

Firearms Regulation Task Force

Report to Council

Priorities Committee

February 1, 2006



Members of the Task Force

Voting Members

- Dr. Darren Stinson, Chair
- Roy Polsky, Vice-Chair (representing the Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters)
- Councillor Ron Bradley
- Councillor Ron Dupuis
- Gary Lampi (representing the farming/agricultural community)
- Michael Pilon (Trapper)
- Jean (Jack) Rivet (Resident of a former unorganized township)

Members of the Task Force

Resource (non-voting) Members

- Bryan Gutjahr,
Manager of By-law Enforcement Services
- Sgt. Joe Williams,
Greater Sudbury Police Service
- Steve Massé, Conservation Officer,
Ministry of Natural Resources

Mandate of the Task Force

- Review and advise on the necessity, feasibility or desirability of regulating the discharge of firearm
- Examine and advise on issues including, but are not limited to:
 - ▶ the need for a by-law or regulations governing this discharge of firearms;
 - ▶ the desirability of regulating the discharge of firearms
 - ▶ whether or not exemptions should be included
 - ▶ whether or not a need exists for further Citizen review and oversight for the regulation of firearms

Mandate of the Task Force

- Review and advise with regard to the discharge of firearms by persons engaged in farming or their agents, when firearms are discharged for the purpose of protecting livestock or crops
- Review and advise on any proposals with regard to areas of the City that may be considered as open or closed to the discharge of firearms for hunting, with primary consideration being public safety
- Recommend how to develop, maintain and promote a Code of Behaviour for hunters

INTEREST GROUPS

Advice and Opinions

- Trappers Association
- Bear Outfitters
- Greater Sudbury Police Service
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- City By-law Enforcement Department
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Registered Gun Clubs
- Retail Sector
- Respected Hunting and Firearm Educator

Citizen Participation

- Written Submission
 - ▶ Email
 - ▶ Fax
 - ▶ Mail
- Public Information Meetings in Each Ward
 - ▶ 137 concerned citizens attended Ward meetings

All public comments were carefully considered by the Task Force.

Option # 1

Repeal all existing by-laws and to allow the pre-existing federal and provincial legislation to control the discharge of firearms in the City of Greater Sudbury.

The Criminal Code of Canada and the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act more than adequately cover the issues of public safety with regards of the discharge of firearms regardless of where the discharge occurs.

Option # 2

Option 2 would involve the repeal of all existing by-laws and replacement with one by-law for the entire City of Greater Sudbury.

This by-law would require a large number of exemptions to adequately protect the public yet allow reasonable use of firearms by law abiding hunters, trappers, and shooters. These issues and exemptions are listed in the report but some include own property exemption, agricultural exemption, reasonable restricted distances, exemptions for trappers, etc.

Recommendation to Council

After much consideration and deliberation the City of Greater Sudbury Firearms Discharge Task Force recommends that Council accept Option #1 and repeal all existing firearm discharge by-laws presently in existence and allow the present federal and provincial legislation to govern the use of firearms in the City of Greater Sudbury.

FirearmsRegulationTaskForce

Questions?

