

THE GUN REGISTRY HAS TO GO

In May, 2004, a national poll found that 76 percent of Canadians agreed that the federal gun registry should be scrapped in order to devote more resources to fight violent crime.

Last month, Garry Breitkreuz M.P, the Assistant Justice Critic of the Conservative Party, made two attempts in the Commons Justice Committee to salvage some of the Liberal government's wasteful spending on the registry. He proposed a transfer of \$20 million from the gun registry budget to fund law enforcement police priorities. In the two votes held in the Justice Committee, the Liberals, NDP and Bloc joined together to defeat his motions. The Liberals, NDP and Bloc continue to miss the point that this registry is not fulfilling its purpose of reducing crimes with fire arms.

Since its inception, the Firearms Act has targeted every law abiding citizen who owns a gun. The real gun problem in Canada is that criminals seldom take the time to register their firearms, and the Firearms Act isn't

going to change that.

Statistics Canada reported that 69 percent of the murders in 2003 were committed by convicted criminals. Remarkably, 5 percent of the murders were actually committed by people who were previously convicted of murder. The RCMP

report that nationwide there are currently over 176 000 convicted criminals who have been prohibited from owning firearms. The Firearms Act has not prevented them from getting their hands on firearms.

Consider for a moment...

The Firearms Act has no impact on tracking criminals who acquire firearms illegally. What does it do instead? It focuses on keeping a close tab on the addresses

of 2 million law abiding citizens who own firearms.

Federal funding is provided to pay for conducting "authorized" inspections of the homes of federally-licensed law abiding citizens. Might the federal funds be better spent on frontline police priorities?

Since its inception, the Firearms Act has targeted every law abiding citizen who owns a gun.

Are you in favor of scrapping the gun registry? Yes ___ No ___

Should the money be applied to front line police priorities? Yes ___ No ___

Response and comments attached to questions raised with respect to agriculture. Yes ___ No ___

Please note any brief comments or suggestions below:
