

Sam Hofmeyer - Candidate statement & bio

Please accept this as my application for the role of Political Action Director.

I grew up in Australia, the “poster boy” for national gun control, in 1996 the Port Arthur Massacre happened, where a mentally unstable criminal was able to buy an AR15 and drive a car, despite not having a license to do either and kill 35 people at a tourist location. This led to knee-jerk “buy-back” of 350,000 firearms from the law abiding hunters and sport shooters, including my godfather, an avid hunter and sports shooter. The loss of the ability to own semi auto, pump or lever action centerfire or handguns for recreational shooting basically destroyed the shooting clubs in Australia. Canada is on the same path under the current federal government unless we take a decisive and cohesive stand immediately. The Australian firearms community was somewhat blindsided and left scrambling and had very little to fight back with. New Zealand fared slightly better but was still unable to prevent or fight off the forced confiscation laws. Canadian firearms owners are not in the same position and we are well prepared and taking the fight to Ottawa and I will hold the SPFGA flag high in that fight!

I see where this is headed, the May 1st Order In Council has already had impacts on many sports like 3 gun and Service Rifle, even shotgun and long range competition have been affected and if the federal government manages to get some kind of municipal handgun ban implemented I have serious concerns for the viability of organizations like SPFGA that rely heavily on the range use to drive our membership. A loud, persuasive and persistent voice is needed NOW and If elected I will be that voice.

As an RPAL holder with newly prohibited firearms I am intimately aware of future, current and past political issues facing firearms owners in Alberta and in Canada. I recognize the important place firearms hold in our community and how that is intrinsically linked to the future of SPFGA and how devastating ill-conceived government action can be on a community. I have met with MLA Nate Glubish to discuss Alberta CFO, provincial police, limit of federal overreach and AFGA/conservation funding. I have met personally and sat on round-tables with MP Garnett Genuis about the firearms file from a federal opposition perspective and have exchanged many emails with him on the topic giving him advice and perspective. I am a paid up member of the CCFR (I was very pleased to see the legal fund donation from SPFGA) and have been following the constitutional challenge and legal case closely. I am in regular contact with CCFR Alberta director Tyler Lawrason and CCFR General Council Mike Loberg.

I see the firearms file as the most pressing political action presenting to the association at the moment. However, there are potential legal and regulatory changes that may affect the environmental stewardship the association strives to uphold and this could be an equally challenging sector of the Political Action file. As a big game hunter, licensed trapper and outdoor user, I keep close tabs on these changes and what their impacts might be.

Thank you for your consideration

Sam Hofmeyer

