

## **Gun Owner Accountability**

Too often guns from Canadian gun owners end up in the wrong hands. While there are currently safe storage requirements defined by law, many gun owners do not store their guns in accordance with the law. Constable Stronquill, an RCMP officer shot and killed in Manitoba was killed with a rifle stolen from a car in Alberta. A stolen gun was involved in the Boxing Day shooting in Toronto which killed 15 year old Jane Creba and injured 7 others. And there are many other examples. Melissa Pajkowski was killed by her former boyfriend who stole a gun from his parent's extensive gun collection. He had a history of depression and suicide attempts. Fourteen year old Jasmine Vanscoy of St. Catharines was killed by an acquaintance who stole a handgun from his father. The gun had been stolen in a break in near Toronto. When guns are traced back to their original owners it is essential that police determine the circumstances which led to the guns being misused and lay charges where appropriate. Owning firearms is a huge responsibility and failure to comply with the law puts communities at risk.

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<sup>1</sup> Coalition for Gun Control: Endorsers. 1997

<sup>2</sup> Firearms Act (Canada) (1998), 128 C.C.C. (3d) 225 (Alta. C.A.) [here in after Firearms Reference (Alta. C.A.)].

<sup>3</sup> Canadian Firearms Centre. Making a Difference: The Firearms Act. available at: <http://www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca/en/legal/act/default.asp>

<sup>4</sup> Firearms Act (Canada) op.cit.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.: paragraph 3.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid