

ATA Article for March 2016

Greetings from Ontario, Canada

Ontario shooters – caution: If you haven't already noticed, the cost of shooting south of the border is getting extremely costly.

U.S.A. shooters wishing to shoot targets in Canada – good news. Your greenbacks have significant buying power against our Loonie.

Let me give you an example. On January 14, 2016, I went to my local bank to exchange Canadian currency for U.S. The exchange rate was 1.46. In other words, I get \$683.50 for \$1,000 of Canadian money. If U.S. money was exchanged for Canadian money the premium exchange rate is 1.40.

Let me put this in practical terms. The reason for my visit to my bank was to get money for the Dixie Grand. [Note: Since Bev and I take our Australian Sheppard Griggys with us, most hotels don't take pets. We therefore have to find a decent kennel that takes humans.] The Dixie program shows that the cost for 100 targets is \$35 (with ATA and daily fees). It will take \$51.10 Canadian dollars for the same event.

On the other hand, based on the 2015 Ontario Provincial tournament target cost of \$33.00 + \$2.27 for ATA and OPTA charges (this is assumed at a daily \$6.80 charge divided by, for comparison, 3 events) for a total of \$35.27 Canadian. U.S. shooters can convert their greenbacks and shoot the same 100 targets for \$25.19 U.S. When you adjust for the conversion over the course of a complete competition – often 1,000 targets or more, it will cost Canadian shooters an additional \$161.00 ($\$51.10 \text{ less } \$35.00 = \$16.10 \times 10 = \161.00).

By the same token, a U.S. shooter at a Canadian event will pay about \$251.90 for 1,000 targets while a Canadian shooter pays \$352.70. Look at the differential – and that is just for entry fees. When you add in options, ammunition, accommodation, travel, it is very expensive for Canadian shooters and it could get worse.

I am not about to speculate on why our Canadian dollar is in such a drastic decline but I suspect it is tied to a weak commodities market, a low Bank of Canada prime rate and a static economy. Again, U.S. shooters – help our economy please – shoot in Canada (and in turn shoot very inexpensively).

While the above is depressing for Canadian shooters you all, I expect (on both sides of the border), appreciate good lawyer jokes. As a lawyer I am part of a profession that gets picked on regularly.

By the way; how many lawyer jokes are there? Answer: Only three. The rest are all true stories!

My staff gave me a calendar that has a message for every day of the week. The message for January 6th read as follows:

“Q. Why does the Law Society prohibit sex between lawyers and their clients?

A. To prevent clients from being billed twice for essentially the same service.”

Have a great start to your spring shooting schedule.

Paul Shaw

Ontario Delegate