

Bill C-391

(repeal of long-gun registry)

CLC Legislative Action
Activist Book

Bill C-391



It Is Time To Take A Stand For Public Safety

The National Long-gun Registry was created in 1995 and launched in 1998 as part of the Firearms Act which required gun owners to be licensed, register their firearms and store them locked and unloaded. The law mandated a licensing and registration system, but did not impose any sweeping limitations on access to firearms or usage. The Firearms Act (Bill C-68) was introduced in response to public pressure, particularly through women, to strengthen gun control legislation following the tragic events at the École Polytechnique December 6, 1989.

Since then, the gun lobby has fought to rescind the legislation aided by the powerful American National Rifle Association (NRA). Using American style tactics, including expensive and targeted media campaigns at vulnerable Liberal and NDP MPs, the gun lobby has managed with the blessing of the Harper government to introduce a Private Members Bill to eliminate the Long-gun Registry.

On November 4, 2009, this Bill was passed through Second Reading in the House of Commons. Bill C-391 is now under review by the House of Commons Committee on Public Safety and National Security before it will come to a final vote at Third Reading.

The Bill and efforts to eliminate the Registry have been opposed right across the country by numerous women's, family and professional organizations like the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and the YWCA of Canada to name a few.

People who think it is a good idea to keep track of weapons like rifles and shotguns for the sake of public safety need to have their voices heard. We need to convince a few MPs to change their minds about Bill C-391 and vote NO when it returns to the House of Commons for final approval.

Does the Long-gun Registry "prevent" gun violence?

There is a common argument that the Long-gun Registry legislation is useless because it hasn't ended gun violence.

In fact, the Long-gun Registry has saved lives.

Since its inception, gun deaths have dropped dramatically

- In 1991, more than 1,400 Canadians were killed with guns, today it is less than 800.

- The firearm homicide rate is down by 40% while the homicide rate without guns is down only 28%.
- The rate of homicides with rifles and shotguns and the rate of women murdered with guns has plummeted.
- The rate of homicides with rifles and shotguns has decreased by 70% since 1991.
- Murder of women with guns plummeted from 85 in 1991 to 32 in 2004.

Is the Long-gun Registry a useful tool for police officers?

The Long-gun Registry is one tool that police officers now routinely use in their daily work.

How is it used?

- When called to a domestic dispute, police routinely check to see if there are registered guns in the house, what they are and how many there are.
- When police recover a gun, they use the Registry to see if there is a registered gun owner. Without the Registry, the police would be unable to trace the ownership of a specific firearm that turns up in an investigation.
- If the gun is not registered, police are then in a position to lay charges of possession of an unregistered weapon.
- Police also check to see if a person of interest is a licensed gun owner and what registered guns the individual owns. They made this type of check over two million times in 2008, so this has become a basic step in police work.
- Police also, used the Registry, more than 900,000 times last year, to check to see if guns are associated with addresses.

The Long-gun Registry has been an important tool in tackling domestic violence. Police use the Registry as a crucial resource, checking it more than 10,000 times a day, across the country, including when they intervene in the case of domestic disputes. This allows both the police and the public to stay safe.

Canadians should support the Registry as one tool which has become important for the safety of police officers and is of assistance in crime prevention, investigation and prosecution.

Does the Long-gun Registry provide security for gun owners?

Opponents of the Long-gun Registry would have us believe that every gun owner opposes the Registry. This is not the case.

The vast majority of gun owners in Canada are responsible citizens who have complied with firearms regulations. As of April 2008, 1,871,595 valid firearms licenses had been issued. The licencing procedure ensures that all firearm users are qualified to possess a gun. In addition, over 7.2 million firearms have been registered representing 90% of guns in Canada.

Most gun owners see no problem with registering their guns and there are advantages.

The Registry can help the police find and return legally registered guns that were stolen to their owners that were stolen. If guns which are reported stolen are subsequently used in a crime, the gun owner will not be under suspicion.

Here is an example from the recent report of parliament by Firearms Commissioner, William Elliot.

“Canadian Firearms Program provided support to an RCMP detachment after a suspect was stopped with four non-restricted ‘long guns’ in his vehicle. The suspect was evasive when questioned, leading investigators to believe the firearms had been stolen...checks on the recovered firearms determined all four were registered to a local resident and not the person who was in possession of them.

The registered owner, who was working out of town, was contacted by the police and said that, as far as he was aware, all of his firearms were safely stored at his residence. Police attended the owner’s residence and discovered evidence confirming that his residence had been broken into and that all 16 of his long guns had been stolen. Subsequent investigation resulted in the recovery of the remaining 12 long guns from the suspect.”

Wasn’t the Long-gun Registry too expensive? A waste?

Since the Registry was established, detractors have focused on the cost of the program. The annual cost of a license to own any amount of guns is only \$12 per year -- \$60 renewed every 5 years. When the Registry was set up it was plagued by administrative problems, such as massive backlogs in registration, computer program malfunctions and application errors.

Opponents of the Registry call it the “billion dollar boondoggle” – for how much it cost over 10 year to set up the program.

This hides the fact that most of the costs were not associated with registering firearms, but screening and licencing gun owners. Only one third of the cost is associated with the actual Registry. The yearly cost of the entire program is approximately \$70 million.

Opponents claim that the licensing of gun owners is sufficient but the Supreme Court of Canada disagreed, saying licensing and registration are inextricably linked. Registration ensures licensed gun owners are held accountable for their firearms. If gun owners are licensed but guns are not registered, guns cannot be traced to their source. Legal gun owners can sell or give guns to unlicensed and potentially dangerous people without consequences.

Since the Conservative government came to power, it has made great efforts to starve the Registry while driving up costs – granting an amnesty on registration, eliminating registration fees and providing refunds for those who already paid their fees. This has had the effect of making the Registry appear even more expensive.

Opponents talk about the costs invested in setting up a Registry. The money has already been spent and 7 million or approximately 90% of rifles and shotguns are registered.

But, registered gun owners should be especially furious about the provisions of Bill C-391, which call for the destruction of all the information already collected by the Long-gun Registry. This money certainly won't be recovered by destroying information that has been collected under the program. The RCMP estimates that dismantling the program will save \$3 million a year which pales in comparison with the costs of gun injury and death.

What you can do...

In the CLC's view, the Long-gun Registry makes sense. It has helped to bring down the rate of homicides and suicides substantially and we think this is well worth keeping.

There is still an opportunity to defeat Bill C-391. Fourteen MPs must change their vote in order to keep the Registry. If you believe in standing up for public safety, it is time to call your MP.

If your MP voted against Bill C-391, thank them and urge them to encourage their colleagues who voted for the Bill to put public safety first and keep the Registry.

If your MP (10 Liberals, 12 New Democrats) voted against the Registry, we need you to call their office, voice your displeasure and encourage them to change their vote.

Contact Jack Layton and Michael Ignatieff and urge them to “whip their caucus” forcing their MPs to vote the Party line. The Conservatives did this to their caucus, thereby ensuring the Bill C-391 has become potential government policy. In our present minority government, we have the numbers to defeat the Bill.

Please visit www.candianlabour.ca for more information and updates on the campaign.

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C-391

Second Session, Fortieth Parliament,
57-58 Elizabeth II, 2009

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA

BILL C-391

An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Firearms Act
(repeal of long-gun registry)

FIRST READING, MAY 15, 2009

MS. HOEPPNER

402296

C-391

Deuxième session, quarantième législature,
57-58 Elizabeth II, 2009

CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES DU CANADA

PROJET DE LOI C-391

Loi modifiant le Code criminel et la Loi sur les armes à feu
(abrogation du registre des armes d'épaule)

PREMIÈRE LECTURE LE 15 MAI 2009

M^{ME} HOEPPNER

SUMMARY

This enactment amends the *Criminal Code* and the *Firearms Act* to repeal the requirement to obtain a registration certificate for firearms that are neither prohibited firearms nor restricted firearms.

SOMMAIRE

Le texte modifie le *Code criminel* et la *Loi sur les armes à feu* pour supprimer l'obligation d'obtenir un certificat d'enregistrement à l'égard des armes à feu qui ne sont ni prohibées ni à autorisation restreinte.

Also available on the Parliament of Canada Web Site at the following address:
<http://www.parl.gc.ca>

Aussi disponible sur le site Web du Parlement du Canada à l'adresse suivante :
<http://www.parl.gc.ca>

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA

CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES DU CANADA

BILL C-391

PROJET DE LOI C-391

An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the
Firearms Act (repeal of long-gun registry)

Loi modifiant le Code criminel et la Loi sur les
armes à feu (abrogation du registre des
armes d'épaule)

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and
consent of the Senate and House of Commons
of Canada, enacts as follows:

Sa Majesté, sur l'avis et avec le consentement
du Sénat et de la Chambre des communes du
Canada, édicte :

R.S., c. C-46

CRIMINAL CODE

CODE CRIMINEL

L.R., ch. C-46

1. (1) Subsection 91(1) of the *Criminal Code* is replaced by the following:

**1. (1) Le paragraphe 91(1) du *Code cri*
5 *minel* est remplacé par ce qui suit :**

Unauthorized
possession of
firearm

91. (1) Subject to subsection (4), every
person commits an offence who possesses a
firearm without being the holder of

91. (1) Sous réserve du paragraphe (4),
commet une infraction quiconque a en sa
possession une arme à feu sans être titulaire
d'un permis qui l'y autorise et, dans le cas d'une
10 arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à
autorisation restreinte, du certificat d'enregis
trement de cette arme.

Possession non
autorisée d'une
arme à feu

(a) a licence under which the person may
possess it; and

(b) in the case of a prohibited firearm or a
restricted firearm, a registration certificate for
it.

**(2) Subparagraph 91(4)(b)(ii) of the Act is
replaced by the following:**

**(2) L'alinéa 91(4)b) de la même loi est
15 remplacé par ce qui suit :**

(ii) obtains a licence under which the
person may possess it and, in the case of
a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm,
a registration certificate for it.

b) à la personne qui entre en possession de 15
tels objets par effet de la loi et qui, dans un
délai raisonnable, s'en défait légalement ou
obtient un permis qui l'autorise à en avoir la
possession et, s'il s'agit d'une arme à feu
prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation 20
restreinte, le certificat d'enregistrement de
cette arme.

(3) Subsection 91(5) of the Act is repealed. 20

**(3) Le paragraphe 91(5) de la même loi est
abrogé.**

**2. (1) Subsection 92(1) of the Act is
replaced by the following:**

**2. (1) Le paragraphe 92(1) de la même loi 25
est remplacé par ce qui suit :**

Possession of firearm knowing its possession is unauthorized

92. (1) Subject to subsection (4), every person commits an offence who possesses a firearm knowing that the person is not the holder of

(a) a licence under which the person may possess it; and

(b) in the case of a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm, a registration certificate for it.

(2) Subparagraph 92(4)(b)(ii) of the Act is replaced by the following:

(ii) obtains a licence under which the person may possess it and, in the case of a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm, a registration certificate for it.

(3) Subsections 92(5) and (6) of the Act are repealed.

3. (1) The portion of subsection 94(1) of the Act before paragraph (a) is replaced by the following:

Unauthorized possession in motor vehicle

94. (1) Subject to subsections (3) and (4), every person commits an offence who is an occupant of a motor vehicle in which the person knows there is a firearm, a prohibited weapon, a restricted weapon, a prohibited device, other than a replica firearm, or any prohibited ammunition, unless

(2) Subparagraphs 94(1)(a)(i) and (ii) of the Act are replaced by the following:

(i) the person or any other occupant of the motor vehicle is the holder of

(A) a licence under which the person or other occupant may possess the firearm, and

(B) in the case of a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm, an authorization and a registration certificate for it,

(ii) the person had reasonable grounds to believe that any other occupant of the motor vehicle was the holder of

92. (1) Sous réserve du paragraphe (4), commet une infraction quiconque a en sa possession une arme à feu sachant qu'il n'est pas titulaire d'un permis qui l'y autorise et, dans le cas d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, du certificat d'enregistrement de cette arme.

(2) L'alinéa 92(4)b) de la même loi est remplacé par ce qui suit :

b) à la personne qui entre en possession de tels objets par effet de la loi et qui, dans un délai raisonnable, s'en défait légalement ou obtient un permis qui l'autorise à en avoir la possession et, s'il s'agit d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, le certificat d'enregistrement de cette arme.

(3) Les paragraphes 92(5) et (6) de la même loi sont abrogés.

3. (1) Le passage du paragraphe 94(1) de la même loi précédant l'alinéa a) est remplacé par ce qui suit :

94. (1) Sous réserve des paragraphes (3) et (4), commet une infraction quiconque occupe un véhicule automobile où il sait que se trouvent une arme à feu, une arme prohibée, une arme à autorisation restreinte, un dispositif prohibé — autre qu'une réplique — ou des munitions prohibées sauf si :

(2) Les sous-alinéas 94(1)a)(i) et (ii) de la même loi sont remplacés par ce qui suit :

(i) soit celui-ci ou tout autre occupant du véhicule est titulaire d'un permis qui l'autorise à l'avoir en sa possession et, s'il s'agit d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, d'une autorisation à l'égard de cette arme et du certificat d'enregistrement de celle-ci,

(ii) soit celui-ci avait des motifs raisonnables de croire qu'un autre occupant du véhicule était titulaire d'un permis autorisant ce dernier à l'avoir en sa possession et, s'il s'agit d'une arme à feu prohibée ou

Possession non autorisée d'une arme à feu — infraction délibérée

Possession non autorisée dans un véhicule automobile

(A) a licence under which that other occupant may possess the firearm, and

(B) in the case of a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm, an authorization and a registration certificate for it, or

d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, d'une autorisation à l'égard de cette arme et du certificat d'enregistrement de celle-ci,

(3) Subsection 94(5) of the Act is repealed.

(3) Le paragraphe 94(5) de la même loi est abrogé.

4. The portion of subsection 95(1) of the English version of the Act before paragraph (a) is replaced by the following:

4. Le passage du paragraphe 95(1) de la version anglaise de la même loi précédant l'alinéa a) est remplacé par ce qui suit:

Possession of prohibited or restricted firearm with ammunition

95. (1) Subject to subsection (3), every person commits an offence who, in any place, possesses a loaded prohibited firearm or restricted firearm, or an unloaded prohibited firearm or restricted firearm together with readily accessible ammunition that is capable of being discharged in the firearm, without being the holder of

95. (1) Subject to subsection (3), every person commits an offence who, in any place, possesses a loaded prohibited firearm or restricted firearm, or an unloaded prohibited firearm or restricted firearm together with readily accessible ammunition that is capable of being discharged in the firearm, without being the holder of

Possession of prohibited or restricted firearm with ammunition

5. Subsections 117.03(1) and (2) of the Act are replaced by the following:

5. Les paragraphes 117.03(1) et (2) de la même loi sont remplacés par ce qui suit:

Seizure on failure to produce authorization

117.03 (1) Despite section 117.02, a peace officer who finds

(a) a person in possession of a firearm who fails, on demand, to produce, for inspection by the peace officer, an authorization or a licence under which the person may lawfully possess the firearm and, in the case of a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm, a registration certificate for it, or

(b) a person in possession of a prohibited weapon, a restricted weapon, a prohibited device or any prohibited ammunition who fails, on demand, to produce, for inspection by the peace officer, an authorization or a licence under which the person may lawfully possess it,

117.03 (1) Par dérogation à l'article 117.02, lorsqu'il trouve une personne qui a en sa possession une arme à feu, une arme prohibée, une arme à autorisation restreinte, un dispositif prohibé ou des munitions prohibées et qui est incapable de lui présenter sur-le-champ pour examen une autorisation ou un permis qui l'y autorise et, s'il s'agit d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, le certificat d'enregistrement de l'arme, l'agent de la paix peut saisir ces objets, à moins que, dans les circonstances, la présente partie n'autorise cette personne à les avoir en sa possession ou que celle-ci soit sous la surveillance directe d'une personne pouvant légalement les avoir en sa possession.

Saisie à défaut de présenter les documents

may seize the firearm, prohibited weapon, restricted weapon, prohibited device or prohibited ammunition unless its possession by the person in the circumstances in which it is found is authorized by any provision of this Part, or the person is under the direct and immediate supervision of another person who may lawfully possess it.

Return of seized
thing on
production of
authorization

(2) If a person from whom any thing is seized under subsection (1) claims the thing within 14 days after the seizure and produces for inspection by the peace officer by whom it was seized, or any other peace officer having custody of it,

(a) a licence under which the person is lawfully entitled to possess it, and

(b) in the case of a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm, an authorization and registration certificate for it,

the thing shall without delay be returned to that person.

1995, c. 39

FIREARMS ACT

6. Subparagraph 4(a)(i) of the *Firearms Act* is replaced by the following:

(i) licences for firearms and authorizations and registration certificates for prohibited firearms or restricted firearms, under which persons may possess firearms in circumstances that would otherwise constitute an offence under subsection 91(1), 92(1), 93(1) or 95(1) of the *Criminal Code*,

7. (1) Paragraph 23(1)(b) of the English version of the Act is replaced by the following:

(b) the transferor has no reason to believe that the transferee is not authorized to acquire and possess that kind of firearm;

(2) Paragraphs 23(1)(c) to (f) of the Act are replaced by the following:

(c) in the case of a transfer to an individual, the transferor verifies the validity of the transferee's Firearms Licence with the Canada Firearms Centre, and obtains a reference number for the inquiry;

(d) in the case of a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm, the transferor informs the Registrar of the transfer and a new registration certificate is issued in accordance with this Act; and

(e) the prescribed conditions are met.

(2) Ces objets doivent être remis sans délai au saisi, s'il les réclame dans les quatorze jours et présente à l'agent de la paix qui les a saisis ou en a la garde le permis qui l'autorise à en avoir la possession légale et, s'il s'agit d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, l'autorisation et le certificat d'enregistrement de l'arme.

Remise des
objets saisis sur
présentation des
documents

LOI SUR LES ARMES À FEU

1995, ch. 39

6. Le sous-alinéa 4a)(i) de la *Loi sur les armes à feu* est remplacé par ce qui suit:

(i) de permis à l'égard des armes à feu, ainsi que d'autorisations et de certificats d'enregistrement à l'égard des armes à feu prohibées ou des armes à feu à autorisation restreinte, permettant la possession de ces armes à feu en des circonstances qui ne donnent pas lieu à une infraction visée aux paragraphes 91(1), 92(1), 93(1) ou 95(1) du *Code criminel*,

7. (1) L'alinéa 23(1)b) de la version anglaise de la même loi est remplacé par ce qui suit:

(b) le transférer a aucune raison de croire que la transférée n'est pas autorisée à acquies et posséder ce genre d'arme;

(2) Les alinéas 23(1)c) à f) de la même loi sont remplacés par ce qui suit:

c) dans le cas d'une cession à un particulier, le cédant vérifie la validité du permis d'armes à feu du cessionnaire auprès du Centre des armes à feu Canada, et obtient un numéro de référence à l'égard de la demande;

d) dans le cas d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, le cédant informe le directeur de la cession et un nouveau certificat d'enregistrement de l'arme à feu est délivré conformément à la présente loi;

8. Subparagraph 33(a)(ii) of the Act is replaced by the following:

(ii) in the case of a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm, lends the registration certificate for it to the borrower; or

9. Paragraph 34(a) of the Act is replaced by the following:

(a) in the case of a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm, the transferor lends the registration certificate for it to the borrower; and

10. Paragraph 35.1(1)(b) of the Act, as enacted by section 27 of chapter 8 of the Statutes of Canada, 2003, is replaced by the following:

(b) the individual produces a licence authorizing him or her to acquire and possess that kind of firearm and, in the case of a restricted firearm, satisfies the customs officer that the individual holds a registration certificate for the firearm;

11. Subsection 36(1) of the Act is replaced by the following:

36. (1) A declaration that is confirmed under paragraph 35(1)(b) has the same effect after the importation of the firearm as a licence authorizing the non-resident to possess only that firearm and, in the case of a restricted firearm, as a registration certificate for the firearm until

- (a) the expiry of 60 days after the importation, in the case of a firearm that is neither a prohibited firearm nor a restricted firearm; or
- (b) the earlier of the expiry of 60 days after the importation and the expiry of the authorization to transport, in the case of a restricted firearm.

12. Subparagraph 38(1)(a)(ii) of the Act is replaced by the following:

e) les conditions réglementaires sont remplies.

8. Le sous-alinéa 33a)(ii) de la même loi est remplacé par ce qui suit :

(ii) dans le cas d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, livre l'arme à feu à celui-ci accompagnée du certificat d'enregistrement afférent;

9. L'alinéa 34a) de la même loi est remplacé par ce qui suit :

a) dans le cas d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, le prêteur la livre accompagnée du certificat d'enregistrement afférent;

10. L'alinéa 35.1(1)b) de la même loi, édicté par l'article 27 du chapitre 8 des Lois du Canada (2003), est remplacé par ce qui suit :

b) il produit un permis l'autorisant à acquérir et à posséder une telle arme à feu et, dans le cas d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, convainc l'agent qu'il est titulaire du certificat d'enregistrement afférent à l'arme;

11. Le paragraphe 36(1) de la même loi est remplacé par ce qui suit :

36. (1) Une fois attestée conformément à l'alinéa 35(1)d), la déclaration a valeur de permis de possession — valide à l'égard de l'arme à feu importée seulement — ainsi que dans le cas d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, de certificat d'enregistrement, pour :

- a) une période de soixante jours à compter de l'importation, s'il s'agit d'une arme à feu qui n'est ni une arme à feu prohibée ni une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte;
- b) soit une période de soixante jours à compter de l'importation, soit la période de validité de l'autorisation de transport afférente si elle est inférieure à soixante jours, s'il s'agit d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte.

12. Le sous-alinéa 38(1)a)(ii) de la même loi est remplacé par ce qui suit :

Temporary licence and registration certificate

Permis et certificat temporaires

(ii) produces his or her licence and, in the case of a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm, the registration certificate for the firearm and an authorization to transport the firearm; and

(ii) produit son permis et, s'il s'agit d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, le certificat d'enregistrement et l'autorisation de transport afférents;

13. Paragraphs 40(1)(b) and (c) of the Act, as enacted by section 30 of chapter 8 of the Statutes of Canada, 2003, are replaced by the following:

13. Les alinéas 40(1)b) et c) de la même loi, édictés par l'article 30 du chapitre 8 des Lois du Canada (2003), sont remplacés par ce qui suit :

(b) the individual produces a licence authorizing him or her to possess that kind of firearm;

b) il produit un permis l'autorisant à posséder une telle arme à feu;

(c) in the case of a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm, the individual holds an authorization to transport it and satisfies the customs officer that the individual holds a registration certificate for the firearm; and

c) s'il s'agit d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, il est titulaire de l'autorisation de transport afférente et convainc l'agent qu'il est aussi titulaire du certificat d'enregistrement afférent;

14. Section 41 of the Act, as enacted by section 31 of chapter 8 of the Statutes of Canada, 2003, is replaced by the following:

14. L'article 41 de la même loi, édicté par l'article 31 du chapitre 8 des Lois du Canada (2003), est remplacé par ce qui suit :

41. An authorization that is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 40(2)(e) has the same effect as a registration certificate for a restricted firearm until a registration certificate is issued for it.

41. Une fois attestée conformément à l'alinéa 40(2)e), l'autorisation a valeur de certificat d'enregistrement temporaire de l'arme à feu à autorisation restreinte jusqu'à ce que le certificat d'enregistrement soit délivré pour l'arme à feu.

15. Paragraph 44(a) of the Act is replaced by the following:

15. L'alinéa 44a) de la même loi est remplacé par ce qui suit :

(a) in the case of a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm, holds the registration certificate for the firearm;

a) est titulaire, dans le cas d'armes à feu prohibées ou d'armes à feu à autorisation restreinte, du certificat d'enregistrement afférent;

16. Section 60 of the Act is replaced by the following:

16. L'article 60 de la même loi est remplacé par ce qui suit :

60. The Registrar is responsible for issuing registration certificates for prohibited firearms and restricted firearms and assigning firearms identification numbers to them and for issuing authorizations to export and authorizations to import firearms.

60. Le directeur délivre les certificats d'enregistrement et attribue les numéros d'enregistrement des armes à feu prohibées et des armes à feu à autorisation restreinte; il délivre aussi les autorisations d'exportation et d'importation à l'égard des armes à feu.

17. The portion of section 66 of the Act before paragraph (a) is replaced by the following:

17. L'article 66 de la même loi est remplacé par ce qui suit :

Temporary registration certificate

Certificat d'enregistrement temporaire

Registration certificates and authorizations to export or import

Délivrance : certificats et numéros d'enregistrement

Term of registration certificates

66. A registration certificate for a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm expires when

66. Le certificat d'enregistrement d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte est valide tant que le titulaire du certificat demeure propriétaire de l'arme à feu et que celle-ci demeure une arme à feu. 5

Certificats d'enregistrement

18. Paragraph 71(1)(a) of the Act is replaced by the following:

(a) may revoke a registration certificate for a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm for any good and sufficient reason; and 5

18. Le paragraphe 71(1) de la même loi est remplacé par ce qui suit :

71. (1) Le directeur peut révoquer le certificat d'enregistrement d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte pour toute raison valable; il est tenu de le faire pour toute arme à feu en la possession d'un particulier dans le cas où le contrôleur des armes à feu l'informe, en application de l'article 67, que celle-ci n'est pas utilisée aux fins prévues à l'article 28. 10

Révocation : certificats d'enregistrement

19. Subsection 72(5) of the Act is replaced by the following:

(5) A notice given under subsection (1) in respect of a registration certificate for a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm must specify a reasonable period during which the applicant for or holder of the registration certificate may deliver to a peace officer or a firearms officer or a chief firearms officer or otherwise lawfully dispose of the firearm to which the registration certificate relates and during which sections 91, 92 and 94 of the *Criminal Code* do not apply to the applicant or holder. 15 20

19. Le paragraphe 72(5) de la même loi est remplacé par ce qui suit :

(5) La notification accorde un délai raisonnable pendant lequel le demandeur ou le titulaire d'un certificat d'enregistrement d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte peut se départir légalement de celle-ci, notamment en la remettant à un agent de la paix, au préposé aux armes à feu ou au contrôleur des armes à feu, aucune poursuite ne pouvant être intentée contre lui en vertu des articles 91, 92 ou 94 du *Code criminel* pendant ce délat. 20 25

Disposition des armes à feu — certificat d'enregistrement

Disposal of firearms — registration certificate

20. Paragraphs 83(1)(a) and (b) of the Act are replaced by the following:

(a) every licence, every registration certificate for a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm and every authorization that is issued or revoked by the Registrar; 25

(b) every application for a licence, a registration certificate for a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm or an authorization that is refused by the Registrar; 30

20. Les alinéas 83(1)(a) et (b) de la même loi sont remplacés par ce qui suit :

a) les permis, les certificats d'enregistrement d'armes à feu prohibées ou d'armes à feu à autorisation restreinte ou les autorisations qu'il délivre ou révoque; 35

b) les demandes de permis, les demandes de certificat d'enregistrement d'armes à feu prohibées ou d'armes à feu à autorisation restreinte ou les demandes d'autorisation qu'il refuse; 40

21. Section 105 of the Act is replaced by the following:

105. An inspector who believes on reasonable grounds that a person possesses a firearm may, by demand made to that person, require 35

21. L'article 105 de la même loi est remplacé par ce qui suit :

105. S'il a des motifs raisonnables de croire qu'une personne possède une arme à feu, l'inspecteur peut lui ordonner de présenter, dans 45

Contrôle

Demand to produce firearm

that person, within a reasonable time after the demand is made, to produce the firearm in the manner specified by the inspector for the purpose of verifying the serial number or other identifying features of the firearm and of ensuring that, in the case of a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm, the person is the holder of the registration certificate for it.

22. Section 112 of the Act is repealed.

23. Sections 114 and 115 of the Act are replaced by the following:

Failure to deliver up revoked licence, etc.

114. Every person commits an offence who, being the holder of a licence, a registration certificate for a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm or an authorization that is revoked, does not deliver it up to a peace officer or firearms officer without delay after the revocation.

Punishment

115. Every person who commits an offence under section 113 or 114 is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

un délai raisonnable suivant la demande et de la manière indiquée par l'inspecteur, cette arme en vue d'en vérifier le numéro de série ou d'autres caractéristiques et de s'assurer, dans le cas d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, que cette personne est titulaire du certificat d'enregistrement afférent.

22. L'article 112 de la même loi est abrogé.

23. Les articles 114 et 115 de la même loi sont remplacés par ce qui suit :

114. Commet une infraction le titulaire d'un permis, d'un certificat d'enregistrement d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte ou d'une autorisation qui ne restitue pas le document sans délai après sa révocation à l'agent de la paix ou au préposé aux armes à feu.

115. Les infractions visées aux articles 113 ou 114 sont punissables par procédure sommaire.

COORDINATING AMENDMENTS

24. If Bill S-5, introduced in the 2nd session of the 40th Parliament and entitled *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and another Act* (in this section referred to as the "other Act"), receives royal assent and this Act comes into force, then, on the day on which this Act comes into force, section 29 of the other Act is deemed never to have come into force and is repealed.

2003, c. 8

25. (1) In this section, the "other Act" means *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (firearms) and the Firearms Act*, chapter 8 of the Statutes of Canada, 2003.

(2) On the first day on which both section 28 of the other Act and section 11 of this Act are in force, subsection 36(1) of the *Firearms Act* is replaced by the following:

Temporary licence and registration certificate

36. (1) A declaration that is confirmed under paragraph 35(1)(b) has the same effect after the importation of the firearm as a licence authorizing the non-resident to possess only that firearm and, in the case of a restricted firearm, as a registration certificate for the firearm until

DISPOSITIONS DE COORDINATION

24. En cas de sanction du projet de loi S-5, déposé au cours de la 2^e session de la 40^e législature et intitulé *Loi modifiant le Code criminel et une autre loi* (appelé « autre loi » au présent article), et d'entrée en vigueur de la présente loi, à la date d'entrée en vigueur de celle-ci, l'article 29 de l'autre loi est réputé ne pas être entré en vigueur et est abrogé.

25. (1) Au présent article, « autre loi » s'entend de la *Loi modifiant le Code criminel (armes à feu) et la Loi sur les armes à feu*, chapitre 8 des Lois du Canada (2003).

(2) Dès le premier jour où l'article 28 de l'autre loi et l'article 11 de la présente loi sont tous deux en vigueur, le paragraphe 36(1) de la *Loi sur les armes à feu* est remplacé par ce qui suit :

36. (1) Une fois attestée conformément à l'alinéa 35(1)d), la déclaration a valeur de permis de possession — valide à l'égard de l'arme à feu importée seulement — ainsi que, dans le cas d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, de certificat d'enregistrement, pour :

Non-restitution

Peine

Projet de loi S-5

2003, ch. 8

Permis et certificat temporaires

(a) the expiry of 60 days after the importation, in the case of a firearm that is neither a prohibited firearm nor a restricted firearm; or

(b) the earlier of the expiry of 60 days after the importation and the expiry of the authorization to transport, in the case of a restricted firearm.

(3) If section 29 of the other Act comes into force before section 12 of this Act, then that section 12 is replaced by the following:

12. Paragraph 38(1)(a) of the Act is replaced by the following:

(a) holds a licence to possess that kind of firearm and, in the case of a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm, a registration certificate and an authorization to transport the firearm; and

(4) If section 12 of this Act comes into force before section 29 of the other Act, then, on the day on which that section 29 comes into force, paragraph 38(1)(a) of the *Firearms Act* is replaced by the following:

(a) holds a licence to possess that kind of firearm and, in the case of a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm, a registration certificate and an authorization to transport the firearm; and

(5) If section 29 of the other Act comes into force on the same day as section 12 of this Act, then that section 12 is deemed to have come into force before that section 29 and subsection (4) applies as a consequence.

a) une période de soixante jours à compter de l'importation, s'il s'agit d'une arme à feu qui n'est ni une arme à feu prohibée ni une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte;

b) soit une période de soixante jours à compter de l'importation, soit la période de validité de l'autorisation de transport afférente si elle est inférieure à soixante jours, s'il s'agit d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte.

(3) Si l'article 29 de l'autre loi entre en vigueur avant l'article 12 de la présente loi, cet article 12 est remplacé par ce qui suit :

12. L'alinéa 38(1)a) de la même loi est remplacé par ce qui suit :

a) il est titulaire d'un permis l'autorisant à posséder une telle arme à feu et, s'agissant d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, du certificat d'enregistrement et de l'autorisation de transport afférents à l'arme;

(4) Si l'article 12 de la présente loi entre en vigueur avant l'article 29 de l'autre loi, à la date d'entrée en vigueur de cet article 29, l'alinéa 38(1)a) de la *Loi sur les armes à feu* est remplacé par ce qui suit :

a) il est titulaire d'un permis l'autorisant à posséder une telle arme à feu et, s'agissant d'une arme à feu prohibée ou d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, du certificat d'enregistrement et de l'autorisation de transport afférents à l'arme;

(5) Si l'entrée en vigueur de l'article 29 de l'autre loi et celle de l'article 12 de la présente loi sont concomitantes, cet article 12 est réputé être entré en vigueur avant cet article 29, le paragraphe (4) s'appliquant en conséquence.

**SUBMISSION
BY THE
CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS
TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS
ON
BILL C-68, FIREARMS ACT
MAY 17, 1995**

CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS

Robert White, President

Mr. Chair, members of the Committee, the Canadian Labour Congress is pleased that the Committee's extended hearing schedule has allowed our appearance tonight. The CLC, by far Canada's largest central labour body, represents some 2.4 million unionized women and men. Our membership, which is spread from coast-to-coast-to-coast, constitutes, together with their families, a significant reflection of the Canadian population.

Amongst the membership, there are hunters. There are farmers. There are target shooters. There are gun collectors. And, of course, there are those who require firearms as part of their jobs (e.g. security guards, prison guards and police officers). In other words, the major groups that own guns and use them for quite legitimate purposes include many of our members.

The CLC welcomes this opportunity to add its voice to the widespread support for Bill C-68. Issues related generally to the quality of life enjoyed by our members, both as workers and as citizens, have **always** assumed the highest priority. That is why we chose to speak to this Bill. And, it was in this context that the CLC, through a letter from its President, Robert White, was quick off the mark to applaud the Honourable Allan Rock following his announcement of the federal government's firearms control program on November 30, 1994. Since then, nothing has happened during the gun control debate to dissuade the CLC from its position.

In preparing this submission, we were struck by information that was not only highly relevant to this debate but also helped to reinforce our position. This included:

- ◆ An average of 1,400 Canadians die of gunshot wounds in suicides, murders and accidents each year. Over 1,000 are injured.
- ◆ Gun murder rates are higher in rural areas than in urban areas. The Prairies have the highest rate of firearms injuries in the country.
- ◆ Approximately 3,000 guns are reported lost or stolen each year. The actual numbers of missing firearms may be significantly higher since the law does not require reporting of lost or stolen unrestricted firearms.
- ◆ A home with a gun is five times more likely to be the scene of a suicide than a home without a gun and three times more likely to be the scene of a homicide.
- ◆ Rifles and shotguns are the weapons most commonly used by husbands who kill their wives.

- ◆ There are over 5 million rifles and shotguns in Canada; their ownership is not known to police.
- ◆ There are an estimated 13,000 prohibition orders issued annually which are intended to remove guns from the hands of individuals considered to be a risk to society.
- ◆ A comparison of 18 western countries showed that those with high gun ownership rates tend to have higher homicide rates and much higher gun-related homicide rates.

The reasons for our support for Bill C-68 are essentially three-fold.

First, we have relied upon the tenor of resolutions adopted by the CLC's Executive Council and Convention in recent years. The first of these, in the aftermath of the 1989 tragedy in Montreal, called for a ban on the sale and possession of semi-automatic weapons in Canada. The second, passed **overwhelmingly** by delegates to our 1994 Convention, called for a ban on the ownership or possession of handguns except for law enforcement and military personnel. It was clear during that debate that our members support reasonable regulation of gun ownership and a moderate balance between the public's interest in a safe, peaceful and caring society and unfettered gun ownership.

Second, when the common sense rationale underlying Bill C-68 is weighed against the arguments which have been advanced in opposition to it, we find the latter quite unconvincing. Indeed, they often appear to be rooted in exaggeration and fear-mongering, which reflects a narrow, self-interest amongst some gun owners, weapons manufacturers and gun shop merchants.

Finally, but not least, we feel strongly the Bill C-68 and the support for it, keeps the faith with the 14 women so brutally murdered in Montreal and other victims of violence, especially violence involving firearms. In this regard, we wish to acknowledge here, the persistence and determination of the Coalition for Gun Control which, with limited resources, has managed to keep gun control high on the public policy agenda.

Bill C-68 contains a number of measures aimed, as Minister Rock stated during his appearance before the Committee on April 24, 1995, at three principal objectives: to deter abusive use of firearms; to better control the possession of firearms; and, to reduce the entry of illegal firearms into Canada. Specific measures include a licensing system for gun owners, a registration system for firearms, a prohibition against the sale of certain weapons, restriction on the sale of ammunition, controls on the import, export and transport of firearms, and, stiffer penalties for smuggling, trafficking and using a firearm in the commission of offences. It is our impression that most of these measures have caused little or no negative reaction. The single

obvious exception is the proposed registration of firearms. We feel it is incumbent upon us, particularly at this stage of the Committee's deliberations, to focus our remaining comments on this issue.

It is perhaps useful to begin by examining the main reasons that have been put forward against firearms registration.

First, is the claim that registration would diminish gun owners' rights. This betrays an indulgence in cross-border shopping for legal justification for unrestricted gun ownership. The United States long ago constitutionalized the right to bear arms. This helps to explain two related and telling statistics – that in the United States the number of gun dealers now exceeds that of gas stations and grocery stores and that the number of private security guards is now greater than the publicly-financed police forces.

There is no similar right in Canada. In fact, Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees "life, liberty and security of the person" provides constitutional support for the regulation of weapons which are a potential threat to the life and security of others. Gun ownership in Canada is a privilege, not a right. This is a critical distinction. Bill C-68 merely attaches some modest conditions to that privilege.

The United States was created in the wake of armed revolt against an imperial power. Canada, in contrast, evolved from a peaceful understanding with that same power. Part of the legacy of these quite different beginnings is the degree to which our respective national identities revolve around firearms. Canada's relatively lesser emphasis on guns is, in our view, well worth preserving. It also provides a broadly-shared basis for instruments, such as Bill C-68, which can help ensure that Canadian values and priorities are passed to future generations.

Second, is the complaint that registration would be costly and inconvenient. There will be a price – in terms of money and time – associated with the privilege of gun ownership but it would appear to be no more onerous than that associated with other kinds of licensing (e.g. drivers) and registration (e.g. vehicles). A former Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Oliver Wendell Holmes, once said that "taxes are the price we pay for living in a civilized society." Gun registration fees should be regarded in a like manner.

Moreover, the information collected via registration will be the very underpinning of a system designed, as mentioned immediately above, to reinforce Canadian values. Any costs must, therefore, be weighed against the benefits of that overriding goal.

Third, it is feared that registration would be the first step towards confiscation. At one level, the notion that registration will lead ultimately to widespread seizure of firearms appears to be an exaggeration of police powers under Bill C-68. The Bill, at the very least, implicitly recognizes that there are proper uses for guns; it aims to curtail their misuse.

However, we are also aware of the concerns expressed by the Canadian Bar Association and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association with respect to individuals' privacy and civil rights. In keeping with our history of commitment to civil liberties, the CLC would also want to be assured that the search and inspection provisions in the Bill sufficiently protect these liberties. Similarly, it may also be reasonable to modify the penalties for failing (especially inadvertently) to register a firearm. We encourage that the Justice Minister seems amenable to amending the Bill in these areas.

Fourth, is the view that registration would not cut crime and that there is no proven link between registration and public safety. No one seriously claims that Bill C-68 will be a panacea. It will not end crime involving guns. But, if registration encourages increased gun owner responsibility and accountability; if it assists police in taking preventative action and enforcing the law; and, if it reduces the illegal gun trade, we do not believe it is a great leap of faith to assume it will have some positive impact. If registration makes murdering one's spouse or neighbour more difficult; if it prevents one criminal from getting a gun; if it saves one life, then it will have been worth it. Registration deserves that chance.

Fifth, it is held that registration would unfairly target law-abiding citizens, may lead to defiance of the law amongst some and would not be respected by smugglers or other criminals. While it is true that criminals probably will not register their guns, gaining access to them will hopefully be made more difficult by Bill C-68. Law-abiding citizens, by definition, obey a myriad of rules and regulations that govern our everyday behaviour. There is absolutely no reason for law-abiding gun owners to feel any more "victimized" by registration requirements than car and dog owners, amongst others. The degree of non-compliance with gun registration, we believe, will prove to be minimal.

Last, is the belief that registration would divert attention and resources away from the underlying causes of violence in society. The CLC has some sympathy for this view. There can be no question that we have a difficult challenge in combating some very real socio-economic problems: stubbornly high unemployment, poverty, substance abuse, sexism, racism, inadequate treatment for the mentally ill, etc. These are problems which alone and in combination create severe strains within families and communities – strains that too frequently explode into violence. The CLC, in other ways and other forums, has criticized government policies that, we believe, will worsen the well-being and security of Canadians. We have offered alternatives. And, we will continue to do so.

However, it would be irresponsible for us to say in effect, “fix these other things first and forget Bill C-68 for now.” This is not an either/or situation. If Bill C-68 can alleviate some of the problems that accompany guns in society – and we believe it can – then let it proceed. At the same time, we can hardly afford to be complacent, with or without Bill C-68, so long as the problems identified above persist.

In contrast to the relatively weak case against firearms registration, we believe there are several compelling arguments in its favour. When traded-off against the minimal cost and inconvenience imposed on gun owners, these arguments are all the more convincing.

They include:

- ◆ to enforce safe storage requirements;
- ◆ to ensure that gun owners are held accountable for the guns they purchase;
- ◆ to compel gun owners to report missing firearms;
- ◆ to reduce the illegal trade in rifles and shotguns;
- ◆ to give police better tools for taking preventative action (e.g. enforcing prohibition orders);
- ◆ to help reduce illegal gun trafficking; and,
- ◆ to help identify legal gun owners and prosecute illegal gun owners.

Earlier in this submission, reference was made to a resolution passed at the 1994 CLC Convention. One of the speakers during the debate on this resolution was Michael Miller, President of the Yukon Federation of Labour. The burden he carries was heavy in his voice and etched on his face. It was palpably evident to the 2,400 delegates in the hall. While words on paper cannot adequately re-create the feelings he conveyed, we offer them here on behalf of all of the Michael Millers.

“This is an issue that is very close to my heart and very close to my family. I have a young teenage son who a little over a year ago committed one of the major crimes ever in the history of the Yukon Territory. He described, during his sentencing hearing, that the feel of a handgun gave him a sense of power. It completely changed his whole attitude about what society was about. This is a young man who is a recipient of the Governor General’s award as a top scholar in the Yukon Territory. He was a top soccer player in the Yukon Territory, and his young life was ruined because of the use of handguns. He is now serving a major sentence at a federal penitentiary. I cannot help but feel in my heart that

had not handguns been so readily available that the life of my son and my entire family would not have changed so drastically. I strongly encourage this delegation, this group of people, to support this resolution from the heart.”

Shortly after, the resolution (to ban handguns) was carried in large numbers. We hope Michael Miller’s words will have a similar persuasive effect on this Committee with respect to Bill C-68.

This document is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Canadian Labour Congress:

Robert White
President

Dick Martin
Secretary-Treasurer

Nancy Riche
Executive Vice-President

Jean-Claude Parrot
Executive Vice-President

COALITION

for Gun Control / pour le contrôle des armes

www.guncontrol.ca

Defend Gun Control: 20 years after the Montreal Massacre

On December 6 1989, 14 young women were killed by a man with a legally acquired assault rifle at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique. Twenty years later, we continue to remember:

Geneviève Bergeron

Anne-Marie Edward

Anne-Marie Lemay

Annie Turcotte

Hélène Colgan

Maud Haviernick

Sonia Pelletier

Barbara Klucznik

Nathalie Croteau

Maryse Laganière

Michèle Richard

Widajewicz

Barbara Daigneault

Maryse Leclair

Annie St-Arneault

It took less than 22 minutes. The killer, armed with a Ruger Mini 14, a gun still sold today as a regular hunting gun, injured 27 other people.. **That gun, along with seven million rifles and shotguns, will soon be unregistered if the gun lobby and its allies have their way. The senseless deaths triggered awareness of the costs of inadequate gun control in Canada - 1400 firearms deaths each year, many of them preventable. Police, domestic violence and public health experts, along with victims, labour, community organizations and thousands of individuals helped push for stronger laws in 1991 and 1995. The 1995 legislation requires gun owners to obtain a renewable gun license and register their guns one time. More than 2 million gun owners were licensed and 7 million firearms registered at considerable cost. But the results were also substantial.** The system has helped reduce access to firearms by dangerous and unbalanced people and has supported law enforcement. Police use the system more than 10,000 times each day. Rates of firearm death and injury have fallen by more than 40% driven by declines in murders with rifles and shotguns, particularly murders of women, as well as declines in suicide rates, particularly among young men.

“The Gun Control Law is a monument to the memory of the victims of the Polytechnique Tragedy.” — Suzanne Lapante-Edward, mother of Anne Marie

In spite of the successes, the gun lobby has fought to rescind the legislation aided by the powerful American National Rifle Association (NRA) and using American style tactics including expensive and targeted media campaigns. On November 4, 2009, Private Member's Bill C-391, which eliminates the need to register rifles and shotguns, including the powerful Ruger Mini-14, passed second reading the House of Commons. Jack Layton, leader of the NDP (and founder of the White Ribbon Campaign) and Michael Ignatieff, leader of the Liberal party, allowed a free vote and the legislation passed as twelve New Democrats, eight Liberals and one Independent cast their votes with the government and several abstained. The Bill is now sent to the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security and we still have a chance to stop it, but we need your help.

Gun Control- Just the facts

- Rifles and shotguns are the guns most often in Canadians' homes and account for half the guns used in crime, the guns most often used in domestic violence, suicide and murders of police officers.
- Police officers access the gun registry 10,818 times a day to take preventative action and to support investigations, such as the murder of 4 RCMP officers in Mayerthorp Alberta.
- The registry has been used to remove guns from dangerous people including a potential copy cat shortly after the Dawson College shooting and in cases of domestic violence.

Since the law passed spousal homicides with firearms have fallen by two thirds while spousal homicides without firearms have remained the same, a sign that the controls on firearms have had an effect. Three hundred fewer people die of gunshots now compared to 1995.

- All major public safety groups in the country including policing, public health, women's groups, and victims of gun violence continue to support the gun registry.
- Canada's law has been heralded worldwide as a model for addressing armed violence against women.
- Eliminating the registration of rifles and shotguns will save, at most, \$3 million a year because 7 million rifles and shotguns have already been registered and only new guns and guns that are being if they are sold or traded.

The following MPs voted to weaken gun control. Please contact them right away to let them know you support the gun registry and want them to kill Bill C-391.

ALL Conservative MPs including:

Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper 613-992-4211 HarpeS@parl.gc.ca

Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan (York-Simcoe, ON) 905-898-1600 VanLoP@parl.gc.ca

Lois Brown (Newmarket-Aurora, ON)

905-953-7515 Brown.L@parl.gc.ca

Paul Calandra (Oak Ridges-Markham, ON)

905-294-0004 Calandra.P@parl.gc.ca

Colin Carra (Oshawa, ON)

905-440-4868 CarriCo@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Michael Chong (Wellington-Halton Hills, ON) 905-702-2597 ChongM@parl.gc.ca

Bob Dechert (Mississauga-Erindale, ON)

905-897-1952 Dechert.B@parl.gc.ca

Rick Dykstra (St. Catharines, ON)

905-934-6767 DykstR@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Jim Flaherty (Whitby-Oshawa, ON)

905-665-8182 FlaheJ@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Peter Kent (Thornhill, ON)

905-886-9911 Kent.P@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Rob Nicholson (Niagara Falls, ON)

905- 353-9590 NichoR@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Bev Oda (Durham, ON)

905-697-1699 OdaB@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Lisa Raitt (Halton, ON)

905-693-0166 Raitt.L@parl.gc.ca

David Sweet (~~Anc.—Dundas—Flamb.—Westdale~~, ON) 905-627-9169 SweetD@parl.gc.ca

Mike Wallace (Burlington, ON)

905-639-5757 WallaM@parl.gc.ca

Terrence Young (Oakville, ON)

905-338-2008 Young.T@parl.gc.ca

INDEPENDENT MP: André Arthur (J—Cartier, QC) 613-992-2798 ArthuA@parl.gc.ca

KEY POINTS

- Rifles and shotguns in the wrong hands are as deadly as handguns.
- The registry is an essential tool used 10,818 times a day by police officers.
- Gun control works. Health and safety experts have shown that stronger gun laws have reduced gun related death
- Eliminating the registration of rifles and shotguns will save only \$3 million a year
- A well financed opposition obscures the facts and reflects a small minority. **The gun lobby doesn't speak for me.**
- Twenty years after the Montreal Massacre, do not weaken controls on the Ruger Mini 14 that killed 14 young women

LIBERAL MPs:

Scott Andrews (Avalon, NF)

613-992-4133 Andrews.S@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Larry Bagnell (Yukon)

613-995-9368 BagnelL@parl.gc.ca

Jean-Claude D'Amours (Madawaska, NB)

613-995-0581 DamouJ@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Wayne Easter (Malpeque, PEI)

613-992-2406 EasteW@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Dr. Keith Martin (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca, BC) 613-996-2625, MartiK@parl.gc.ca

Anthony Rota (Nipissing–Timiskaming, ON) 613-995-6255 RotaA@parl.gc.ca
Todd Russell (Labrador, NF)
613-996-4630 RusseT@parl.gc.ca
Scott Simms (Bonavista, NF)
613-996-3935 SimmsSc@parl.gc.ca
Hon. Albina Guarnieri (*Abstained*) (Mississ.-E-Cooksville, ON) 613-996-0420 GuarnA@parl.gc.ca
Hon. Jim Karygiannis (*Absent*) (Scarborough-Agincourt, ON) 613-992-4501 KarygJ@parl.gc.ca

NDP MPs:

Malcolm Allen (Welland, ON)
613-995-0988 Allen.Ma@parl.gc.ca
Charlie Angus (Timmins–James Bay, ON)
613-992-2919 AngusC@parl.gc.ca
Niki Ashton (Churchill, MB)
613-992-3018 Ashton.N@parl.gc.ca
Dennis Bevington (Western Arctic, NWT)
613-992-4587 BevinD@parl.gc.ca
Nathan Cullen (Skeena–Bulkley Valley, BC) 613-993-6654 CulleN@parl.gc.ca
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Carol Hughes (Algoma–Manitoulin, ON)
613-996-5376 Hughes.C@parl.gc.ca
Bruce Hyer (Thunder Bay–Superior North, ON)
613-996-4792, Hyer.B@parl.gc.ca
Jim Maloway (Elmwood–Transcona, MB)
613-995-6339 Maloway.J@parl.gc.ca
John Rafferty (Thunder Bay–Rainy River, ON) 613-992-3061 Rafferty.J@parl.gc.ca
Peter Stoffer (Sackville–Eastern Shore, NS) 613-995-5822 StoffP@parl.gc.ca
Glenn Thibeault (Sudbury, ON)
613-996-8962 Thibeault.G@parl.gc.ca

THE OPPOSITION “LEADERS”:

Jack Layton 613-995-7224 LaytoJ@parl.gc.ca
Michael Ignatieff 613-995-9364 IgnatM@parl.gc.ca

SAMPLE OP-ED

To those shooting down the gun registry Lana Payne

The Telegram (St. John's)

Sat Dec 5 2009

Page: A21

Section: Opinion

This is an open letter to those MPs who voted with the federal Conservatives to kill the gun registry, and to their leaders:

Dear Michael Ignatieff, Jack Layton, Scott Andrews, Scott Simms, Todd Russell, Larry Bagnell, Jean-Claude D'Amours, Wayne Easter, Keith Martin, Anthony Rota, Malcolm Allan, Charlie Angus, Niki Ashton, Dennis Bevington, Nathan Cullen, Claude Gravelle, Carol Hughes, Bruce Hyer, Jim Maloway, John Rafferty, Peter Stoffer, and Glenn Thibeault:

Sunday marks the 20th anniversary of the Montreal massacre.

That was the day a lone gunman entered a Montreal university, segregated the men from the women, opened fire, screamed he hated feminists, and killed 14 young women engineering students.

In 45 minutes, 14 young women engineering students were dead, 13 others were wounded. In 45 minutes, the world - for a lot of women in this country - changed.

In 45 minutes, violence against women was no longer a matter that was discussed behind closed doors.

And in the days that followed Dec. 6, 1989, grief and outrage turned to anger. That anger mobilized a movement - a movement dedicated to a safer world for women and men. That movement, which included the mothers of the murdered victims, victims' rights advocates and police forces, fought for and got a gun registry.

Last month, just weeks before the 20th anniversary of the worst killing spree in Canadian history, the federal Conservatives - with help from the Liberals and the NDP - have passed at second reading a bill to kill the registry, destroying files on 8 million firearms.

The decision to kill that registry on the eve of such a tragic event in Canadian history was no coincidence. It was a deliberate, craven and gutless decision that has sent our civil society cascading backwards.

The gun registry is a divisive issue. The right wing in Canada has kept this issue alive, has fuelled the anger.

But to take this action on the eve of Dec. 6; to take this action while the mothers of the murdered young women pleaded with our government not to; to take this action at this time reveals something about the Harper government. It reveals their contempt for those of us who fight to end violence against women and for a safer world.

I know there are those who disagree with me on the gun registry. I heard from some of them when I wrote on this issue a few weeks ago. But I also heard from hunters, who said they have absolutely no problem registering their guns.

And they were very practical with their comments. The registry is already created, why dismantle it now, destroying all those firearm records?

For those who oppose the registry, I ask this.

I ask that you think of your daughter and I ask that you think about her finding herself in a troubled or violent relationship, because it happens, far too often.

I ask, wouldn't you want the police to know if there are guns in her house before they are called to defuse a domestic dispute?

The police use this registry nearly 10,000 times a day. They say it has saved the lives of countless women and police officers. They say it has made a difference. They say there has been a 50 per cent decrease in the number of spousal deaths since gun owners have been required to register their long guns.

And I ask, what is the big deal? We register our cars, we register our boats, we register our pets. And we can and should register our guns. If it saves one daughter's life, one person's life, isn't it worth it?

Saves lives

According to the Coalition for Gun Control, the gun registry has also resulted in fewer suicides, especially among young men. That's because the Canada's Firearms Act reinforces the safe storage of guns which are intended to reduce unauthorized access and gun theft so legal guns do not end up in the illegal gun trade.

The registry also provides for screening and checks. In other words, if someone obtains a licence and then exhibits behaviour which suggests they are a risk, there is an ability to revoke or remove the firearms. According to the coalition, this saves lives.

Many of the Liberals and New Democrats who voted against the registry did it because they worried they might lose their seats because the Conservatives had been running nasty, American-style ads in their ridings.

Mahatma Ghandi once said, "fear has its use, but cowardice has none."

Which was at play in the vote on the gun registry?

There is a chance to save the gun registry. It still has to go through to third reading and the Committee process.

Nathalie Provost was injured in the Montreal massacre. Last week she wrote: "How could this happen? Because the gun lobby is highly motivated and active in every electoral riding while the supporters of gun control do little or nothing. We would therefore ask that you take action, that you call your member of Parliament and demand they stand up for gun control. Lives depend on it. Indeed, we must all work together to make Canada a safer and more open society."

This Dec. 6, remember the 14 women murdered 20 years ago.

Remember, and take action.

Lana Payne is president of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour. She can be reached by e-mail at lanapayne@nl.rogers.com. Her column returns Dec. 19.

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Speak out; Letter to the editor
Miramichi Leader
Fri Dec 4 2009
Page: A7
Section: Opinion

Once again the war on the national long gun registry is being waged as Bill C-391, an Act to amend the Criminal Code and Firearms Act, seeks to eliminate Canada's system for registering rifles and shotguns and its accompanying database of over 8 million firearms records. In doing so it would allow long guns to be completely untraceable and unaccounted for. In a country where we willingly and unquestioningly register our vehicles, our pets and our businesses, why should we object to registering a deadly weapon? The truth is we shouldn't.

Despite debates about its worth, the long gun registry has proven its usefulness time and time again. It allows police to check households for the presence of firearms before responding to a scene. In fact, the Canadian Firearms registry is used roughly 10,000 times each day by police. This service is essential in cases of domestic disputes where the presence of a gun in the home can radically increase the risk of harm to women and children. Since the registry was established, gun related spousal homicides in Canada have been reduced by 50 per cent. In 1991, 1441 Canadians died by shot gun, while in 2004 there were 792 deaths.

The long gun registry of the RCMP Canadian Firearms Program also prevents rifles and shot guns from falling into the wrong hands. Between 1998 and 2006 more than 6,000 applications have been refused and more than 10,000 licenses have been revoked for reasons such as a history of violence, unsafe firearms usage or storage and drug offenses.

Why at a time when we are still fighting to eliminate violence against women are the Harper Conservatives attacking the most concrete federal public service established to keep women safe? This irony cuts deep as we approach Dec. 6, the 20th Anniversary of the massacre of 14 women at École Polytechnique in Montréal.

Dismantling the long gun registry would also eliminate the jobs that make this quality public service possible. There are 240 members of the Union of Solicitor General Employees, a component of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, who work at the RCMP Canadian Fire Arms Centre in Miramichi, New Brunswick. The success of Bill C-391 would threaten many jobs in a rural community whose economic stability relies heavily on a strong federal government presence. In February 2009, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced to a local audience that there would be no loss of federal employment in the area.

While he has been steadfast in his effort to scrap the registry, he has made no further statement on how he plans to protect jobs in Miramichi. As the bill heads to committee for debate, this appears to be yet another empty promise.

On Nov. 4, 2009, this private Member's bill introduced by Conservative MP Candice Hoepfner passed its second reading in the House of Commons by just 27 votes and has now been referred to the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security.

While Bill C-319 works its way through the legislative process, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, law enforcement officials, women's organizations, community and business groups and the Canadian Labour Congress and its affiliates are speaking out in opposition. With the help of workers, of women and of people who believe that keeping track of weapons is a matter of public safety, we can turn this around.

Please join me in telling Stephen Harper and your local Conservative MP Tilly O'Neill Gordon that the eyes of women and workers are on them. Demand an end to this attack on women's safety and on the federal workers who help keep us safe.

Jeannie Baldwin,

Regional Executive Vice-President PSAC - Atlantic

November 16, 2009

Letter to the Editor
Northumberland News

Dear Editor,

Regarding your editorial on the Canadian long-gun registry, here are two more interesting and significant facts for your information:

1. Since gun owners were required to register long guns, spousal death by guns has been reduced by 50%.
2. Everyday, the daily rate of police enquiries to the Canadian firearms registry online is over 10,000 queries.

The long gun registry is about safety, for victims of violence, police and general public. If you don't agree that to be the case, then simply ask the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

For me, any legislation which has reduced spousal deaths by 50% is good legislation so I continue to support it and feel the government should too.

Sincerely,

Linda MacKenzie-Nicholas

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