SK

"Mr. Speaker, the Liberals are sneaking a new gun registry in by stealth, tabling it on the same day as their pot legislation. They are not fooling gun owners across Canada, though, that this is not just a gun registry by another name.

Bill [C-47](#) requires any Canadian company importing firearms or firearm technology to keep records electronically. What agency will hold and administer this new electronic registry, and who will have access to it?

On June 1, the United Nations Firearm Marking scheme also comes in to effect, targeting responsible gun owners and legitimate firearm businesses, saddling them with an annual \$60 million dollar bill. Rather than protect us, this marking scheme will increase the cost of each legitimately purchased firearm by some \$200.

Criminals do not follow law and they are not going to register their guns. International arms dealers will never be compliant with the UN and they will not be registering any of their contact information.

The Liberals again put a target on recreational sports shooters, hunters, and small family-run businesses. Instead of wasting time and money on a new gun registry, how about the Liberals really tackle the criminals".

OFAH head office reports they are still reviewing this. "Many firearms industry folks claim they are not overly concerned as they already do most of what this bill would require". And this quote "We are still assessing potential impact on individuals".

The Canadian Firearm Magazine has done a commentary on this controversial bill.

CALIBRE
THE CANADIAN FIREARM MAGAZINE



The Trudeau government has introduced Bill C-47, aimed at imposing new and entirely discretionary import/export regulations for the Canadian firearms industry.

Bill C-47, looks to introduce a new brokering permit for all firearms, ammunition, accessory and optic import/exports. Essentially, if the product being imported or exported has anything to do with firearms, it will require a brokering permit be applied for and issued. Like all new bills, especially those pertaining to firearms, it remains unclear as to the documentation required in order to obtain a permit. While Bill C-47 makes it clear that permits are required only for transactions regarding the import/export of firearms to or from a foreign country, it also requires that all documentation pertaining to the acquisition of an import permit, certificate, or allocation be retained for a period of six years, without providing any further clarification on what that documentation may be... leaving some to wonder if Bill C-47 doesn't allow for the creation of a new firearms registry by way of requiring end-user and consumer data to be recorded on import permit or certificate applications.

To be clear, we are not calling this a gun registry just yet... nor do we expect this to be a gun bill being worked on by Minister Goodale and his cohorts. However, it does in the very least represent yet another layer of bureaucracy to the business of firearms import and export in an already extremely regulated market, and may be just the first component in a multi-part gun control bill aimed at reducing imports/exports and sales as well as imposing restrictions on private ownership.

Two MP's have spoken loudly on bill C-47:

Conservative MPs Blaine Calkins and Bob Zimmer, members of the party's hunting and angling caucus, have issued this statement on this issue-

"They're going to require a person or an entity that imports firearms, to record all that information. And let's say a gun company x that imports firearms and also sells them out of their retail outlet — they're going to be asked for all their information at any time," Zimmer said.



"They're asking for their electronic records to be available. They're also talking about penalizing for inadequate records and they're also talking about periods of retention. So they're going to be required to keep records for at least six years. So just like Blaine has said, this is by all accounts another a firearms registry — what we fought hard to get rid of many years ago."

The Liberals explicitly reject that claim in their backgrounder on C-47 that this is a "stealth-back-door gun registry".

In a commentary in the ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS Zimmer spoke out about C-47-

This bill not only expands the scope of the current record-keepers from individuals to include organizations but it also increases the fine for not keeping accurate records from \$25,000 to \$250,000. No matter how you try to spin this, it is a back-door registry. If records are being kept that can be requested at any time for any reason, it is a back-door registry.



While in government, my Conservative colleagues and I were very proud to be able to scrap the unnecessary and extremely costly Long-Gun Registry. We did this in support of law-abiding firearms owners across the country. Why is Minister Goodale turning his back on so many rural Canadians across the country? Why did he say, "We will not recreate a federal long gun registry," and then table this blatant attempt to keep records of all Canadians who purchase their firearm legally?

Minister Goodale's communications director stated, "The government's made it very clear it's not going to reintroduce the long-gun registry, it's about as categorical as we can get." To categorically deny a new registry and follow up a few short weeks later with what amounts to exactly that is underhanded and deceitful. Time is short, let Minister Goodale know that you don't want Bill C-47 to be implemented and you don't want the UN Markings protocol in Canada.

Have your voice heard by emailing him at ralph.goodale@parl.gc.ca or calling his office at 306-585-2202 or 613-947-1153.

Bob Zimmer is the MP for Prince George-Peace River-Northern Rockies

2.Call for Provincial OFAH Director-at-Large Nominations:

The OFAH will be having an election for five OFAH provincial director-at-large positions, who will sit on the OFAH Board of Directors.

Nominations must be submitted to OFAH Head Office by no later than 11:59 pm on August 15, 2017.

To submit a nomination, please have a [nomination form](#) signed by 25 OFAH members in good standing (12 months of consecutive OFAH membership) who are 18 years of age and older.

Please send your nomination to Jane Beggs, OFAH Administrative Assistant by mail (OFAH, 4601 Guthrie Drive, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 0C9) or by email (jane_beggs@ofah.org)

Each nominee must have been an OFAH member in good standing for the 12 months prior to the time of nomination, continuous to and beyond the time of election. Each nominee must be 18 years of age and older.

The term of office for the provincial directors-at-large shall be two years, and run from the OFAH Annual General Meeting in March 2018 to the Annual General Meeting in March 2020.

Not more than two residents of any one OFAH zone may be elected at any given time for provincial directors-at-large. There are already two directors-at-large in Zone H, so if you apply you will have to wait two years to get a shot at one of the positions.

The slate of nominees will appear in the October edition of *HOTLINE* in Ontario *OUT of DOORS*, along with a ballot. There will also be an online ballot available to use. Voting will be until 11:59 pm on December 31. OFAH members in good standing, 18 years of age and older, can vote for up to five OFAH provincial directors-at-large.

If you have any questions regarding the process of nominating a provincial director-at-large, please contact Jane Beggs, at OFAH headquarters at jane_beggs@ofah.org

3. The MNRF has changed its policy on a hunting issue bringing back hunting seasons after pressure from OFAH and Northern Ontario hunters -

PETERBOROUGH — The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has restored rabbit and hare hunting seasons in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) 1-50 and 53-59 for the remainder of the 2017 season — effective April 11, 2017 through June 15, 2017.\

In case you missed it, while making broad changes to the [small game hunting regulations that came into effect on April 1, 2017](#), the MNRF closed the remainder of this year's rabbit and hare hunting seasons in northern Ontario, which were originally scheduled to close June 15. The announcement was made March 31 and the government provided no notice to hunters beyond an Environmental Registry posting of the immediate closure.



Since the decision was announced, the OFAH has heard from many small game hunters who were directly affected. The mid-season changes have left many cancelling their plans and looking for answers to explain why their spring hunting traditions had been eliminated so abruptly.

Minister Kathryn McGarry responded quickly to the concerns of the OFAH and the hunting community in signing a regulation today that restores the remainder of this year's rabbit and hare hunting seasons in northern Ontario.



The changes came into effect immediately, but unfortunately are just a temporary measure and will only remain in effect until June 15, 2017. The season will end on March 31 each year in the future.

"Although this is a great first step for the minister to show she is listening to the concerns of northern hunters, the abrupt season closure for this year is only the start of the conversation. We want to have a discussion about how we can work towards a commitment to restore these important spring hunting traditions moving forward," says Matt DeMille, OFAH manager of fish and wildlife services.

The OFAH did not support the reduction in rabbit and hare hunting opportunities when proposed earlier this year because there is no evidence to suggest these hunting seasons are not sustainable.

While this will be a priority issue for the OFAH, it is important to recognize that there were many enhancements to small game hunting with the recent announcements.

"The OFAH has been pushing for modernized small game hunting regulations for many years. We are extremely pleased to see so many positive changes, and we don't want this one issue to completely overshadow the rest," says DeMille. "It is an important issue that needs to be resolved, but some of the MNRF's recent changes give small game hunters many reasons to be optimistic about the future of small game hunting in Ontario."

For more information on all the changes, visit www.ofah.org/smallgamechanges.

4. The Province wants feedback about its proposed new bait-fish policy. The aim of the study is to prevent the spread of invasive species and disease. There are many proposals:under the changes you would always be required to prove where you got bait. Also when you buy bait you will only be able to use it in the zone where you bought it.

The nearest public meeting on this is on June 8, 2017. From 2-4pm it's the bait stakeholder information session at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn in London. Then an open house from 6:30-9pm at the same location on June 8. You can find the complete list of proposed changes on the provincial EBR site. Comments close on June 27, 2017.



5. Every year 190-thousand deer hunting licenses are sold in Ontario. Deer hunting pumps millions of dollars into the Ontario economy. Recently the MNR collected public comments on a new draft deer policy for Ontario that provides the “big picture” on how deer will be managed. Our federation provided recommendations which can be reviewed at www.ofah.org/deer/action



One OFAH recommendation is to implement mandatory double-fencing for cervid (deer, elk, etc) farms and eventually phase out these farms to eliminate the risk they pose to wild deer and elk populations.

6. A reminder that OFAH sponsored Angler and Hunter Radio is its fifth season Saturday's at 8am on 560 CFOS.

Angler & Hunter Radio is the voice of Ontario anglers and hunters, discussing topics of interest to OFAH members and the province's outdoor enthusiasts. The show is always timely and topical. Join host Randy Jennings this week.

You can check out past broadcasts at the Angler & Hunter site

<http://www.ahradio.ca/season7/show-6-stream-fishing-for-trout-hunting-knives-and-more/>

7. And good news from Lake Nipissing:

Ontario and Nipissing First Nation (NFN) are continuing to work together on sustainable management of Lake Nipissing fisheries and local walleye population recovery.

The province and first nation's folks are marking the first anniversary of the Lake Nipissing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which was established in 2016 to support collaboration on fisheries management and walleye repopulation in Lake Nipissing. Both parties have released a [joint update](#) on their progress over the past year, which includes:

- Conducting more than 30 days of commercial fishery assessments and monitoring surveys, including 48 net sets for the Fall Walleye Index Netting survey
- Working cooperatively with NFN fishers to sample 850 fish
- 90 contacts with commercial fishers to discuss the MOU and NFN's Fisheries Law
- Communicating the new fisheries management practices to approximately 600 recreational anglers
- Introducing a temporary moratorium on the cultural practice of spear fishing.

Ontario and NFN will build on this progress by continuing community and industry outreach and maintaining the sustainable practices established through the MOU.

Quick Facts

- On March 10, 2016, NFN and Ontario signed an MOU with the aim of sustainably managing the Lake Nipissing fisheries.
- The MOU supports the recovery of the walleye fishery and the implementation of NFN's Fisheries Law, including a commitment to compliance and enforcement.
- NFN and the province continue to work together to collect, analyze and share fisheries data, conduct fisheries assessments and monitor surveys.
- A joint workshop held in December, 2016 provided an opportunity for NFN and provincial staff to discuss lessons learned, successes and recommendations for year two of the MOU.

8. The summer zone H meeting is on August 13, 2017 at 10am at the Barrie District Hunters and Anglers clubhouse.

Stu Paterson reporting on OFAH for the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association

With more than 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, and 740 member clubs, the OFAH is the province's largest fish and wildlife conservation-based organization — and the VOICE of anglers and hunters. For more information visit us online at www.ofah.org, follow us on Twitter @ofah and find us on Facebook or Instagram @theofah.

