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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

A Display of Honesty by Gun Control Canada

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) has commended Gun Control Canada's acknowledgement that addressing the underlying causes of violence must take precedence over a focus on firearms. The admission came shortly after the latest tragic death in a spate of violence in Toronto.

WiSH chairwoman Ms Samara McPhedran stated that "After more than a decade of insisting that gun laws reduce violence, it is heartening to see even the most outspoken gun prohibitionists having the honesty to advocate effective policy rather than ideological rhetoric."

Firearm-related homicides began declining in the 1970's and the slow downwards trend has continued. According to Statistics Canada, the majority of firearms used to commit homicide are unregistered and the perpetrators unlicensed. Gang-related violence is an increasing concern.

"Anti-gun lobbyists clearly realize that their actions have had negative repercussions. Promoting the inaccurate view that ever-increasing gun laws can tackle social problems such as unemployment and substance abuse invariably encourages the misdirection of resources. It has simply provided politicians with excuses to ignore their wider social responsibilities," said Ms McPhedran.

Ms McPhedran emphasized that "We have campaigned extensively for the adoption of a more responsible approach by anti-gun lobbyists towards social issues, and are delighted to see our efforts making a difference. Reducing violence is not about guns, but about human lives."

Reference: <http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2005/12/27/1370188-cp.html>

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WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE