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Proposed Canadian Gun Ban an Expensive Exercise in Futility

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) has expressed “serious misgivings” about Canadian Liberal Party leader Paul Martin’s pledge to ban handguns if re-elected.

WiSH Chairwoman Ms Samara McPhedran stated that “The recent spate of gang-related crimes clearly represents cause for concern, but to embark on a costly round of bans is not the solution to illegal activity committed with illicitly acquired firearms.”

“Canada can learn from the experiences of the United Kingdom, where a handgun ban did nothing to reduce violent crime. Firearm related crime actually rose in the UK following the handgun ban, showing that bans do not address the causes of crime,” Ms McPhedran noted.

WiSH has urged Mr Martin to consider international evidence demonstrating that costly firearm bans fail to touch criminals, and to focus instead upon delivering increased resources for proven crime-reduction initiatives.

Ms McPhedran explained that “Effective policing and carefully designed intervention strategies are far more likely to reduce violent crime than banning already stringently controlled firearms. A ban may capture public attention, but it can’t catch criminals.”

“Promising that gun bans will improve community safety cannot make those promises a reality, as many other countries have already discovered,” finished Ms McPhedran.

Reference: Liberals expected to announce handgun ban

<http://www.canada.com/story.html?id=28eeda45-a3d3-4892-be0e-cfbb397c5af8&k=59372>

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WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE