



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Firearms Registry

“THE BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN THE FIREARMS REGISTRY IN ITS CURRENT FORM”

- Gilles Duceppe

Ottawa, Tuesday, November 28, 2006 – “We supported the creation of the firearms registry in the hope of enhancing public protection at a reasonable cost. This was not the case, since the cost of the registry was exorbitant. But its operating costs have since stabilized, strengthening our determination to maintain the registry in its current form,” stated Bloc Québécois Leader **Gilles Duceppe** at a press conference today organized by the Dawson Committee for Gun Control.

“Unlike the Conservatives, we are of the opinion that the objectives of this registry are still valid and that it has proved beneficial to police services in Quebec and Canada,” added **Gilles Duceppe**.

A bad decision by a government trying to gain in popularity

Recalling that the registry is consulted 6,500 times per day on average, the Bloc Québécois leader criticized the Harper government’s wish to dismantle part of the firearms registry.

“Putting an end to the registration of hunting weapons is a bad decision by a government that is simply trying to gain in popularity. Eliminating the possibility of tracking hunting weapons will complicate the task for police in fighting organized crime and street gangs,” noted **Gilles Duceppe**.

Various stakeholders calling for the registry to be maintained

Stressing the value of the crusade by the Dawson Committee for Gun Control, the Bloc Québécois leader noted that various other stakeholders are calling for the registry to be maintained for all firearms in circulation.

“The governments of Quebec and Ontario, the various police forces, spokespersons for the health sector and groups defending victims’ rights want the register to be maintained. Some of these groups have even argued that the homicide rate dropped by 31% from the time the register was adopted until 2004. But the Harper government is ignoring their arguments,” concluded **Gilles Duceppe**.

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