

## Gun registry helps provide protection for women and police

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To the editor,

In Nova Scotia, women are 45 times more likely to be killed by a partner than by a stranger.

Comparing men to women, women are also more likely to report being threatened by a gun because the presence of a gun in the home increases the incidence of femicide.

An Ontario report identified that access to guns was one of the top five risk factors to domestic murder. The gun registry helps provide protection for both women in the home and the police, as it draws attention to risk factors such as a previous criminal record, history of domestic violence and depression. The use of the registry may also prevent children from witnessing domestic femicide.

Firearm violence against women is a global reality. Between 1995 and 2003, Canada tightened its gun laws, resulting in a 40 per cent drop in the gun murder rate for women. Five years after the gun laws in Australia were overhauled in 1996, the gun murder rate for female victims had dropped by half.

When discussing the long-gun registry, the impact on the prevention of domestic violence, violence against children and femicide must be one of the foremost considerations.

The right of women and children to be safe in their own homes continues to be just a whisper in the Canadian parliamentary and

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