



Federal Election 2011

BACKGROUND: Gun Control

As the nation's largest single provider of shelter to women and children fleeing violence, almost 20,000 women and children come through the doors of our 31 shelters across Canada every year. YWCA Canada supported the implementation of Canada's gun control laws because of our deep knowledge of the dangers and risks rifles and shotguns pose to women experiencing intimate partner violence. We continue to work to preserve the long gun registry as a public safety tool that makes women's lives safer.

A Public Safety Tool Increasingly in Use

As of December 31, 2009 the long gun registry contained records of 6,781,698 non-restricted firearms – long guns and rifles – which comprised about 91% of the registered firearms. Annual queries to Canadian Firearms Registry Online (CFRO) increased from 425,000 in 2004, to 3.4 million in 2008. Police forces across the country have rapidly increased their use of this database, and it is strongly supported by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

Long Guns and Violence Against Women

Long guns are the most common type of firearm used in the spousal homicides. Over the past decade, 71% of spousal homicides involved rifles and shotguns, over 24% involved a handgun, 4% involved the use of a sawed-off rifle/shotgun, and 1% involved other types of firearms. Since 1995, spousal homicides with long guns have decreased by at least 50%. The bottom line is clear: death rates by long guns have reduced substantially since the inception of the non-restricted firearm registry.

Canadians Support the Long Gun Registry

A recent poll has shown that two thirds of Canadians support the gun registry. Even in rural areas, supporters equal opponents. Although they are less vocal, the majority of rural women support the registry.

Costs of the Long Gun Registry

According to the RCMP, abolishing the long gun registry would only save between \$1.5 and \$4 million per year. These costs are dwarfed by those incurred by firearm death and injury which was estimated at \$6.6 billion per year in 1995).

Sources: YWCA Canada, *Peace, Order and GOOD GOVERNMENT Putting Victims First in Gun Control Legislation in Canada*, March 2010, <http://ywcacanada.ca/data/publications/0000001.pdf>. Coalition for Gun Control, International Women's Day, March 8, 2011, http://www.guncontrol.ca/English/Home/Releases/handout_march8_2011.pdf

The Long gun registry – MYTHS AND FACTS

MYTH

FACT

The Firearms Registry is a financial boondoggle & costs billions to run.	In 2009, it cost \$4.1 million to operate the long gun registry.
There's too much red tape in registering a long gun.	Registrations or transfers are done over the phone or online in a matter of minutes.
It's expensive to register/transfer a long gun.	It's free.
The gun registry targets the wrong people.	As of 2009, 111,533 firearms were seized by police for public safety reasons or after criminal use. 87, 893 were long guns.
Criminals use handguns. Long guns are used by law-abiding hunters and farmers.	Not always. Of the 16 police officer shooting deaths since 1998, 14 were committed with a long gun. In 2007, about 15% of known firearm homicides in Canada were committed with a long gun.
Police don't support the CFP.	All of the major Canadian organizations representing police support the registration of all firearms in Canada.
Police don't use the gun registry or the CFP's other services.	Police across Canada access the Firearms Registry online on average 11,076 times a day, 2,842 of those queries for addresses involving community safety incidents.
The Firearms Registry online has no impact on Police.	It does impact officer safety as evidenced by the fact that police used it 4,042,859 times last year.
The CFP does not save lives.	The CFP does more than register guns. It's another tool that assists police in making informed decisions that contribute to community safety.
The "gun registry" database has been breached over 300 times by hackers - our information isn't safe.	Wrong. The CFP's national database has never been breached by hackers. Information is safe and secure.

Compiled by: Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Canadian Association of Police Boards,
Canadian Police Association