

#### 4. On Support for the Law

##### Q — What about the opposition?

###### Answer:

The majority of Canadians support this law. Polls consistently put support at about 75% of Canadians. A recent Leger and Leger poll concluded that 59% of Canadians say that the registration of rifles and shotguns should be maintained, and 27% do not. This poll also found that in every province but Saskatchewan and Manitoba, more people support gun registration than oppose it. 66% of women also support the gun registry, versus 51% of men. Of those living with gun owners, 47% support the long-gun registry, and 36% oppose it. Provincially, another recent survey from Léger Marketing showed that support for registration ranges from 37 % in Alberta to 88% in Quebec<sup>1</sup>. Much of the opposition is the result of deliberate misinformation released by the gun lobby.

##### Q — What about the constitutionality of the law?

###### Answer:

The Coalition for Gun Control, along with the Canadian Paediatric Society, the Quebec Public Health Association, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, CAVEAT and the cities of Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg, has played an active role in defending the law all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. The 9 – 0 Supreme Court decision was unequivocal, the decision, "by the court" stated: "*The registration provisions cannot be severed from the rest of the Act. The licensing provisions require everyone who possesses a gun to be licenced; the registration provisions require all guns to be registered. These portions of the Firearms Act are both tightly linked to Parliament's goal of promoting safety by reducing the misuse of any and all firearms. Both portions are integral and necessary to the operation of the scheme.*"<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Léger marketing, Perceptions à l'égard du contrôle des armes à feu. Projet 14400-004  
Décembre 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Reference re Firearms Act (Can.), 2000 SCC 31, [2000] 1 S.C.R. 783. June 15, 2000. "Judgements of the Supreme Court of Canada". Available at <http://csc.lexum.umontreal.ca/en/2000/2000scc31/2000scc31.html>