

What's New?

Canada: Bill to end long-gun registry passes vote in House of Commons

On November 4, a majority vote in Canada's House of Commons, with many Opposition members voting with the Government, saw the passage of Lisgar-Portage MP Candice Hoepfner's Private Member's Bill (C-391) to end the wasteful long-gun registry. Bill C-391 now goes to committee for further study.

To find out how your Member of Parliament voted, simply follow this link:

<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/HouseChamberBusiness/ChamberVoteDetail.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=40&Ses=2&Vote=124&GroupBy=party&FtrParl=40&FtrSes=2>

There is still a lot of work to be done, and we urge WiSH supporters to continue their efforts in countering misinformation put forward by the increasingly desperate gun prohibition lobby.

Australia: Cost of Queensland registry revealed

Responding to a question from State MP for Lockyer, Ian Rickuss, the Queensland Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services revealed that the cost of the Weapons Licensing Branch for 2006-07 was \$4.82 million, for 2007-08 it was \$5.87 million and for the 2008-09 period ending 31 December 2008 it was \$3.01 million.

This comes to a total of almost \$14 million for just two and a half years, in one State alone – money that could have been spent on schools, hospitals, family services, and affordable childcare.

WiSH supporters can take action to find out the yearly cost to taxpayers of maintaining a list of legally owned guns, by writing to their local MP and asking them to raise the matter in Parliament.

State Parliament Websites

NSW: <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/>
VIC: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/>
SA: <http://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/>
WA: <http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/index.htm>
TAS: <http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/>
ACT: <http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/>
NT: <http://www.nt.gov.au/lant/>
QLD: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/>

Reflections on a Lifetime of Firearms Collecting

By Kath Arnold (COLFO, NZAHAA)

Born in 1947, I was brought up on my parent's farm along with my three older brothers. I was the baby, 5 years younger than my youngest brother. My father had firearms as part of his farming tools. He was not a hunter. The firearms were simply part of the equipment needed to run a farm in those days.

As with all the farm tools, we were taught safety rules that applied to firearms. This was no different to us than being taught to drive a tractor or ride a horse.

I met my future husband Colin in 1963. He was a keen hunter and shooter, so I became interested. We went out together, hunting goats and possums, much to the despair of my mother who wanted to see her daughter going to dances and dressing up (not down!?!).

After we were married in 1967, we became very interested in collecting and researching old firearms. In 1973, we attended a weekend in Wanganui at a Black Powder shoot. In the Running Boar event, I noticed a chap using a very short barreled, Marlin lever action firearm. I had to have this neat little rifle! I was told by all the experts that this rifle had the barrel shortened. This did not deter me.

As soon as I arrived home, I wrote to the Marlin Firearms Co. in America with the serial no., etc. I received a reply quickly from the Company, confirming that this was a very rare firearm. It had not been shortened, but had left the factory with the 14" barrel.

The Marlin Co. sent me a huge amount of information about themselves and the history of the Company. This was the beginning of a lifelong passion for me, both for collecting all things Marlin, and researching the history of firearms.

In the early days of my collecting, I was accepted as a member of the Marlin Firearms Collectors Club in the USA. However, here in New Zealand - because I was a woman - I was unable to join the main collecting group until 1978!!

I was the first female collector to be accepted in the New Zealand Antique and Historical Arms Association (NZAHAA).

I had to handle the odd hassle or two in the beginning. I don't think guys quite knew how to deal with me. However, over the years, as the other collectors realized that I was a genuine collector and actually knew my field of collecting I was accepted, just like anyone else.

I have come a long way since the early days of collecting, and my interests have widened to include more of the history of firearms use in New Zealand. I am still a dedicated collector and researcher, but I am also a member of COLFO, an organization dedicated to promoting and protecting and representing the rights of all licensed firearms owners in New Zealand, including hunters and collectors.

I am now on the Executive Board of the NZAHAA, and I am their representative on the COLFO Board.

www.colfo.org.nz
www.antiquearms.org.nz

Focus On....

Suicide Inquiry Scandal

In November 2009 the Senate Community Affairs References Committee publicly released a submission made by two WiSH founders to the Inquiry into Suicide in Australia.

This submission provides examples of serious flaws in the academic peer-review system and the attempted suppression and censorship of research into suicide and suicide prevention.

The full pdf of this submission was published via the Community Affairs References Committee 'submissions received' section of the website. It was then made available on the WiSH website –

http://www.ic-wish.org/McPhedran%20Baker%20Suicide%20in%20Australia%20Senate%20Submission_Nov%202009.pdf

Subsequently, the submission was removed from the Community Affairs References Committee website. It was later replaced with a version that omitted several pages of supporting documentation (Attachments B to E).

Since that time, a number of different accounts have been provided by various different parties about why the submission was removed post-publication and why material has been removed from the submission.

None of these accounts appear to align well with the standard Senate procedures outlined at http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit_sub/br_o_one.htm.

At the time of writing, Greens Senator Rachel Siewert – Chair of the Community Affairs References Committee – has still not seen fit to respond to our queries, or to indicate when the full submission will be returned to the website in its originally published form.

Shelter Our Sisters

We are all too familiar with the daily struggles faced by women's shelters, the challenges of providing a secure roof over the heads of women and children escaping violence, and the difficulties of obtaining funding and resources to meet the demand for emergency accommodation.

Against this background, positive stories of community and corporate support give us a sense of hope. One such story has been showcased in a feature article on the Shelter Our Sisters group:

"On a shimmering sunny day in the middle of fall, children were in the middle of play in a typical Bergen County backyard. Kids frolicked around a new swing set, slide and sandbox when not exploring their creative side at an arts and crafts area. In the background, the random plinks of a xylophone added to the happy cacophony.

This newly redesigned outdoor nature playground is in an undisclosed location – the backyard of Shelter Our Sisters, a Hackensack-based domestic violence shelter serving women in Bergen County and the surrounding area. For the adults present at the playground's unveiling last month, the day held an undertone of seriousness amidst the child's play..."

More:

http://www.northjersey.com/community/New_playground_for_womens_shelter_not_just_childs_play.html

Positions Vacant

Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

Project Manager - Africa Regional Office

The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre), an independent mediation organisation, is seeking to recruit a Project Manager to support its activities in Africa.

Reporting to the Africa Regional Director she/he will:

- Project manage selected Africa based conflict mediation activities;
- Identify potential new conflict mediation work;
- Conduct research and analysis in support of conflict mediation efforts;
- Fundraise and maintain regular contacts with donors in the region.

Candidates should have 7-8 years of professional experience in an international environment, particularly in an African context, and a Master's degree in conflict resolution, political science, development studies or another related field.

The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate high quality project management skills, the ability to effectively build and manage networks and experience of organising high level meetings. Experience in political analysis and conflict resolution is considered an asset.

If you have extensive knowledge and professional experience of African political affairs, international peacemaking and conflict mediation, please send a detailed CV, cover letter, and daytime phone contact to africa@hdcentre.org.

Closing date: 5 February 2010

Oxfam New Zealand

Control Arms Coordinator, part-time

Oxfam NZ currently has a key vacancy in its policy and advocacy team for a part time Control Arms Coordinator, starting in February 2010 for 5-6 months.

This position will contribute to delivering Oxfam New Zealand's role in the international Control Arms Campaign, which is advocating for a legally-binding global Arms Trade Treaty.

It will also help develop and implement a joint strategy to advance the Control Arms campaign in the Pacific region and further recruit Pacific civil society representation to the international campaign, as well as provide active support to the Pacific Small Arms Action Network (PSAAG).

Closing date: 29 January 2010

More:

<http://www.oxfam.org.nz/index.asp?s1=What%20you%20can%20do&s2=Jobs%20at%20Oxfam&s3=Current%20vacancies>

The United Nations International Training and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) Internship program 2010

The Internship Programme at UN-INSTRAW is designed to acquaint students or recent graduates with gender issues and the work of UN-INSTRAW and of the United Nations in general. Students spend anywhere from four to six months (or longer) at the Institute's headquarters in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Some internships can also be carried out "virtually" (i.e., from the intern's home base).

More:

<http://www.un-instraw.org/en/instraw/personnel/interns.html>

Activist Resources

Don't forget to visit the activist resource area of the WiSH website. This page provides a range of helpful material for grassroots campaigners.

<http://www.ic-wish.org/activistresources.htm>

Contribute to Our Newsletter

If you would like to contribute a news item, action alert, event notice, or other material to our newsletter, please email info@ic-wish.org