

# News from the Coalition for Gun Control

## Three things you can do this summer to defend gun control

Dear Coalition for Gun Control Supporter,

As you know, the government mentioned its intention to scrap the long gun registry in its Speech from the Throne. We are already collaborating with other public safety experts and associations in developing a strategy to stop their next attempt, or at least minimize the damage. But we need your help to ensure that the opposition parties stand up for gun control. Remember that we lost many of our strongest proponents in the last election. Many of the newly elected opposition MPs know nothing about the issue. Many urban Conservatives know only what they have been told by their leader.

During the election, the Conservatives were backed by several gun lobby groups that urged their members to vote for and finance them. Emboldened by the election results, the gun lobby is pressing the government to go even further (more info at: <http://www.nfa.ca/sites/default/files/Goals-Immediate-Firearms-Legislation-Reform-ENGLISH.pdf>)– to dismantle the licensing provisions, to relax controls on handguns, to destroy the records of the seven million rifles and shotguns that have been registered, and to eliminate the need to record gun sales at the point of purchase. These changes would not just roll back the 1995 legislation but eliminate provisions that have been in place since 1977!

We know that we have big challenges ahead, but with your continued support, we remain hopeful and confident that we can win this fight.

### Three steps to stand up for gun control this summer:

1. **Write, call, and email your MP.** Members of Parliament are in their ridings for the summer, providing them with an opportunity to hear from their constituents. Many MPs are not familiar with the issue. Tell them:
  - Rifles and shotguns in the wrong hands are as deadly as handguns.
  - The gun registry is an essential tool used 14,000 times a day by police, including when intervening in domestic disputes. It assists police investigations and in removing ALL guns from dangerous people, enforcing prohibition orders, and taking preventative action.
  - Gun control works. Health and safety experts have shown that stronger gun laws have reduced gun-related death rates.
  - Registration is a one-time procedure, and it's free. The system is in place, and 6.9 million rifles and shotguns are already registered.
  - Registering all firearms holds gun owners accountable for their firearms and reduces the chances that their guns will be diverted to unlicensed owners, helping to choke off the illegal supply.
  - A well-financed opposition obscures the facts and reflects a small minority. The gun lobby doesn't speak for me.

Call 1-800-0-Canada or go to [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca) to find their contact information. Please contact us should you like additional background information or refer to our documents Myths and Facts (available at: <http://www.guncontrol.ca/English/Home/Releases/Myths&Facts.pdf>) and Stand up to Save Canada's Gun Control Law (available at: <http://www.guncontrol.ca/English/Home/Releases/Standupforsafety.pdf>).



### About us

Founded in the wake of the Montreal massacre, the **Coalition for Gun Control** is the only national non-profit organization working to reduce gun injury, death and crime in Canada.

It is endorsed by more than 300 crime and injury prevention, health, women's safety, victims' rights, policing, grassroots and community organizations including the YWCA of Canada, the Canadian Public Health Association, the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the families and victims of the École Polytechnique massacre and Dawson College shootings.

### Contact us

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Follow us on Twitter at  
[@CGCguncontrol](https://twitter.com/CGCguncontrol)

2. **Write, call and email the party leaders.** They have an important role. The NDP story in Quebec would have been very different indeed if NDP leader Jack Layton had allowed his party to help the Conservatives dismantle gun control. The six NDP MPs who changed their votes to defend the registry last September were all re-elected, some with even larger margins. It is important that all of the party leaders remember the promises that were made to the victims of gun violence, stand firm and publicly defend the gun registry to counter the Conservatives' misinformation.

- **Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper** Prime Minister of Canada (613) 992-4211  
[Stephen.Harper@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Stephen.Harper@parl.gc.ca)
- **Hon. Jack Layton** Leader of the Opposition (613) 995-7224  
[Jack.Layton@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jack.Layton@parl.gc.ca)
- **Hon. Bob Rae** Liberal Party Interim Leader (613) 992-5234  
[Bob.Rae@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Bob.Rae@parl.gc.ca)
- **Mr. Louis Plamondon** Bloc Quebecois Interim Leader (613) 995-9241  
[Louis.Plamondon@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Louis.Plamondon@parl.gc.ca)
- **Ms. Elizabeth May** Green Party Leader (613) 996-1119  
[Elizabeth.May@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.May@parl.gc.ca)

3. **Become a supporter of the Coalition for Gun Control.** Help us keep Canada safe and defend our hard won gains. Visit [www.guncontrol.ca](http://www.guncontrol.ca) to donate via Paypal (by visiting: <http://www.guncontrol.ca/English/Support/Support.htm>) and get more information to share with everyone you know.

## Mothers of victims of gun violence call for help to defend gun control

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*"We are concerned that abolishing the registry will be pushed through the House of Commons based on misinformation. Regardless of race, creed or colour, we need to work together on integrated solutions to curb violence. We need to stand together to defend gun control. The registry is consulted by police 14,000 times a day to remove guns from dangerous people, to take preventive action when there is risk of suicide or domestic violence, and to solve crimes. We know people who swear that they are alive today because of the firearms registry. We are mothers who know the agony of losing a child. [...] Stand up for gun control. Please contact your Member of Parliament immediately."*

To read the open letter signed by Elaine Lumley, Karen Vanscoy, Suzanne Laplante-Edward, Louise Hevey, Audette Shephard and Priscilla de Villiers, released on Mother's Day, visit:

<http://www.guncontrol.ca/English/Home/Releases/Mothers.pdf>.

Thank you so much for your commitment!

**The Coalition for Gun Control**

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Support our work



Due to our strong and successful advocacy work, government rules do not allow us to issue tax receipts.