

# NATIONAL POST

Article by Natalie Alcoba – Posted July 8, 2010



Charles Taylor's [Movie Armaments Group](#) provides movie productions with the toys of war

Charles Taylor, a.k.a. the gun guy, is standing in the workshop of a carefully watched warehouse, with pieces you may have seen at a theatre near you strewn on a table beside him.

He transfers the reading glasses that were hanging off his shirt to his nose, and recites the highlighted passages of a bylaw that, two years ago, banned operations like his in Toronto.

Mr. Taylor doesn't own a gun club, but his company owns plenty of guns. They are all resting on retail-style hooks, behind two steel reinforced vault doors that once protected silver, in a nondescript brick building in the studio district.

This is Movie Armaments Group, which has outfitted film production companies with toys of war, or things that look a lot like them, for any number of blockbusters, from Resident Evil to Academy Award-winning The Hurt Locker.

On the work table today are assault rifles being readied for Steven Spielberg's alien drama Falling Skies.

"We call it everything from muskets to machine guns. Any conflict that you can think of that has ever happened in this world, we have weapons that are appropriate to be used in movies," said Mr. Taylor, a gunsmith who has been repairing and building guns for movies for more than two decades.

He has appealed By-law No. 1151-2008 to the Ontario Municipal Board, along with the Canadian Shooting Sports Association, and on Wednesday scored a victory.

City council approved a proposed draft of revised zoning, which has not yet been made public.

The original wording of the bylaw prohibits new gun clubs, shooting ranges, the manufacturing of firearms and their commercial display. It was championed by Mayor David Miller in 2008 as a way to combat gun crime, but sparked outrage from lawful gun owners and businesses who felt it punished the wrong people.

Mr. Taylor learned about the law after it passed. When he called the city to voice his protest, officials didn't seem to understand how it affected his business. He modifies guns to shoot blanks on movie sets.

"You're legal non-conforming," they told him, which means he can continue to operate at that location. Mr. Taylor believes the city has no business outlawing an operation that is licensed, regulated and inspected by federal and provincial agencies.

"They didn't do enough investigation before they wrote this thing," he said.

"They didn't consult with us, or the industry. The film industry specifically. And here's the Mayor touting the film industry in Toronto," said Mr. Taylor. "My personal opinion, this is somebody's political brainchild who said we have done something that is going to make the city a safer place. But guess what? Know what it accomplishes? Zero."

"What do we have to do with gun crime?" added his business partner, who prefers not to be publicly identified.

Movie Armaments Group isn't open to the public and deals only with film companies or law enforcement it trains.

If you are a military paraphernalia aficionado, this is your candy store. There are rows of army-issued gear on display, and a

"Rubber Gun Room" with pistols that look real until you squeeze them. The historic and modern weaponry on display spans continents and generations.

"We know that the majority of the general public don't like guns," said Mr. Taylor. "A lot of people don't like guns in movies. But this business is required here and we fill that requirement. It is legal, we follow all the rules by the letter of the law."