



## The Alberta Fish & Game Association

6924 – 104 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6H 2L7

Phone: (780) 437-2342 Fax: (780) 438-6872  
email: [office@afga.org](mailto:office@afga.org) Website: [www.afga.org](http://www.afga.org)

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### **AFGA Astonished By Actions Of Unelected Bureaucrats**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Edmonton March 14, 2014)... Alberta's largest conservation group, the Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA), continues to be astonished by the vindictive actions of unelected bureaucrats, who have arbitrarily changed the status on a group of long barreled rifles. These rifles have gone from being legal to own and fire at rifle ranges to completely illegal to own, punishable with criminal charges.

The recent decision by the RCMP to effectively ban a previously legal rifle by reclassifying the Swiss Arms Classic Green carbine as a prohibited weapon is absurd given the fact that the status of these rifles, legal to own and use since 2001, were changed overnight by the stroke of a pen, and could cost rifle owners thousands of dollars in losses.

The federal government will initiate an amnesty which will prevent criminal charges on this occasion, but fails to address the real problem.

The unelected bureaucrats in charge of classification need to be changed to one who answers to the public, and does not defy the laws of the land. This includes the Chief Firearms Officer in place in the provinces who all have flouted the law in the past few years with impunity. The Chief Firearms Officer should have no authority to change federal laws. The federal government needs to take action on these issues to avoid more of these embarrassing situations.

The Alberta Fish and Game Association is a not-for-profit volunteer organization proud to serve Albertans in the promotion of the wise use of our fish and wildlife resources and the conservation of their habitats. The AFGA has been active since 1908 in working towards these goals and has a province-wide membership of more than 24,000 individuals spread among 100+ Clubs.

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**CONTACT: Gordon Poirier, President, (780) 826-4695  
Martin Sharren, Executive Vice President, (780) 437-2342**