

## Coalition for Gun Control Satisfied By Supreme Court of Canada Ruling to Hear Appeal in Gun Registry Case

For Immediate Release

**Montreal, November 21, 2013:** The Coalition for Gun Control welcomes today's decision by the Supreme Court of Canada granting the request by the Government of Quebec to appeal the earlier Quebec Court of Appeal judgment, which would have allowed the federal government to destroy the data on more than 1.6 million registered firearms in the province.

The Coalition for Gun Control, with the support of the Clinique juridique Juripop and its partner lawyers, including Frederick Langlois, a lawyer with Deveau, Bourgeois, Gagné, Hébert & co., had filed a motion to intervene at the Supreme Court of Canada to support the Government of Quebec and to outline the importance of laws controlling access to firearms. The Coalition plans to file another motion to intervene when the Court studies the file in depth.

*"The decision of the court reaffirms the fact that there is public interest in studying Quebec's request for an appeal on the decision to destroy the records on 1.6 million rifles and shotguns registered in Quebec. The Coalition for Gun Control, with the support of the Clinique juridique Juripop and its partner lawyers, had filed a motion to intervene in support of the Government of Quebec's efforts, emphasizing the importance of the laws controlling access to firearms in relation to the right to safety, including in the prevention of domestic violence and firearm violence. All parties in the Quebec National Assembly have been united in supporting this court action, stepping up to protect their citizens where the federal government is failing, and have the support of victims of gun violence, police, health and safety experts. Regrettably, other provincial governments did not listen to safety experts when they warned of the dangers of the federal government's legislation and destruction of records on registered firearms. They are already paying the price," said **Wendy Cukier, President of the Coalition for Gun Control.** "This December 6 will mark the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Montreal Massacre where an unbalanced individual killed 14 young women and injured several others with a powerful semi-automatic. Outside Quebec, the Ruger Mini-14—which was used that day—is completely untraceable, allowing it to be stockpiled and increasing the threat to public safety."*

*"The decision of the Court reiterates that it is in the public interest to consider the demand of the province of Quebec, which is to avoid the destruction of data on 1.6 million rifles and guns registered in the province," said **Marc-Antoine Cloutier, Executive Director of the Clinique juridique Juripop.** "It is clear that these laws have a direct impact on the right to security of Quebecers and all Canadians, especially with regard to the prevention of family violence and violence with firearms. Together, we will use and support all legal means to inform the Court on the impact of the destruction of the registry."*

In April 2012, the federal government swiftly passed legislation ending the registration of rifles and shotguns—allowing a licensed individual to buy as many guns as they want, without any records being kept. In spite of pleas by police, the federal government has since destroyed the data on 5.6 million rifles and shotguns registered in other provinces. This vastly reduces the possibility that stolen guns or guns recovered in crime be traced back to their owners and undermines Canada's ability to combat the illegal gun trade.

The federal government further weakened controls by quietly passing regulations in July 2012, forbidding provinces from requiring gun dealers to maintain records of their sales of rifles and shotguns, undoing a measure in place since 1977. They then went on to eliminate gun show regulations against the advice of police. Canada is no longer in compliance with international agreements targeting the illegal trade in firearms.

### **Fundraising and awareness campaign for concerned citizens**

On August 23, the Clinique juridique Juripop and the Coalition began to raise funds to facilitate their involvement in the Supreme Court appeal, as well as coordinate an awareness campaign on the importance of gun control. *“Concerned citizens can donate to support our action before the Supreme Court by visiting our website ([www.juripop.org](http://www.juripop.org)) where they can also read the arguments of the Coalition and send a letter to the new Minister of Public Safety, Steven Blaney,”* concluded Mr. Cloutier.

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### ***Clinique juridique Juripop***

*The Clinique juridique Juripop is a not-for-profit organization with the mission of promoting access to justice for all. It is also a social business with innovative projects to increase knowledge of the law. The organization has three sections: a section offering free or low cost legal consultations to citizens who are excluded from legal aid but cannot afford lawyer’s fees; the Juripop Affaires section for not-for-profit organizations, independent workers and small businesses with low income; and the legal information section, which organizes projects addressing particular needs.*

### ***The Coalition for Gun Control***

*The Coalition for Gun Control, founded in the wake of the Montreal Massacre, is an alliance of more than 300 organizations including Fédération des policiers et policières municipaux du Québec, Montreal Police Brotherhood, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Quebec Public Health Association, Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians, Fédération des femmes du Québec, YWCA of Canada, Canadian Labour Congress, and numerous other organizations and community groups across the country. The alumni and families of the victims of the Montreal Massacre along with other victims of gun violence have also played a pivotal role.[www.guncontrol.ca](http://www.guncontrol.ca)*

For more information:

Jeanne Simonato, Media Relations (Juripop)

(514) 894-0684