

MPs disregard safety of rural Canadians.

By Alan Drummond

The Ottawa Citizen, November 9, 2009,

Re: MPs slap bull's-eye on gun registry, Nov. 5.

As a small-town doctor and coroner in rural Ontario, I am saddened by the decision of a majority of MPs to support a bill which would repeal the long gun registry. My own personal experience with gun-related death has mirrored the national statistics. Most are suicides, the great majority have involved long guns and, of course, they live in rural environments. I have never seen a death with a handgun and have never seen a death committed as a criminal act, with one notable exception of a murder as a result of domestic violence. Typically, I am called to a rural property or farm, where some headless corpse lies with blood and brains bathing the hunting rifle or shotgun that lies by the motionless body. As if this image wasn't soul-wrenching enough, I then have to deal with the anguished cries and the shattered lives of the loved ones of the deceased huddled in the family kitchen. I have to work to suppress these images or I couldn't carry on with my work. Those who have voted to repeal the long gun registry clearly have a sterilized view of gun-related deaths. How else to explain their callous disregard for the health and safety of rural Canadians?
Alan Drummond, Perth