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Dear Letters Editor:

Tim Quigley's piece in the Forum (2004-01-08) is quite misleading. I can only address a few of his most outrageous claims here. For a more complete discussion, see my paper, [The Failed Experiment](http://www.fraserinstitute.ca/admin/books/files/FailedExperiment.pdf), recently published by the Fraser Institute.
<http://www.fraserinstitute.ca/admin/books/files/FailedExperiment.pdf>

Quigley claims that our gun laws make us safe. Supposedly, this is shown by the higher homicide rate in the US. If our gun laws are so good, why is the homicide rate falling faster in the US than in Canada? Why is violent crime increasing in Canada but falling in the US? Perhaps it is because the US locks up violent offenders, while Canada focuses on registering guns. In addition, 37 states have laws that guarantee citizens the right to carry concealed handguns.

Quigley erroneously states that John Lott's study, [More Guns, Less Crime](#), has been refuted. There is not a single refereed academic study that looks at the entire US that finds that right-to-carry laws increase crime. Econometrics is complex and academics love to dispute many technical issues, but Lott's work has survived criticism remarkably well.

The recent decline in gun deaths does not prove that firearm registration is working. What Quigley doesn't say is that total homicides have increased since the registry began. Sure, gun suicides are down, but total suicides are up. How has firearm registration improved public safety?

The firearm registry should be scrapped. It has cost taxpayers at least two billion dollars in the past 8 years. For what? Less than half of the firearms in Canada have been registered and none of the criminals' guns.

With the money saved from scrapping the registry, we could invest in programs that really do save lives: putting more police on the street, keeping violent criminals in jail longer, and tracking violent offenders who have been ordered deported.

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Cordially yours,

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