



Media Release September 23 2010

Parliament Focus on List of Guns Fails to Protect Women

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) have expressed disappointment at the Canadian Parliament's failure to end the long gun registry.

WiSH Canadian spokeswoman Ms Pyper Unitt said "Again, Parliament seems to have missed the point women have been trying to make."

Ms Unitt stated that "A list of legally owned firearms does nothing to protect Canadian women from domestic violence, because for the overwhelming majority of lethal violence cases the firearms those women are threatened by are not on this list."

"The registry does not protect women who experience violence, and it does nothing to address the broader social issues that underlie violence against women."

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.

"This was an opportunity to end the wasteful and ineffective registry, which would free up an estimated \$80 million each year for improved social services, healthcare, programs for at-risk youth, and support for women who are trying to escape abusive relationships," said Ms Unitt.

"It is saddening that ideology and politics have again been placed ahead of women's wellbeing and proactive measures to reduce violence, particularly when it is clear that so many Canadians want an end to the registry."

"We will continue to advocate for women and for genuine positive change."

WiSH congratulates each of the 151 MPs who had the courage to vote in favour of ending the registry.

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WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE