



TORONTO POLICE ASSOCIATION

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NEWS RELEASE

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LONG GUN REGISTRY

Eleven thousand inquiries each and every day.

More than four million investigative checks a year.

That's how often the long-gun registry is used by police services across this country. If a private member's bill to scrap the registry is approved by federal politicians in Ottawa it would greatly hamper police services across Canada in the fight against crime, says the Toronto Police Association, which represents the country's largest municipal police service.

"Getting rid of the registry would be a naïve, foolish and dangerous move that could cost lives," said Mike McCormack, head of the association that represents 8,300 uniform and civilian members. "The federal gun registry has proved to be a valuable and effective investigative tool, giving police officers timely access to information. Our Board of Directors is vehemently opposed to any change that would no longer require gun owners to register their long guns. Canada is one of the safest countries in the world and it will stay that way thanks to laws which call for the registration of firearms, such as the one used in the Montreal massacre in 1989."

On Dec. 6, 1989, Marc Lepine specifically targeted women at the l'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, killing 14 and injuring another 10, along with four men before killing himself, using a Ruger brand rifle, Mini-14 model, a weapon that will no longer have to be registered if the private member's bill becomes law.

"It's important for Ottawa to show fiscal restraint in these tough economic times," said McCormack. "But surely there must be better ways to save money than by getting rid of legislation that protects the safety of communities across this country," said McCormack.

TPA Board of Directors

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