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Sent via fax: 416-325-3745

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty

In regards to the federal government's recent decision, under Bill C-19, to dismantle the national long gun registry and destroy its nearly two decades worth of data, I am writing to urge you to take a stand against the Stephen Harper Conservative government and take action to save the data on more than 7.1 million registered non-restricted rifles and shotgun.

There are over 2 million non-restricted firearms currently registered to Ontario residents. This is a substantial number of firearms that will effectively disappear, in the eyes of police officers, other law enforcement officials and the public at large.

The CAW accepts that citizens have the right to own firearms in Canada. However, we cannot accept the logic that the conditions are such that firearm ownership goes unchecked. I state this not to criticize the character of law-abiding gun owners in Canada, but only that there are possible violent and dangerous outcomes related to unchecked gun ownership. A long gun registry is one piece of a national gun control program that fosters a culture of safety and accountability in Ontario communities.

In the wake of a number of tragic deaths in Ontario public inquests were held that resulted in a number of recommendations aimed at preventing such tragedies in the future. The public inquest included recommendations which identified the importance of licensing gun owners and the registration of firearms as a measure to reduce the risk of further tragedies.

The CAW has a rich history in the fight to end violence against women. Our long standing support of the national long gun registry, and at the very least the maintenance of its data, is a key piece of that strategy. We are encouraged with the efforts shown by the province of Quebec in considering the establishment of a provincial long gun registry that aims to draw on available data that exists in national registry. We are also encouraged by the recent vote of support this effort has received from Alberta Premier Alison Redford, who made it clear she doesn't oppose the transference of existing data to new provincial registries.

Ontario has, thus far, remained on the sidelines of this important debate. I trust that you will take a principled and public stand against the Harper government's Bill C-19 and if not actively considering the establishment of an Ontario-based registry that requires gun owners to register their long guns, then at the very least demanding that the existing records be maintained.

Canada should be moving forward, not backwards, on issues relating to gun control.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie White
Director, Women's Programs
CAW—Canada

JW/ttlcope343

cc: **Tim Hudak**, Ontario PC Party Leader (via fax: 416-861-9593)
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