

June 2010

Dear Mr. Layton:

We are writing to urge you in the strongest possible way to compel your caucus to save Canada's gun registry.

We are saddened, even angered, that we must send such a letter.

The decision of 12 individual New Democrat MPs to vote with the Conservatives to kill the gun registry makes this letter not only necessary, but critical to saving the registry and stopping the current momentum of the ultra-right in this country.

It is a terrible irony that your caucus discipline might be weakened just when the accumulation of the government's assaults on equality have reached the tipping point for so many Canadians. These are the people who will be looking for clear and decisive political alternatives.

We do not believe it should be necessary to list the various reasons why the NDP – a progressive political party - would require caucus solidarity to defend the registry and stop the Conservatives from dismantling a hard-won initiative and tool for reducing crime and saving lives. The registry is supported by women's groups, unions, the Canadian Labour Congress, the Canadian Chiefs of Police, the Canadian Police Association, the Canadian Coalition for Gun Control and many others.

As a supporter of the registry, you are more than familiar with their reasons. But, as leader of the NDP, we are counting on you for more than personal convictions.

The Harper Conservatives have launched an attack on the progressive foundations of our country. There are no hidden agendas. From day one, this government has attacked the very foundations of equality and well-being. They are not nation builders but thrive on the politics of division and fear.

We should not abet them in their agenda.

It began with the slashing of \$4 billion in funding for child care and early learning. Then came the elimination of the Court Challenges Program, the attack on pay equity, and the cutbacks and narrowed mandate for Status of Women Canada. Canada's reputation as a consensus-builder and progressive force on the world stage has also been greatly diminished under the Harper regime and they continue to undermine efforts to reduce the impact of climate change on our planet.

Every step, every victory, has emboldened the Conservative right. Now they have their sights set on the gun registry and a woman's right to choose.

As progressives – as people who believe in a different, more equitable Canada – we must do everything in our power to stop these attacks.

Mr. Layton, fateful decisions are being made, ones that go beyond the gun registry to the foundations of our society.

The prospect of eliminating the gun registry will further embolden the Conservatives. Indeed, it already has. The fact that we are once again debating abortion in Canada – a woman's reproductive choice – speaks for itself.

The Conservatives are feeling bolstered by their wins but we can and must deliver a mighty setback to their momentum. We can do this by standing up for our hard-won gun registry, denying them the victory they arrogantly assume is within their grasp.

To do otherwise hands the Conservatives their greatest victory to date. To do otherwise means principles fundamental to the New Democratic Party of Canada can be set aside in times of fear.

During his 1983 speech honouring the 50th anniversary convention of the CCF/ NDP in Canada, Tommy Douglas proclaimed: *“The growth and development of the New Democratic Party must never allow us to forget our roots. Don't sacrifice conviction for success. Don't ever give up quality for quantity. In a movement like ours, as socialist movements around the world have demonstrated, we're not just interested in getting votes. We are seeking to get people who are willing to dedicate their lives to build a different kind of society, a society founded on the principles of concern for human well-being and human welfare.”*

Tommy Douglas could have been referring to the challenge the gun registry debate presents to today's New Democratic Party.

As progressive women leaders in our country, we are calling on you to ensure NDP MPs do the right thing. Stand up for the gun registry. Stand up for the progressive movement. Stand up for women's equality. We must not be cowed by the fear and division that's being sown by this government but rise with the courage of our convictions. This is how we build a better Canada for all citizens.

Sincerely,

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2. Adele Armin
3. Adrianna Cervoni
4. Agnès Whitfield, Ph.D., President, Academic Women for Justice
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7. Alice Propper, York University
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17. Andrée Brosseau, citoyenne
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19. Angela Schira, Secretary-Treasurer, BCFL
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21. Ann Buttrick
22. Anna Lou Little
23. Anna Pazdzierski, Nova House, Inc
24. Anna Willats
25. Anne Gregory, Senior Officer, CUPE Legal Branch
26. Anne MacMeekin, Employment Equity/Women's Advocate, Cami Automotive Inc.
27. Anne Pineau
28. Anne Richard-Webb, coordonnatrice
29. Anne Rochon Ford, Women and Health Protection
30. Anne-Marie Ambert, Sociology, York University
31. Annick Desjardins, Service des droits de la personne, SCFP
32. Annie Brais, Parajuriste
33. AnnMarie Connors, Executive Director, Cara Transition House
34. Arlene Macklem, Co-Chair, Manitoba CUPE Human Rights Committee
35. Arlene Rudolph, Women's Advocate, Ford Parts Depot, Bramalea
36. Arun Mukherjee, York University
37. Ayesha Basit
38. Barb Blasutti, President, ETFO Rainbow Teacher Local
39. Barb Byers, Executive Vice-President, Canadian Labour Congress
40. Barb Cape, President, SEIU West
41. Barb Gray - Owner Kelly Insurance Brokers Ltd
42. Barb Macquarrie, Community Director, Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario

43. Barb Moore, Co-Chair, CUPE Women's Committee
44. Barb Wallace
45. Barbar Yip, Activist
46. Barbara Cameron, York University
47. Barbara J. Kane, MD, FRCP, Psychiatrist
48. Barbara Wright, Retired teacher/principal
49. Barbie Zipp
50. Bernadette Wagner, poet and blogger
51. Bettina Bradbury
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54. Bev Ray, President, CUPW Edmonton Local
55. Bonnie Henderson, Councillor City of Stratford
56. Bonnie L. Brayton, DisAbled Women's Network (DAWN) Canada
57. Bonnie M James, Holyrood, NL
58. Brandy Damm, Women's Advocate, Electro-Motive Diesel
59. Brenda Austin Smith, University of Manitoba
60. Brenda Hildahl, NUPGE
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64. Brittany Holland -Assistant Manager Ben Moss Jewelry Store – Windsor
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67. Candace Rennick, CUPE Ontario Secretary-Treasurer
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83. Catherine Ebertt, Women's Advocate, Woodingford Lodge
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335. Laura Lozanski, COPE 225 (CAUT)

336. Laura McDonald
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371. Lori Foote, OSSTF
372. Lori Johb, SEIU West
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376. Louise Castonguay , Coordonnatrice, Maison d'hébergement L'Autre-Toit du KRTB
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381. Lucie Turgeon, présidente, Afeas régionale Hautes-Rivières
382. Lucille Harper, Executive Director, Antigonish Women's Resource Centre & Sexual Assault Services Association
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386. Lynn Ross, Employment Equity/Women's Advocate, GM Oshawa
387. Lynn Spink
388. Lynne Bue , 2nd National Vice-President, CUPW
389. Lynne Sinclair, Councillor, City of White rock
390. Lynne Taylor, VP – Workers with Disabilities, CLC/CTC
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392. Maïmouna Diakhaby, organisatrice communautaire
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408. Marianne Singh-Waraich, CFUW Director of Educational Affairs
409. Marie Bouchart d'Orval, Directrice générale, Partage Humanitaire
410. Marie Clarke Walker, Executive Vice-President, CLC/CTC
411. Marie Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer, OFL
412. Marie Lavalley, Kenora Sexual Assault Centre

413. Marie Tremblay Blondin, retraitée des Services sociaux et de Santé du Québec, membre du Conseil d'administration de L'Arrêt-Source, organisme ayant mission de réinsertion sociale de jeunes femmes en difficultés
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418. Marilyn Quinn, President, NBNU
419. Marion Mutton, President of the ETFO - Toronto Occasional Teachers Local
420. Marion Overholt
421. Marion Pollack, National Union Representative, CUPW/STTP
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446. Melissa Damphouse, Women's Advocate, Magna Modules
447. Melissa Haussman, Carleton University
448. Melissa Millen, CAW Local 302 Glendale Crossing chairperson
449. Melissa Punambolam
450. Mercedes Alarcon, Kenora Sexual Assault Centre
451. Meredith McFarquhar

452. Meri Jean Morrissey, Professor
453. Michael Verticchio, Executive Director of Operations and Services Ryerson Students' Union - Local 24 Canadian Federation of Students
454. Michele Landsberg, former columnist, Toronto Star
455. Michelle Flewin, CAW Local 302 Guide
456. Michelle Preston, Alternate, Pepsico Foods Canada Inc.
457. Michou Desrosiers, Animatrice femmes en Mouvement
458. Miggs Morris -retired educator
459. Minda Sherman, Executive Vice President Human Resources Blast Radius
460. Miry Cho Moon
461. Mona O'Shea, President, PEINU
462. Monica Townson, Consultant
463. Monique Côté, president of CUPE/SCFP local 429,
464. Monique Dumais, Membre de L'autre Parole, de l'Association des Religieuses pour les Droits des femmes
465. Monique Lortie, Professeur, Université du Québec à Montréal. Nadia Verrelli, Queen's University
466. Nalini Vaddapalli
467. Nancy Clark, H&S Coordinator CAW Local 555
468. Nancy McMurphy, President CAW Local 302
469. Nancy Quiring, UFCW Canada
470. Nancy Riche, former Secretary-Treasurer, CLC-CTC
471. Naomi Frankel, Educator
472. Narmeen Hashim
473. Natalie Carneval, Student
474. Natasha Davis, Women's Advocate, Chrysler WAP
475. Nathalie Teso-Wagner, présidente, Afeas régionale Lanaudière
476. Nelda Armour, Board member of the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre and Sexual Assault Services Association.
477. Nêst Pritchard
478. Nicole Gravel, présidente, Afeas régionale Richelieu-Yamaska
479. Nicole Nepton, édimestre
480. Nicole Pietsch, Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres, Coordinator
481. Nicole Poupart
482. Nneka MacGregor, Executive Director, Women at the centre
483. Noëlle Charbachi, organisatrice communautaire
484. Pam Taylor
485. Pamela Harrison, Coordinator, Transition House Association of Nova Scotia
486. Patrice Kelly, Chair, Administration and Communications Sector, NUPGE/SGEU
487. Patricia Berendsen, Registered Marriage and Family Therapist, Registered Social Worker
488. Patricia Christopher, Educator
489. Patricia E. Perkins, York University
490. Patricia Hrabok, M.S.W., Instructor/Counsellor, Inner City Social Work Program, University of Manitoba
491. Patricia Mcauliffe

492. Patricia Partridge, Women's Advocate, Pepsico Foods Canada Inc.
493. Patrizia Vinci, organisatrice communautaire
494. Patty Ducharme, PSAC National Executive Vice-President
495. Patty Marshall, Employment Equity/Women's Advocate, General Dynamics Land Systems Canada
496. Patty Southey, CAW Local 2002 Financial Secretary
497. Paula Provencher-Lambert, présidente, AFEAS régionale Centre-du-Québec
498. Pauline Mammolite, Women's Advocate, Dana Long Oakville
499. Pauline O'Connor, Toronto
500. Pauline Rankin, Carleton University
501. Peggi Paterson, CAW Local 4451
502. Peggy Nash, Assistant the the President, CAW Canada
503. Penelope Simons
504. Penni Mitchell, Managing Editor, Herizons Magazine
505. Penni Stewart, York University
506. Penny Wilkins, Women's Advocate, Ford St. Thomas Assembly Plant
507. Phyllis Artis, Co-chair women's caucus NL, NDP Women's Caucus
508. Phyllis Beckett, Retired
509. Phyllis Creighton, Lay Cannon of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto
510. Prabha Khosla
511. Prof. Asha Varadharajan, Queen's University
512. Professor Elizabeth Sheehy, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa
513. Professor Susan B. Boyd, Chair in Feminist Legal Studies, Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia
514. Radenka Lescesen, SAP Manager, Immigrant Women's Centre
515. Rebecca Grundy, Women's Advocate, Mississauga Seating
516. Réjeanne Martin, retraitée
517. Renée Arseneault, présidente, AFEAS régionale Mauricie
518. Renie McCallum
519. Rev. Pam Tolmay
520. Rev. Robin Wardlaw, Minister, Trinity United Church
521. Rhonda Derby, Moose Jaw & District Labour Council - alternate delegate to the SFL
522. Rhonda Fraser, Executive Director, Chrysalis House
523. Richelle Cortes, Distribution Specialist
524. Rita More, Teacher
525. Roberta Lamb, Associate Professor, Music (with cross-appointments to Gender Studies and Faculty of Education), School of Music, Queen's University
526. Robin Fairchild Clennell, CAW Organizing Department
527. Robin Mason, Ph.D, Research Scientist
528. Robyn Benson, PSAC Regional Executive Vice-President - Prairies
529. Roland Hedderson, Staff Rep FFAW/CAW
530. Rosa Velosa
531. Rosalee Longmoore, President, SUN
532. Rose Aquino

533. Roseline Michaud, Secrétaire Principale, Directions Contrôle, finances et administration/Opérations commerciales SLVQ
534. Rosemary Ganley Coordinator, Catholics for Choice Canada
535. Roxana Ng, PhD, Etobicoke
536. Roxy Bellamy
537. Sabina Greenley, Violence Prevention Educator
538. Sam Hethrington, Women's Advocate, Aramark Canada (Freeport Site)
539. Sam Spady, CFUW
540. Sanda Rodgers, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa
541. Sandi Mowat, President, MNU
542. Sandra Hoenle, University of Calgary
543. Sandra Sahli, OSSTF Vice President
544. Sandy Greenberg, Board Member, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
Steering Committee Member, Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace
545. Sara Cousins, Chair, PSAC Ottawa Area Council.
546. Sarah Benbow
547. Sarah Evis, Teacher, Mother, Activist
548. Sarah Spinks, Secretary-Treasurer Free Spin Productions
549. Sarah Wiebe, University of Ottawa
550. Schuster Gindin,
551. Selley Porter
552. Shanna Lino, York University
553. Shannon Sampert, University of Winnipeg
554. Sharon Friess, SGEU (Retail Regulatory Sector)
555. Sharon Koutsaris
556. Sharron Kusiar, Ontario Provincial Civil Service
557. Sharron Raymond ETFO Executive Assistant
558. Sheena Poole, Employment Equity/Women's Women's Advocate, GM
Woodstock
559. Shelley A.M. Gavigan, Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School
560. Shelley Cooper-Stephenson, Public Health Nurse & Women's Health Consultant
561. Shelley Tapsell, CAW Local 1106 Women's Committee
562. Sheri Birch, 3rd VP Simcoe County ETFO, Barrie, Ontario
563. Sherril Gilber, Rabbinic Chaplain, Paradise, Newfoundland and Labrador
564. Sherry Hillman, Retired CAW Local 112 Financial Secretary
565. Sheryl Burns, Vice President, CUPE 1936
566. Shirley Dixon, CUPW National Women's Committee Prairie Region
567. Silvia Simpson, Retired CAW National Representative
568. Solange Attwood, SI Entertainment
569. Sonja Crecko, Toronto Danforth Riding
570. Sonya Paterson, Women's Advocate, Kawneer Canada Limited (Division of
Alcoa)
571. Sophie Quigley, Ryerson University
572. Sr. Joanne O'Regan, Chair, Social Justice Committee, Sisters of St. Martha,
Antigonis
573. Stacey Johnson

574. Stacey Landin, Moose Jaw & District Labour Council - Delegate to the SFL
575. Stephanie Bernstein
576. Stephanie Caalim, RPN
577. Stephanie Johnstone, Trustee CAW Local 636
578. Stephanie Landon, Kenora Sexual Assault Centre
579. Stephanie Penwarden, PSAC Regional Repres
580. Sudhir Joshi
581. Sue Folinsbee, President, Tri En Communications
582. Suki Starnes, Mediator
583. Susan Abercromby
584. Susan Houston, CAW National Employment Equity Coordinator at GM
585. Susan Murphy, VP, British Columbia CFUW
586. Susan P. Walp
587. Susan Rab, OSSTF Executive Officer
588. Susan Russell, Canadian Federation of University women
589. Susan Swackhammer, First VP, ETFO
590. Susan Ursel, Green Chercover
591. Susan Wurtele, Trent University
592. Susie angion, Women's Advocate, Qualtech Seating
593. Susie Soares-McAdam
594. Suzanne Gibson, Suzanne Gibson & Associates
595. Suzanne Majhanovich, Professor Emerita/Adjunct Research Professor Faculty of Education UWO
596. Suzanne-G. Chartrand, professeure titulaire, Département d'études sur l'enseignement et l'apprentissage, Université Laval
597. Syliva Pellman
598. Sylvia Rumbolt, Fisheries Stewardship Advocate
599. Sylvie Fréchette
600. Sylvie Lépine, FTQ
601. Sylvie Patenaude, FNEEQ
602. T. Grande
603. Tami Brushey
604. Tammy Findlay
605. Tammy Koch, Women's Advocate, Boeing of Canada Limited
606. Tammy Moore, CAW Local 2002 Women's Advocate
607. Tammy VanMeekener, Women's Advocate, Woodstock General Hospital
608. Tanja Schaefer
609. Tara C. Callaghan, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, St. Francis Xavier University
610. Tara Taylor
611. Teresa Healy, Senior Researcher, CLC-CTC
612. Teresa Heffernan, Saint Mary's University
613. Terry Downey, Executive Vice-President, OFL
614. Theresa Farao, President, CAW Local 240
615. Theresa Parker
616. Tina Holman, Women's Advocate, Lear Seating Canada Limited (St. Thomas)
617. Tina Pretty, Staff Liaison FFAW/CAW Women's Committee

618. Tina Vuckovic, VP (SGEU)
619. Toby Brooks
620. Toni Mathews, VP Local 70012
621. Trinh Lai, COPE 343
622. Trisha Robinson, Wilmot Family Resource Centre
623. Uzma Qureshi, Manager, Newcomer Family Centre
624. Valerie Collicott Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments (WiSE)
625. Vicky Smallman, Director, Women's and Human Rights, CLC-CTC
626. Victoria Grant, Ojibwa Woman from Fort William First Nation
627. Wanda Saunders, Former teacher and now homemaker
628. Wendy Acton
629. Wendy Balaban, Legal Assistant, Cavalluzzo Hayes Shilton McIntyre & Cornish
LLP
630. Wendy Bolt, OSSTF General Secretary
631. Wendy Clifford, CAW Local 88 Trustee
632. Wendy Cukier, President, Coalition for Gun Control
633. Wendy Holland - CAW Local 2458 Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital – Windsor
634. Wendy Land, Retired Teacher
635. Wendy Lawrence, Past Vice-President, BCGEU
636. Wendy Robbins, UNB
637. Zarrin Mortesaian