

## Official Notice -- Public Rifle and Shotgun Range at Homestead To Be Closed

The Alberta Provincial Rifle Association (APRA) has come to the difficult decision to close the public rifle and shotgun ranges located on the APRA's Homestead Shooting Facility lease at Sibbald Flats in Kananaskis Country - effective at midnight, the end of the day December 31, 2015.

The decision to close these ranges follows a number of conversations between the APRA and the Alberta Chief Firearms Office and the Kananaskis Improvement District, the leaseholder, in the wake of the ongoing issues with regard to behaviours by some shooters utilizing the range.

Despite repeated efforts by APRA and responsible shooters to try to keep the ranges a place where all shooters can enjoy themselves, and to manage the antics of those less responsible, the ranges remain the site of a number of behaviours which pose a risk to not only other range users, but other recreational users around the APRA lease.

A number of other options to closure were considered but, based on the response received to past efforts to RSO and otherwise deal with the issues on the ranges, this was seen as the only viable option.

When the APRA took on the lease at Homestead, provision was placed in the lease to provide a place for the general public to use for such activities as sighting in of rifles prior to hunting season. Over the intervening years, that responsible use has been largely overshadowed by range users who have taken to using the range as a place to shoot up and dump items they'd rather not take to the landfill, as a place where target location fails to take into account what might be behind that target, to leave behind a horrific mess for others to clean up, and to all too frequently display dangerous behaviours with regards to safe firearms handling on the firing line. This cannot continue.

Signs notifying those approaching the Homestead facility of the impending closure and the closing date will be posted on the route leading in to the range, shortly and a gate is being installed at the start of the lease in advance of the closure.

For those responsible firearms owners looking for continued access to a range in the area, several member groups within the APRA that operate ranges at the Homestead facility are accepting members. More information about each of these organizations can be found at [www.albertarifle.com](http://www.albertarifle.com).