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BERTSHAM
2013

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Take a moment and just imagine.

Imagine being punished for something you didn't do. Imagine watching the Minister of Police stand up on TV and shout about how he wants something you use responsibly removed from sale, because a minority of users abuse it to the detriment of others. Imagine having to deal with claims about how taking away something you enjoy will make everyone safer, while those making the claims leave out all the inconvenient facts regarding all the other factors that lead to those things being reduced.

Imagine government not really caring about the any opinions that don't fit the narrative they want to push. Imagine knowing that they're talking about restrictions that won't affect them.

Anyone who drinks alcohol is starting to get a glimpse of how this feels, despite the fact that the vast majority of responsible drinkers will never do anything while drinking that deserves punishment. The majority will never take part in any sort of domestic violence when drinking, the vast majority know not to climb behind the wheel after they've had too many. Yet all they are hearing is the minister say he wished alcohol could never be sold again.

These responsible and law-abiding people are also probably looking at this and thinking about how all those things are already against the law. They can easily wonder why those laws aren't just enforced rather than new draconian laws that will only punish the law abiding. Why take away something that is generally used responsibly by the majority of its users because of a few bad apples. Bad apples who we know historically will still find a way to circumvent the law while the law-abiding public are expected to do without.

Welcome to the life of the legal, responsible gun owner. Welcome to having to deal with lies and half-truths that get distributed simply to force an agenda. Welcome to having something you do responsibly being demonized as a danger to society. Welcome to government overreach turning "common sense control" into a long-term scheme that ends with a ban for everyone, except for governments who like to leave themselves a backdoor, and criminals who ignore the law anyway.

Please bear this in mind when you see claims about how we need "stricter gun control" Maybe ask the same questions you would about things you care about, starting with "why aren't we already enforcing the existing laws"

Terrick Naude

Committee Member