

Editor,

It is important to note to your readers that long before we began negotiations on the UN Arms Trade Treaty, Canada already had one of the toughest export controls in the world. That continues to be the case. To suggest that, by not immediately signing on to this treaty, weapons will flow from Canada to terrorist groups or other countries is patently untrue and downright dishonest.

If properly done, an Arms Trade Treaty can help limit the worldwide trade in illicit arms. Canada has always worked, and will always work, to keep arms out of the hands of criminals, terrorists, and those who abuse fundamental human rights. That's why we were among the 154 countries that agreed to move this treaty forward (unlike Iran, North Korea and Syria). At the same time, it is important that such a treaty not affect lawful and responsible firearms owners nor discourage the transfer of firearms for recreational uses such as sport shooting and hunting.

That's why Canada took a leadership role at the United Nations to make sure that doesn't happen. That is also why we'll take the time to consult with provinces and stakeholders and seek their views on this issue.

Unlike the opposition parties, we will always take the time to ensure the interests of Canadians are protected. We will do our homework, to make sure that any treaty we sign onto is good for Canada, and good for Canadians. That is what Canadians expect of their leaders.

As we do, your readers should remember that our government has taken a number of important steps to keep arms out of the hands of criminals, terrorists and human rights abusers:

- We've helped destroy surface to air missiles and conventional weapons from countries like Sudan and Libya;
- We've supported arms control programs in the Caribbean, Colombia, and Central America;
- And we have funded programs around the world to train law enforcement officials on stopping arms trafficking.

That's the kind of real action and real results that Canadians can expect from this Government.

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