



**Media Release 16/01/2006  
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**Coalition for Gun Control admit gun crime is “not that common”**

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) has praised the Coalition for Gun Control (Canada) for taking another step towards accepting evidence-based policy, following the admission that gun crime in Canada is “not that common”.

WiSH Chairwoman Ms Samara McPhedran explained that “By dramatically exaggerating the likelihood of firearm crime, and touting firearms legislation as a cure for social problems, anti-gun lobbyists have consistently misdirected attention away from where it is desperately needed.”

“After years of insisting that firearms are frequently misused, it is positive that even the most outspoken gun prohibitionists realize their belief-based platform has been extremely counterproductive,” Ms McPhedran said.

Firearms misuse is rare in Canada, and firearm-related homicides have declined steadily since the 1970’s. Between 1997 and 2004, 84% of firearms used to commit homicide were unregistered and 79% of offenders unlicensed, demonstrating that legitimately owned firearms bear little relationship to firearm crime.

“Urgent community needs must take precedence over personal opinions about firearms. It cannot be easy coming to terms with one’s mistakes when they include partial responsibility for the misallocation of scant resources. Let us hope that gun prohibitionists are now prepared to develop understanding of genuinely beneficial social policy,” said Ms McPhedran.

Reference: Canada’s Liberals feel election heat over gun violence – Susan Taylor Martin, St Petersburg Times, January 16. [http://www.sptimes.com/2006/01/16/Worldandnation/Canada\\_s\\_Liberals\\_fee.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2006/01/16/Worldandnation/Canada_s_Liberals_fee.shtml)

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