



Victims of Gun Violence endorse Mark Holland

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AJAX-PICKERING – Victims of Canada’s most notorious gun massacre at L’Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal have endorsed Mark Holland in his re-election bid, because of his dedicated work to save the long gun registry from ongoing Conservative attempts to kill the vital public safety tool. The registry is strongly supported by police chiefs, front-line officers, health care providers, and women’s groups, among others, all of whom can attest to the fact that it saves lives.

Polytechnique victim Heidi Rathjen and Suzanne Laplante Edward, mother of Anne-Marie Edward who was murdered by Marc Lépine during the 1989 shooting rampage, provided statements of support to Holland.

“Mark Holland has stood up for victims of crime and worked hard to save the gun registry,” Edward wrote in her statement.

Praising him for his “outstanding and relentless work,” Rathjen said, “as Liberal Public Safety Critic, he worked tirelessly to protect the long gun registry from the Conservative’s attacks. [He] impressed us with his clear understanding of this complex issue — a complexity exacerbated by the vast and unending spectacle of disinformation disseminated by the Conservatives and their allies in the gun lobby.”

Holland expressed gratitude to Edwards and Rathjen and admiration for their vital roles in the sustained fight to save the gun registry. Said Holland, “the Harper Conservatives claim to stand for victims of crime, yet they continually ignore the pleas of victims of gun violence to preserve the life-saving gun registry and instead side with the gun lobby whose sole goal is to overthrow the very gun laws that keep our communities safe.”

The radical gun lobby, self-described as GunNutz, have been working with the Harper Conservatives to raise thousands of dollars and coordinate volunteers to support the Conservative candidate running against Holland in Ajax-Pickering in a bid to unseat him.

Stephen Harper is campaigning today in Holland’s Ajax-Pickering riding at a closed Conservative-only event at which the gun registry issue is expected to be the rally theme.

Public endorsements to Mark Holland are being posted on his website: <http://markholland.liberal.ca/endorsements/>
[Please click here to read the full statements of support](#) from Rathjen and Laplante Edward.

Endorsements

Mark is deeply appreciative of the support given to him by people in Ajax-Pickering and across Canada.



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Our elected representatives should be held to a high standard. We look for those who are committed to transparent and accountable government, are careful stewards of our tax dollars, and understand the unique needs of our community. Mark Holland has demonstrated all of these ideals during his time as our member of parliament. That is why I am proud to offer him my personal support – and my vote – in this election campaign.

John G. Smith

Ajax small business owner and community volunteer



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Victims of gun violence want more than tears and kind words, we want action. Mark Holland worked hard to save the gun registry, a monument to the memory of the victims of the Montreal Massacre and a vital police tool that helps keep our communities safe and save lives. We are with you wholeheartedly Mark. Keep up the good work.

Suzanne Laplante Edward

Mother of Anne Marie Edward, victim of Montreal Massacre



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If Bill C-391 was defeated in the House of Commons on September 22nd 2010, it is widely due to Mark Holland's outstanding and relentless work. As Liberal Public Safety Critic, he worked tirelessly to protect the long gun registry from the Conservatives' attacks. Mr. Holland impressed us with his clear understanding of this complex issue – a complexity exacerbated by the vast and unending spectacle of disinformation disseminated by the Conservatives and their allies in the gun lobby.

Heidi Rathjen

Gun Violence victim of L'Ecole Polytechnique, Polysesouvenir.ca



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[We] have chosen to support MP Mark Holland in his bid for re-election. Through our relationship with Mark we have found him to be a strong advocate of fire fighters and public safety as a whole.

Dan Bonnar and Aaron Burridge

Ajax Fire Fighters (President and Secretary of the Ajax Professional Fire Fighters' Association)



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Mark Holland is deeply concerned about the health, safety, and well-being of his community and this country. He clearly understands the realities of crime and justice, and I am proud to support his ongoing, passionate efforts to make Ajax-Pickering one of the best areas to live in Canada.

Walter S. DeKesseredy, Ph.D.

Professor of Criminology, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Durham

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I support Mark Holland and Liberal Party's commitment to the primary prevention of crime and support for services that crime victims need. I am also heartened by the foregrounding of other issues important to women and families in this campaign. It's time for Canada to renew its commitment to social justice and focus on building better communities, not prisons.

Molly Dragiewicz, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Criminology, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Durham