



Canadian Police Association
Association canadienne des policiers

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Open letter to Members of Parliament and Senators,

The Canadian Police Association (CPA) would like to thank all Members of Parliament and Senators who met with our delegates during our General Meeting and Police Day on Parliament Hill on April 20, 2010. The initial feedback from our delegates, who met with over 200 parliamentarians, on the discussions on our three main topics was extremely positive.

During many of those meetings, our members were evidently also requested to discuss Bill C-391 (Firearms Registry). Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to share our views on this issue.

First, it has been stated that the law enforcement community is divided on Bill C-391. Although [there](#) have been opposing opinions within our membership, as can be expected within any large, national association, the Canadian Police Association (CPA), along with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) and the Canadian Association of Police Boards (CAPB) are united in their opposition to Bill C-391. The CPA has for over many years focused its efforts to improve and maintain a cost effective and efficient firearms registry which enhances community and police officer safety. The Canadian Firearms Program [which includes the](#) gun registry, currently managed by the RCMP, provides a valuable tool for front line police officers in the performance of their duties to keep communities safe.

Over the past several months, the three national police associations have placed a greater emphasis to educate parliamentarians, the media and public on how the gun registry is used by law enforcement. This will undoubtedly continue.

All too often, there appears to be an attempt to create division amongst Canadians. The Canadian Police Association has based its support for maintaining the long gun registry on a number of facts that clearly indicate that this law enforcement tool is effective in keeping our communities and our members, safe and secure.

In particular, the following few quick facts were instrumental in securing our support.

Although the initial cost for establishing the gun registry escalated to an amount over the initial forecast (over one billion dollars), at present, the entire gun registry program, including the licensing and registration of all guns, costs approximately \$15 million annually with the long gun portion cost about \$4 million. This pales in comparison to other police costs. Several major homicide investigations in Canada over the past 10 years have easily exceeded that amount.

There have been disputes over the amount of times police access the registry daily. Regardless of the actual number, we are confident that most Canadians would agree that if it can prevent human injury or death, it would be worth it. If the registry can prevent injury or death or assist in solving a crime with information contained within the registry, would it not be worth maintaining it [in](#) its current, established form.

While it is difficult to demonstrate whether the gun registry can prevent crime it is analogous to the Criminal Code which includes thousands of offences and yet does not inhibit everyone from violating it. This however is no sound reason for abolishing the Criminal Code of Canada.

The registry is a valuable tool that assists law enforcement with investigation, prevention, tracing, accountability and provided at the national level is cost effective and consistent across the country.

In the past ten years, 16 Canadian police officers have been killed on duty by a firearm. Fourteen of those involved a long gun. A case in point that demonstrates its usefulness is the information obtained from the gun registry was crucial to linking the men accused and then convicted as accessories in the deaths of four RCMP members in Mayerthorpe, Alberta. The gun registry did not prevent these tragedies, but did provide a tool to bring justice to this specific case.

We have attached the “CPA, CACP and CAPB Joint Statement on Firearms” and “How the Gun Registry has contributed to Community and Police Officer Safety” for additional information.

We thank you for your attention on this matter and look forward to working together to make our communities safer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Momy', with a long, sweeping underline that ends in a small loop.

Charles Momy, President
Canadian Police Association