

Polytechnique survivors fight to save gun registry

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Survivors of the 1989 Ecole Polytechnique massacre are heading to Ottawa today in hopes of saving the long gun registry.

The Conservative government fully supports Candice Hoepfner's private member's bill to dismantle the registry.

That bill needs to pass a third and final reading in the House of Commons before it is moved to the Senate for approval.

On Thursday, survivors of the Polytechnique attack and their family members will lobby politicians in Ottawa to vote against the bill.

The mother of one of the victims has written an open letter to NDP leader Jack Layton, calling on him to force NDP MPs to vote en masse.

"The future of gun control in Canada depends on you, Jack," wrote Suzanne Laplante Edward. "Only you can avoid passage of bill C-391 by imposing party line."

Edward's daughter Anne-Marie was shot and killed in the Polytechnique massacre.

Meanwhile Conservative MP Bernard Genereux, who represents the riding of Montmagny-L'Islet-Kamouraska-Rivière-du-Loup, says the long gun registry has nothing to do with the Polytechnique shooting.

Genereux says the registry was instead created by former prime minister Jean Chretien's government in 1995 following intense pressure from a gun-control coalition.

But that very coalition was formed as a result of the Polytechnique shooting that left 14 women dead at the Montreal school.

With files from The Canadian Press