



# Candice Hoepfner

M.P. for Portage—Lisgar  
Député de Portage—Lisgar



January 12, 2012

Willy Floyd,  
Box 193  
Westbridge, BC  
VOH 2B0

Dear Mr. Floyd,

Thank you for taking the time to write me regarding the elimination of the long-gun registry. Your views are valid reasons why our government has made it a top priority to pass legislation that will see an end to the inefficient long gun registry.

On October 25, 2011, I was pleased to announce alongside the Honourable Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety, the introduction of Bill C-19, the *Ending the Long-Gun Registry Act*.

Once passed, Bill C-19 will repeal the requirement to register non-restricted firearms (long-guns). It will also provide for the destruction of all records pertaining to the registration of long-guns in the Canadian Firearms Registry and under the control of the chief firearms officers.

Firearms owners who wish to acquire a firearm or ammunition would continue to be required to have their criminal record regarded by the issuer of the license, pass a firearms safety course and comply with all firearms safe storage and transportation requirements. Those who own firearms will still require a valid firearms license, and to register prohibited and restricted firearms, such as handguns.

It is our Government's commitment to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals and protect the safety of the public. This being said, we will not be changing the requirement for individuals to hold a license. By requiring a license, Canadians can be assured that those law-abiding citizens in possession of firearms have been approved to own their firearm and know safe storage and operation procedures.

This government firmly believes that the requirement to register long-guns has unfairly targeted farmers, hunters and sport shooters as criminals for simply owning a long-gun. These law-abiding Canadians have been burdened for far too long with the red-tape that the long gun registry has caused. Not only has it served to criminalize lawful Canadian gun-owners, the long-gun registry has cost Canadians many millions of dollars for a tool that is ineffective at preventing crime. The majority of homicides committed in Canada do not involve long-guns. Unfortunately, gun crimes happen all too frequently despite the registry being in place. The problem is not with registered gun-owners, it is with criminals acting outside the law.

House of Commons  
760 La Promenade  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6  
Tel: (613) 995-9511  
Fax: (613) 947-0313  
Hoepfner.C@parl.gc.ca

Constituency  
Unit E, 886 Thornhill Street  
Morden, MB  
R6M 2E1  
Tel: (204) 822-7440  
Fax: (204) 822-7445  
Toll Free: 866-856-2090

Chambre des communes  
760, La Promenade,  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6  
Tél.: (613) 995-9511  
Télééc.: (613) 947-0313  
Hoepfner.C@parl.gc.ca

Circonscription  
Unit E, 886, rue Thornhill  
Morden, MB  
R6M 2E1  
Tél.: (204) 822-7440  
Télééc.: (204) 822-7445  
Sans Frais: 866-856-2090

By eliminating the wasteful and ineffective long-gun registry, we can instead focus our efforts on more effective measures to tackle crime and protect families and communities.

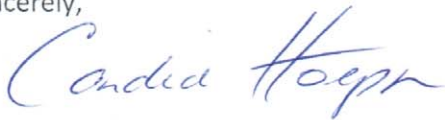
Hundreds of thousands of Canadians have not changed their opinion on the long-gun registry, and our government has held true to its election promise by introducing Bill C-19, the *Ending the Long-Gun Registry Act*. I believe that it's time we act to pass Bill C-19 as quickly as possible to get rid of this incredibly ineffective registry that penalizes innocent Canadians.

It's abundantly clear that when it comes to gun control, legislation should be focused on measures that prevent and reduce crime, not responsible firearms owners. The Government of Canada is taking steps to ensure that gun control in this country is focused on fighting crime, keeping firearms out of the wrong hands and minimizing burdens on law-abiding gun owners.

We are investing in a number of effective measures such as putting more police on our streets, fighting organized crime, introducing mandatory minimum penalties for serious gun crime and combating gun smuggling.

Once again, thank you for writing with your support.

Sincerely,



Candice Hoepfner  
Member of Parliament  
Portage-Lisgar, Manitoba  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety

CH/af