



PRESS RELEASE

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BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS CALLS FOR MORATORIUM ON DISMANTLING THE FIREARMS REGISTRY

Ottawa, Thursday, December 7, 2006 – The Bloc Québécois Public Accounts Critic and Member for Saint-Maurice—Champlain, **Jean-Yves Laforest**, is calling on the Harper government to declare a moratorium on dismantling the firearms registry, as recommended by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in the report it released earlier today.

The Bloc Québécois MP noted that all Committee members insisted that the report recommend an evaluation of the effectiveness of the firearms registry. “It would be completely illogical to dismantle the registry before the results of this evaluation are known,” he stated.

Jean-Yves Laforest recalled that the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, representatives of the mayors of major cities, teachers’ federations and victims’ families are instead calling for a reversal in order to maintain the firearms registry in its original form. “All these stakeholders agree that the firearms registry produced positive and tangible results in fighting violence,” noted the MP.

“The Conservative government is trying to take shortcuts to get rid of the firearms registry and replace it with an inconsistent series of ineffective measures. The Minister of Public Safety is suggesting that a registry, which records all weapons, both new and used, and tracks their whereabouts if they are given away or sold, be replaced by a system of a hundred or so registries including new weapons only. How can the Minister seriously claim that this would be an improvement?” the Bloc Québécois critic asked.

“How can he ignore the opinions of all the stakeholders who are in the best position to judge the situation and simply impose his twisted right-wing ideas on Quebeckers and Canadians? This approach does not serve the public’s interests in any way; it is ideological stubbornness and is tremendously unhealthy,” concluded **Jean-Yves Laforest**.

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