

CANADIAN SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION / CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

TEAM CSSA E-NEWS - Sept 09, 2013

COMMENTARY: ALBERTA POLITICS LEAVE HIGH RIVER GUN OWNERS FUMING

Alberta Premier Alison Redford has (unknowingly) pretty much guaranteed that Wildrose Party leader Danielle Smith will be re-elected in High River in 2016.

And it won't be the first time an election was decided by responsible firearms owners. Premier Redford has turned her back on High River gun owners, who in turn let the world know they are mad as hell during the High River meeting held in a school auditorium on Thursday night.

The nasty conflict between Redford and Smith is more than mere politics. In spite of solid evidence that police confiscated guns for no reason, the premier chooses to act like an RCMP groupie. It leads one to believe that the premier encouraged local RCMP officers to boot down the doors of High River gun owners forced to vacate during the June flood. Premier Redford's vehement support for the RCMP home invasions leads us to believe that the order to proceed was hers. Why would she suggest the police were on the side of the angels as they caused more than \$3 million in damage to residents' homes?

If we are wrong, Premier Redford, please deny our charge. We find it very odd that you have yet to deny your own involvement in the seizures that took place 11 weeks ago. This is your chance. You appear to be protecting someone, and self-preservation is perhaps a politician's strongest instinct.

Tony Bernardo, executive director of the Canadian Shooting Sports Association and the Canadian Institute for Legislative Action (CSSA/CILA) was in the room at the Thursday meeting hosted by High River MLA Danielle Smith. Hundreds of irate residents criticized the RCMP for conducting searches of their homes to seize guns. The police claim they were looking for people and pets left behind.

But wait. When one resident managed to get into his own home during the flood to check for damage, police arrived quickly on the scene and told him to leave. How did they know he was there? Police said that a Canadian Armed Forces helicopter detected him with a thermographic camera. So, if choppers had infrared eyes in the sky during the evacuation, please tell us again why police needed to break into homes searching for stranded life forms. The deceit is rife.

Kudos to Dennis Young, long time CSSA friend and former assistant to Garry Breitkreuz, M.P. Dennis addressed the crowd at the meeting as a former RCMP officer himself. He told residents and reporters that somebody in High River made a big mistake and noted that this kind of police behaviour would have resulted in unemployment when he was on the force.

Firearms lawyer Richard Fritze of Red Deer, Alberta made a generous offer to collect the testimonies of High River victims according to solicitor-client privilege rules. Fritze offered to take residents' submissions for just \$50 and guarantee their anonymity. In this way, the information could be used for the greater good without disclosing who provided it. Tony Bernardo told the crowd that if any residents have difficulty in paying the \$50 during this time of rebuilding their lives, the CSSA would gladly provide the money to Mr. Fritze on their behalf.

Hats off to High River MLA Danielle Smith, too. Her efforts to find real answers on behalf of her constituents resulted in derision hurled at her from the government benches. The recent disrespect demonstrated by Premier Redford and a misled minister shows the government is winning the race to the bottom. In effect, the premier is

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saying that the RCMP are untouchable and the government doesn't care what High River residents have to say. She should remember that sport shooters across the province are watching the debate with great vested interest.

No doubt Premier Redford will care what Albertans say at the polls in 2016 – so why not now?

HOT LINK TO HOT LEAD: The Vankleek Hill Gun Club in eastern Ontario has a new web site. Visit the site at www.vkhgc.ca <<http://www.vkhgc.ca/>>

To join or donate to the CSSA, visit: <http://www.cdnshootingsports.org/membership.html>

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