

# Keep registry

Calgary Herald March 25, 2010

Re: "MP keeps up gun bill crusade," Herald Online, March 21.

Contrary to Candice Hoepner's comments, the inquest into the suicide of my daughter's killer concluded that the licensing of gun owners and registration of rifles and shotguns might have saved both her life and that of Karen Marquis of New Brunswick. Six other inquests, examining different circumstances, also recommended comprehensive controls on all firearms, which screen gun owners for risk factors of violence and suicides, and register firearms to their legitimate owners, holding them accountable and avoiding diversion to the illegal market. By playing to the gun lobby, the Conservatives are disregarding public safety. In its unanimous decision in 2000, the Supreme Court stated that registration cannot be severed from licensing and these measures are "both tightly linked to Parliament's goal of promoting safety by reducing the misuse of any and all firearms." Police organizations across this country stand firmly behind Canada's gun control law as the registry helps criminal investigations and officer safety. As a mother who lost a beloved daughter to a suicidal predator, I know grief, and although it is too late to save Nina, we must learn from the preventable deaths of so many victims and do everything possible to save others. The registry has saved lives. Eliminating it will put lives in danger.

Priscilla de Villiers,

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