

OPINION
& EDITORIALS



The CENTRAL NEWSPAPER

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Ontario joins the battle to kill the federal gun scheme
By Jay Goldberg
Ottawa is burning your tax dollars on a gun buyback program that does nothing to stop the real criminals
After years of doing little more than speaking out against the federal government's gun buyback program, Ontario Premier Doug Ford is getting off the bench and will join his Alberta and Saskatchewan counterparts in challenging the program in court. Every provincial government, other than the governments of B.C. and Quebec, has refused to support the federal government's gun buyback program, citing its ineffectiveness. But until recently, only two provinces were willing to do something about it. The governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan have asked the Supreme Court to declare the federal government's gun buyback program unconstitutional. Ontario will now join them. The challenge was originally brought forward by the Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights, which has argued that the government has overstepped its mandate by banning firearms by cabinet decree rather than through actual federal legislation. In announcing the Ford government's decision, Solicitor General Michael Kerzner made it clear where the Ontario government stands.
"The federal government's gun buyback program has done nothing to address the root causes of gun violence in our communities," said Kerzner. "We share the concerns raised by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) on the federal government's approach to the gun buyback program."
"Local police resources should be focused on combating crime and keeping our communities safe—not attending residential addresses and confiscating firearms that were previously lawful but are now prohibited."There are two key problems with the federal government's gun buyback program.
The first and most obvious problem is the program's effectiveness.
"We know that the gun buyback program is going to have, essentially, zero impact on crime in Toronto," said Clayton Campbell, president of the Toronto Police Association. The same can be said when it comes to crime across the country.
Why?
Because, as Mount Royal University Professor Doug King put it, "Individuals who have registered firearms are much less likely to commit criminal offences."
Canada's gun problem, to the extent that the country has one, is driven by illegal guns flowing into the country from the United States.
Roughly 90 per cent of guns involved in crime in Canada can be traced back to the U.S. Of the remaining guns, many cannot be traced at all, because their serial numbers have been filed off. In other words, the percentage of guns used in gun crimes coming from the U.S. could actually be well above 90 per cent.
Illegal guns are the problem. And, to the extent that the federal government wants to solve the gun violence problem in Canada, its focus should be on border enforcement and preventing illegal guns from being smuggled into the country rather than targeting law-abiding gun owners who, in many cases, have owned their firearms for years, including thousands of models that Ottawa has suddenly declared illegal.
The National Police Federation, the union representing the RCMP, recognizes exactly that.
Ottawa's gun buyback program "diverts extremely important personnel, resources and funding away from addressing the more immediate and growing threat of criminal use of illegal firearms," said the National Police Federation in a position statement.
The second major issue has to do with the cost.
The federal government, as of the 2025 budget, has already committed \$742 million to carry out its gun ban and confiscation scheme. But Gary Mauser, Professor Emeritus from Simon Fraser University, estimates that the cost could actually be much closer to \$6 billion.
The federal government is currently running a deficit well north of \$60 billion and plans to spill red ink as far as the eye can see. There is no reason for the feds to waste billions of dollars on a program that infringes on the rights of Canadians and that law enforcement agencies have repeatedly said won't solve the problems Ottawa claims it is looking to address.
Ford is right to join Alberta Premier Danielle Smith and Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe in challenging the federal government's gun buyback program at the Supreme Court. If other premiers wise up, they should join the legal fight as well.
It's time for Ottawa to start focusing on targeting the real cause of gun violence, illegal guns, rather than going after law-abiding gun owners.

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Letters To The Editor:

WHAT IS ON YOUR MIND? Send letters to newspaper@ocentral.com
Dear Editor:
Last night, Canadians learned the truth about Mark Carney's bridge deal. Carney told Canadians: "Any sharing of the toll revenue won't happen until all the debt, all of the debt, is repaid."
This was a lie.
Carney's bridge "deal" forces Canada to give half of the net toll revenue to the U.S. after operating costs, NOT after the debt is repaid.
Canadian taxpayers paid 100% of the cost to build this bridge. Now, Carney is handing half of the net revenue to the United States for the first 15 years.
Carney caved.
Carney lied.
This news is just breaking, and we need to make sure Canadians hear the truth.
Team Pierre
An Anonymous Worker
Dear Editor:
Ontario and the United States have built one of the strongest economic partnership in the world. Ontario powers 1.5 million American homes. We supply the nickel, potash and uranium that help power the U.S. economy.
We want to keep working with our American friends and allies to grow our economies and create jobs on both sides of the border because we are stronger when we work together.
But now President Trump is threatening Canada with more tariffs, and if he wants a fight, we won't back down.
So I took our message straight to the American people - a tariff on Canada is a tax on the American people.
Take a minute to watch my interview here.
Our PC team will keep standing up for Ontario. We'll keep protecting Ontario jobs. And we'll always put Ontario workers and families first.
Thank you for your support.
Sincerely,
Doug Ford
Leader, Ontario PC Party
Dear Editor:
I am afraid for Oshawa. The other in conversation at the local Tim's, the election topic came up. Everyone was so surprised to see the top three contenders to be former council members. This brought to question.... do the other three candidates running even have a chance?
After all the incumbent council members have a huge advantage. Name recognition and the ability to attend all public events and get their name out front row center.
That in my opinion is not fair. Then again you got to look at the positive of this scenario. The three new candidates do not stand a chance at winning. The three former council member are splitting the votes in such a way that any scraps for the new candidates will never get them the votes needed to win.
The good side of this... that if one of the three win. The two other former council members will not be in the new batch of council. Wooo hooo, at the least we get two new council seats.
But wait. No matter who of the three win. Nothing will change and you can be assured taxes will continue to go up. Let's take Tito for example. A 20 years carreered politician. What has he done for the City? What accomplishments.... An outdoor pool at 20 million for use 3months of the year? 70 million given to a hockey rink at the GM center that has yet to turn profit on consecutive years... We are doomed Oshawa. Start packing. **Angelo Christiano, Oshawa**

The Central
Newspaper

What's your story?

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