

September 15, 2010

**For Immediate Release: National Council of Women Advocate for Public Safety and Retaining and Improving the Long Gun Registry**

The National Council of Women of Canada, (NCWC), founded in 1893, is one of Canada's oldest advocacy associations and is a member of the International Council of Women. NCWC is a nonpartisan federation of voluntary women's organizations. Led by its first president, Lady Aberdeen, the NCWC became the champion of women and children, and its goal continues to be to improve the status of women, families and society through education and advocacy.

Now in the 21st century we continue to advocate for public safety. The long gun registry is just such an issue. We wholeheartedly supported the passage of C-68 bringing in the licensing and registration of long guns. The fact that bill C-391 is set to destroy this legislation fills us with fear. In rural Canada the long gun is the weapon of choice in domestic violence or suicide. Police chiefs, the RCMP report, emergency physicians all support the registry as do countless others. Why would we get rid of a tool that is for the public's good?

There are women and children on a daily basis that are threatened in their own homes by a long gun. No one speaks out for them until a killing occurs. In rural Canada most homes have at least one long gun. We need to strengthen the existing law not get rid of it.

We all shudder with horror over the Massacre at Ecole Polytechnique, Taber High School and Dawson College to name just a few. We feel very strongly that effective registration and licensing may prevent some future tragedy and is necessary for the protection of all society. With gun ownership there is also a responsibility to properly store the weapon and ammunition. Society must make sure that anyone purchasing a gun has instruction in caring for and handling a weapon.

The National Council of Women of Canada urges all Members of Parliament to vote down C -391 on September 22nd, 2010 and work to strengthen the existing law for a safer Canada.

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The National Council of Women of Canada is a federation comprised of Local Councils, Provincial Councils, and National Organizations. Founded in 1893, it was incorporated by an Act of Parliament in 1914 and has been designated by the Government of Canada as being of national historic significance for its role in Canadian women's history. For more information, consult our web site at <http://www.ncwc/>