

Dear Editor:

If Prime Minister Paul Martin were wise, he'd permit a free vote on the firearm registry. Despite claiming he wants parliamentary reform, Martin appears reluctant to unleash his MPs when it comes to the registry.

The gun registry has wasted more than \$1 billion dollars and has not been shown to save any lives. Worse, the smell of corruption hovers. The RCMP is investigating.

The question to ask is, has the firearm registry made Canadians safer? It has not.

In my recent study, published by the Fraser Institute, I found that violent crime is escalating in Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia, but it is plummeting in the United States.

Homicide rates are increasing in both Australia and the UK despite their strict gun laws. While the homicide rate is falling in Canada, it is falling even faster in the US.

The problem isn't guns but criminal violence. While we waste billions of taxpayers' dollars harassing hunters in order to register their guns, the US focuses on punishing violent criminals.

Canadians would be safer if we scrapped the registry and spent the money on more police officers and on keeping violent criminals in prison longer.

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Cordially yours,

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