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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Gun Registry Cannot 'Solve' Domestic Violence

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) has rejected Gun Control Canada's unsupported belief that the Firearm Registration scheme has reduced domestic violence in society. There is little reliable evidence to suggest that overall rates of domestic violence have been affected by the registration legislation.

"By insinuating that firearms are to 'blame' for domestic violence, anti-gun lobbyists are showing callous indifference towards women in need," said WiSH chairperson Ms Samara McPhedran.

Ms McPhedran went on to explain that "It is utterly mistaken and, indeed, counterproductive to claim that firearms cause domestic violence, or that firearm registration has any bearing on the genuine prevention of domestic abuse or, in extreme cases, homicide between intimate partners. The fact is that Canadian women are most at risk of being killed by a knife, or by some other means."

Domestic violence is an under-reported crime, with women often feeling too embarrassed or ashamed to go to family or friends for help. WiSH holds deep concerns over the potential for the actions of gun prohibitionists to divert attention from where it is most required.

Ms McPhedran stated that "We must focus on improving the ability of women in abusive relationships to escape the cycle of violence. This means better funding for emergency accommodation, crisis counseling, and ongoing support for women trying to leave violent circumstances. Let's not give politicians any excuses to ignore their responsibilities to women's welfare."

"Promoting the misleading view that ever-increasing firearm legislation can address domestic violence and the abuse of women is detrimental to community wellbeing. An anti-gun agenda pales in comparison to the urgent needs of women in desperate situations, and it is time for gun prohibitionists to recognize this fact," finished Ms McPhedran.

WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE