

COALITION

for Gun Control / pour le contrôle des armes

www.guncontrol.ca

May 8, 2009

Stand up for Gun Control! Join Mothers for Gun Control Campaign

Days before Mother's Day, mothers of victims of gun violence launched the Mothers for Gun Control Campaign in Toronto today. They are calling on Canadians to stand up for gun control and let the Federal government know that they oppose any measures taken to weaken gun control. They released a video where they shared some of their stories and maintain: they want more gun control, not less.

How to help?

- ✓ Distribute the attached form letter **today** to everyone you know to tell Members of Parliament not to allow our gun control law to be weakened.
- ✓ Invite your network, your friends and your family to view the attached video (also available at www.guncontrol.ca)
- ✓ Join the **new** Coalition for Gun Control's Blog, Facebook and Twitter groups
CGC blog: <http://guncontrolcanada.wordpress.com/>
CGC Twitter page: <http://twitter.com/CGCguncontrol>
CGC Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=94173452847>
- ✓ Share your own experience or thoughts on gun violence.

The Gun Lobby Does NOT Speak for Me:

"The long- gun registry does not make Canadians any safer"

FACTS: Firearms death, injury and crime have decreased since the controls were introduced. Police use it almost 10,000 times a day.

"Criminals do not register their guns"

FACTS: Legal guns are often diverted to criminal markets through theft and illegal sales. Controls over legal guns help stem the flow of guns to criminals.

"Guns don't kill, people kill"

FACTS: People with guns kill more efficiently. Where there are more guns there are more deaths.

"Duck guns' are not a problem, just handguns"

FACTS: Rifles and shotguns kill just as dead as handguns. These are the guns most used in domestic violence and to kill police officers. The gun used to kill 14 young women at Polytechnique is still sold as an unrestricted hunting rifle.

"Guns are only a problem in big cities"

FACTS: The rates of gun death are higher in rural areas and the west where there are more guns. Domestic violence and youth suicide are particular problems. Police officers are more likely to be murdered with guns in smaller communities than big cities.

"The law "punishes" law abiding gun owners"

FACTS: There is a human cost to gun violence and survivors feel the "punishment" every day. Licensing gun owners and registering guns does not prevent them from being used for lawful purposes.

We *urgently* need the help of **ALL supporters** of Canada's gun control law to alert their MPs, Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff, NDP Leader Jack Layton, Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe and the Prime Minister that weakening gun control will have serious risks on public safety. Please copy and paste this letter, add your coordinates and e-mail or send postage-free to House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6. Coordinates of your MP and party leaders may be found at www.parl.gc.ca or by calling 1-800-O-CANADA.

Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Harper.S@parl.gc.ca

Re: Stop weakening gun control

Dear Sir,

Any gun in the wrong hands is dangerous. Hunting rifles and shotguns kill too. All illegal guns begin as legal guns. We must reduce the chances dangerous people will get guns. All gun owners need to be licensed and all guns should be registered.

Please think of the families that have lost their children to violence and the inquests that recommended MORE gun control not less. We are calling on you to:

- oppose Bill S-5 which eliminates the registration of unrestricted rifles and shotguns;
- oppose Bill C-301 which weakens controls on prohibited and restricted weapons, including fully automatic weapons, extends the of the gun licenses and eliminates registration of rifles and shotguns;
- oppose the amnesty for gun owners who fail to renew licenses or register their firearms;
- strengthen the screening and renewal processes for licenses;
- prohibit the sale of semi-automatic tactical and military assault weapons to civilians;
- strengthen controls on handguns;
- adhere to international agreements on marking and tracing to help combat the illegal trade.

Weaker gun control laws will make it easier for dangerous people to get access to guns and put the safety of Canadians at risk.

- Sensible gun control does not prevent people from using guns responsibly for lawful purposes.
- Rifles and shotguns are the guns most often used to kill, especially in rural areas and in domestic homicides, suicides, and in the murder of police officers.
- Bill S-5 means that rifles and shotguns (including powerful rifles such as the Ruger Mini14 used in the Montreal Massacre to kill 14 and injure 28) will be sold without any record except in the store.
- It will make it harder for police to do their job. They need to know who owns guns and what guns they own to take preventative action and to trace guns used in crime.
- Police use the firearms registry nearly 10,000 times every day.
- Eliminating the registration of rifles and shotguns will save only \$3 million a year.
- We need strong federal laws or else guns will flow from one province to another.

Gun death and injury is the lowest they have been in many years but there are still too many tragic reminders of the costs of violence. Canada's gun control laws have made us safer. Police, public health, women's groups, violence prevention groups and victims across the country support the law. I do too.

Put the safety of Canadians first. I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,
