

Value in the gun registry

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Re: Gun registry useful tool: chief (April 26)

As a mother who lost her daughter to gun violence, I applaud Chief Wendy Southall's defence of the long-gun registry. I know that any gun in the wrong hands is lethal. My daughter was killed in St. Catharines, so I also know that gun violence is a rural problem, as well as an urban one.

As I read St. Catharines MP Rick Dykstra's subsequent attack on the long-gun registry, I was saddened that the opinions and advice of experienced police officers had not been given due consideration. The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the Canadian Police Association and countless other policing, public health, women's and victim's organizations have warned of the dangers of abolishing the long-gun registry, and yet Dykstra pays them no mind. Without registration, prohibition orders and safe storage regulations cannot be enforced, since there would be nothing linking the individual to a given firearm, or stating how many they possessed.

It is obvious that, while Dykstra wishes to address public concerns about abolishing the long-gun registry by stating that the rest of the Firearms Act will remain untouched, the Firearms Act as a whole cannot function properly without registration. Even the Supreme Court ruled that registration procedures could not be severed from the rest of the Firearms Act. I hope Dykstra can learn to recognize this fact.

Karen Vanscoy
Hamilton

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