

Kenora Sexual Assault Centre joins call to defeat bill to amend Firearms Act

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Kenora Daily Miner and News

November 4, 2009

The Kenora Sexual Assault Centre was among a coalition taking aim at a federal bill to dismantle the long gun registry.

The Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres urged Members of Parliament to vote against Bill C-391, an amendment to the Criminal Code and Firearms Act, which will face its second reading today.

In a letter faxed to parliamentary offices, the coalition points to the Montreal Massacre of 1989 as a "major spur for the Canadian gun control movement," when a "misogynist gunman" murdered 14 innocent women. Survivor Heidi Rathjen went on to organize the Coalition for Gun Control, one of the organizations whose efforts led to passage of C-68, the Firearms Act of 1995.

"I think the gun registry helps instill a little bit of accountability and control over who has access to weapons and it increases accountability for those individuals who might decide to use them in a violent way," said Paula Broeders of the Kenora Sexual Assault Centre. "I see this as a move toward a more Americanized system and we can see the consequences of that in the U.S. The majority of violent crimes are committed against women so whatever accountability can be put in place to ensure that people are at least accountable for the possession of guns couldn't hurt women."