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Disappointing Reversal by Canadian Gun Prohibitionists

Just days after admitting that legislation cannot address the underlying causes of violence, Canadian gun prohibitionists have again claimed that legitimately owned firearms are responsible for violence. The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) has described this as a “disappointing reversal”.

WiSH chairwoman Ms Samara McPhedran explained that “Gun prohibitionists have now decided that all illicit firearms were once legally owned. They have arrived at this conclusion despite a complete lack of supporting data, and substantial evidence to the contrary.”

Statistics Canada reports show that between 1997 and 2004, on average, 84% of firearms used to commit homicide were unregistered and 79% of offenders unlicensed. However, firearm-related homicides have been declining steadily since the 1970’s. This pattern has also been observed in Australia and the United Kingdom.

Ms McPhedran said that “After more than a decade of expensive and ever-increasing legislation concerning private firearms ownership, it is recognized that the laws have not produced overall social benefits. Gun laws are no substitute for effective policy.”

“We were delighted to see gun prohibitionists finally appreciating the importance of social factors and evidence-based interventions in reducing violence. It is saddening that they have backed away from this responsible and co-operative new approach. We hoped they would finally have the courage to move forward,” Ms McPhedran finished.

Reference:

http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1135810215087&call_pageid=968350130169&col=969483202845

Contact:

Ms Samara McPhedran – (+61) 415 963 189

Chair, International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH)

www.ic-wish.org

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