



September 17<sup>th</sup> 2010

The Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres stands in opposition to the private members bill C-391: The Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Firearms Act – a move to repeal the long gun registry. We know that in Canada, an average of one in three women killed by her husband is shot,<sup>1</sup> and rifles and shotguns are most often used in cases of violence against women because of their widespread availability.<sup>2</sup> Many more women are threatened and intimidated by guns.

Eliminating the gun registry will most certainly expand the use of firearms, and will mean serious consequences for all women's safety in Canada. As a national organization with a pan-Canadian view of violence against women in the country, we know that elimination of the registry poses a particular risk to women living in rural areas, where rifles and shotguns are more common. The importance of gun control legislation became clear in the wake of the terrible 1989 Canadian tragedy at École Polytechnique de Montréal, the Montreal Massacre, and yet almost 21 years later, we are still struggling to retain measures that prevent women's deaths.

Although this life-saving strategy is not the complete answer to protecting women and children, we support the gun registry as a factor in preventing armed violence against women. As a coalition of rape crisis centres committed to ending violence against women, we denounce Bill C-391, and support the move to strengthening and implementing measures that will protect women and children.

Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres/  
Association canadienne des centres contre les agressions à caractère sexuel

<sup>1</sup> The Coalition for Gun Control, "Just the Facts: Reducing Domestic Homicide," fact sheet. March 8, 2010.  
<http://www.guncontrol.ca/English/Home/Releases/8march2010.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The Coalition for Gun Control, "Canada: Politicians are forgetting rural women," press release. April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010.  
<http://www.guncontrol.ca/English/Home/Releases/Release26042010.pdf>

