



CANADA

Debates of the Senate

3rd SESSION

• 40th PARLIAMENT

• VOLUME 147

• NUMBER 20

LONG-GUN REGISTRY

Statement by:

The Honourable Larry W. Campbell

Thursday, April 20, 2010

THE SENATE

Thursday, April 22, 2010

LONG-GUN REGISTRY

Hon. Larry W. Campbell: Honourable senators, on Tuesday, Conservative Member of Parliament Garry Breitkreuz published a news release denouncing supporters of the gun registry, including the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

The release claimed that supporters of the gun registry are:

Like a cult that is led by organizations of police chiefs who pretend the registry helps them do their jobs. They should be ashamed.

The release goes on to allege that police associations are politically motivated lobby groups that derive financial support from pro-registry sources.

These comments are unacceptable and these statements are a malicious attack on the Canadian Police Association based solely on the fact that they do not support the Conservative standpoint on gun control.

Needless to say, over the years, as a police officer, coroner and mayor, I have not always agreed with the chiefs of police or the

Canadian Police Association. However, I would never ever describe them as “a cult” and I would never describe the police associations as being “on the take.”

According to the Canadian Firearms Registry in 2009, the long-gun registry was consulted by police 11,000 times per day. The registry is a tool used by police officers on a daily basis in their efforts to protect our safety.

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The majority of police officers killed in the recent past have died as a result of being shot by long guns, not by handguns. Canadians want an effective gun control policy. Changes can and should be made to the registry to improve its efficiency and address the concerns of rural Canadians. Attacking and intimidating those who support the gun registry is not an effective way to deal with this issue.

Our Canadian Police Associations represent the Canadian police forces who work tirelessly to protect and serve Canadians, always with the thought in the back of their minds that their lives are on the line. They deserve the support and aid of the government, not contempt in the name of a Conservative agenda.
