



## Public Needs Better Information On Gun Registry September 3, 2010

### Intro:

Hi, I'm Joseph Quesnel. An RCMP report on the long gun registry leaves many unanswered questions. Why is that important? Find out on today's Frontier Centre commentary.

### Script:

Federal MPs will be voting on whether to scrap the long gun registry.

The registry was designed to increase public safety by making rifles and shotguns traceable by police. However, many remain unconvinced it has made Canada safer.

Organizations representing police chiefs support the registry, but front line police officers appear divided over the matter.

A report by the RCMP has settled the issue for many, as the report concluded the registry was efficient, cost-effective and enhanced public safety. Unfortunately, the report is not that crystal clear.

The report states that firearm deaths, including those by suicide, have declined since the registry came into effect, but it cannot account for whether other factors, beside the registry, may have caused this decline.

Good policy analysis evaluates all options. Yet this report takes it for granted registration is the best way of achieving the objectives of police and public safety.

The report concludes the registry protects police by informing them if guns are in a home, however this is contradicted by officers who claim they always assume a firearm is present.

The public and policy makers deserve a well-rounded debate about the gun registry, not selective arguments.

I'm Joseph Quesnel. Join the prairie's only independent think tank next week for more thinking on the Frontier. For more about public policy, visit our website, at [fcpp.org](http://fcpp.org).

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