

# COALITION

for Gun Control / pour le contrôle des armes

[www.guncontrol.ca](http://www.guncontrol.ca)

**21 years ago, on December 6, 1989,  
14 women died in the  
Montreal Massacre.**



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**Keep their legacy alive.**

In 22 minutes, 27 people were injured and 14 killed at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique by an unbalanced man armed with a legally acquired Ruger Mini-14, an assault rifle still sold today as a non restricted hunting gun.

These senseless deaths triggered the Canadian movement toward stronger gun control by the families of the Polytechnique victims, policing, domestic violence and public health experts, victims' advocates, students and thousands of individuals. In 1995, Canada passed the Firearms Act that requires gun owners to obtain a renewable gun license and register their guns one time.

**"The Firearms Act is a monument to the memory of the victims of the Montreal Massacre."**

– Suzanne Laplante-Edward, mother of Anne-Marie

On September 22, the House of Commons stopped Private Member's Bill C-391 (although by a very thin margin), making sure that the Ruger Mini-14, along with seven million rifles and shotguns, will continue to be registered. Bill C-391 was eliminated, but immediately after the vote, the Prime Minister said "The party I lead will not rest until the day [the registry] is abolished."

SEE BACK FOR DETAILS AS TO HOW YOU CAN HELP BY TAKING ACTION NOW!

Founded in the wake of the Montreal massacre, the Coalition for Gun Control is the only national non-profit organization working to reduce gun injury, death and crime in Canada. We are endorsed by more than 300 crime and injury prevention, policing, health, child safety, victims' rights, grassroots and community organizations. These include: the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the Canadian Public Health Association, the Dawson College Gun Control Committee, the YWCA of Canada, just to name a few.

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# Gun Control Helps Keep Women Safe

## ON GUN CONTROL AND WOMEN'S SAFETY

"Gun control is very much a women's issue, but it is also very much society's issue." – Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women

"For YWCA Canada, the nation's largest single provider of shelter for women and children fleeing violence, gun control has always been about women's safety. The long gun registry is clearly a public safety tool." – Ann Decter, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy, YWCA Canada

"Based on results and findings, it is clear that gun control saves lives. (...) Unfortunately, one woman in three killed by her husband is still murdered using a firearm. The progress thus far is encouraging, but this is no time to relax those controls; there is still a great deal to be done." – Louise Riendeau, Coordinator, Quebec Women's Shelter Association

### *Just the facts:*

- Rifles and shotguns are the guns most often used in domestic violence. **All guns are potentially dangerous and need to be controlled.**
- Gun control works: **firearm death and injury have declined with stronger laws.** The rate of female homicide is at its lowest point.
- Although there is more opposition to gun control in rural areas and in the Western provinces, there are also higher rates of gun death in these areas.
- The registry is part of comprehensive gun control and is **used 14,000 times daily** to take preventative action and support criminal investigations.
- The registry has been used to **remove guns from dangerous people** including a potential copy cat shortly after the Dawson College shooting and in cases of domestic violence.
- The **cost** of maintaining the registration of rifles and shotguns is **only \$1.57 million annually** according to an independent cost-benefit analysis for the RCMP and is **dwarfed by the costs of firearm death and injury.**
- Women's safety experts and front-line shelter workers continue to support gun laws because they see firsthand that it works. The gun registry is also supported by police, public safety and crime prevention experts, victims, health groups and individual citizens.
- A recent poll has shown that **two thirds of Canadians support the gun registry.** Even in rural areas, supporters equal opponents. Although they are less vocal, the majority of rural women support the registry.
- The UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Small Arms have emphasized that states which do not adequately regulate firearms are failing to meet their obligations under international law, **particularly with respect to the safety of women and children.**

### **Three Steps to Help Defend Canada's Gun Control Law**

1. Become a supporter of the Coalition for Gun Control. Visit our website to donate by credit card through Paypal and get more information to share with everyone you know: [www.guncontrol.ca](http://www.guncontrol.ca). Note that due to our strong and successful advocacy work government rules do not allow us to issue tax receipts.
2. Join our Twitter group: CGCguncontrol
3. Contact your Member of Parliament and tell her or him you support Canada's gun control laws. Call 1-800-O-Canada or go to [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca) to find your MP's contact info.