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## **Canadian Women Say End the Gun Registry, Invest in Social Services**

Canadian women have implored Parliament to end the wasteful gun registry, and redirect resources into social programs, healthcare, skills training, and better support for women escaping violent relationships.

Ms Pyper Unitt, Canadian spokeswoman for the International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH), said “A taxpayer funded list of legally owned, low risk guns does not help women who are suffering in violent relationships.”

“The registry has certainly not prevented violence against women, and there is no credible evidence that it has reduced violence against women.” Police reports consistently show that the overwhelming majority of firearms used to commit murder are unregistered.

Statistics Canada reports show a long, slow downwards trend in spousal homicides, including spousal homicides using a firearm, beginning decades before the gun registry was introduced. The majority of intimate partner homicides involve knives or physical force.

Ms Unitt said that “If the billions of dollars wasted on the long gun registry were used instead to address factors that sustain domestic violence, such as social disadvantage or child abuse and neglect, society as a whole would reap the rewards.”

“Canadian women want real action on women’s issues, not billion dollar bureaucratic failures. We urge politicians to end the costly and ineffective gun registry, and take a strong step towards genuine positive change in this country.”

**Contact:**

**Ms Pyper Unitt - 705-689-3167**

Spokeswoman, WiSH (Canada)

[www.ic-wish.org](http://www.ic-wish.org)

**WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE**