

**Eliminating Long Gun Registration a Risk to Public Safety:
Women's Groups, Police Association, Victims of Gun Violence and
Coalition for Gun Control Oppose Bills S-5 and Bill C-301**

April 21, 2009, Toronto, ON: Today, the Senate is expected to begin debating Bill S-5, an amendment to the Criminal Code and the Firearms Act, which will eliminate the requirement to register long-guns (rifles and shotguns). Police, public health, women's groups, violence prevention groups, victims and the Coalition for Gun Control are urging Senators to vote against Bill S-5 and protect public safety and gun control. This is just one of two Bills before Parliament that threaten to dismantle gun control in Canada. Bill C-301, a Private Member's Bill, proposes to weaken controls on prohibited and restricted weapons (including fully automatic weapons), extend the period of gun licenses and eliminate registration of rifles and shotguns.

The Coalition for Gun Control and their supporters are in Ottawa to personally ask Senators and Members of Parliament to:

- drop Bill S-5 which eliminates the registration of unrestricted rifles and shotguns;
- oppose Bill C-301 which weakens controls on prohibited and restricted weapons(including fully automatic weapons), extends the period of gun licenses and eliminates registration of rifles and shotguns;
- end the amnesty for gun owners who fail to renew their licenses or register their firearms;
- strengthen the screening and renewal processes for licenses;
- prohibit the sale of semi-automatic tactical and military assault weapons to civilians;
- strengthen controls on handguns;
- adhere to international agreements on marking and tracing to help combat illegal trade.

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For more information and to arrange a media interview, please contact:

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