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# All legal gun owners must learn to deal with stereotypes

By AdvocateDaily.com Staff



Shooting can be an empowering sport for women, says Toronto criminal lawyer [Jordana Goldlist](#), who is a licensed firearm owner, sport shooter and gun collector outside of her practice, a significant portion of which involves defending people charged with firearms

offences.

Goldlist, principal of [JHG Criminal Law](#), was a recent panellist during TACCOM 2019, one of Canada's largest events for legal gun owners.

She took part in a discussion on women in the firearms industry at the event, which ran from Sept. 7-9 in Mississauga, Ont., and bills itself as the country's leading tactical and competitive sports shooting show.

"The common theme among all the women on the panel was the sense of empowerment we get from shooting," Goldlist tells [AdvocateDaily.com](#). "It's a sport that requires skill, practice, and a different level of focus and dedication compared with others. We all gain something from being able to handle and use, to different levels of proficiency, something so powerful."

Along with Goldlist, the panel included competitive sports shooters, hunters, firearm safety instructors, and Tracey Wilson — the only registered firearms lobbyist in Canada — who works for the Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights.

"Anti-gun advocates talk about there being a massive gun lobby in this country. The CCFR is supposed to be Canada's version of the NRA, but it simply isn't like that. Tracey Wilson is it, and we are obviously grateful for her work," says Goldlist.

"The firearms community is one that I didn't necessarily know or understand before I became involved, but the more time you spend with people and the more seriously you take it, you realize that there is a whole community of individuals coming together for the love of their sport," she adds.

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While the panel was unanimous in its conclusion that there's no disadvantage to being female in the firearms industry, Goldlist says all gun owners must learn to deal with stereotypes and misconceptions about their hobby.

The latest example came with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's recent re-election pledge to [ban](#) military-style assault rifles, she says.

Trudeau said the announcement targeting weapons such as the AR-15 was designed to "keep our communities safe," Global News reported.

"You don't need a military-grade assault weapon — one designed to take down the most amount of people in the shortest time — to take down a deer," he added.

But Goldlist says the ban would be "so misguided it's unbelievable," claiming Trudeau's promise is little more than an effort to distract from his black-face troubles.

"It's unfortunate that he has decided to further his attack against law-abiding gun-owning citizens," she says.

When it comes to AR-15s in particular, Goldlist says there's no cause for action.

"They're already restricted, which means owners have to be registered and vetted by the RCMP," she explains. "These are not the firearm of choice for people committing robberies. They are massive guns, so people aren't using them to attack an individual or hold up stores.

"I guess they're going after it because it looks scary, but it seems ridiculous to me to ban private property because of aesthetics and not to focus on actual gun violence as the problem we need to solve," Goldlist adds.

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