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# Online engagement on Reducing violent crime: A dialogue on handguns and assault weapons

Keeping communities safe and reducing violent crime is a priority for the Government of Canada. This is why, in his Mandate letter, the Prime Minister has asked the Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction, to lead an examination of a ban on handguns and assault weapons in Canada, while not impeding the lawful use of firearms by Canadians. The Government of Canada would like to hear your views. This will provide an excellent opportunity to identify gaps, challenges, and ideas to help inform future measures aimed at reducing violent crimes in Canada.

**i** Please consult the background document, [Reducing violent crime: A dialogue on handguns and assault weapons - Engagement Paper \(rdcng-vlnt-crm-en.aspx\)](#), and complete the questions below.

**The questionnaire is open until November 10, 2018.**

**Should more be done to limit access to handguns?**

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

**If yes, what should be considered?**

Total ban

**The US Department of Justice has used the following description: “in general, assault weapons are semiautomatic firearms with a large magazine of ammunition that were designed and configured for rapid fire.” <sup>1</sup>**

**Should more be done to limit access to assault weapons?**

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

**If yes, what should be considered?**

Total ban

**Where should we focus efforts to limit handguns?**

- Legally-owned handguns
- Illicit handguns
- Both legally-owned handguns and illicit handguns
- Neither legally-owned handguns nor illicit handguns
- No opinion

**What is likely to be the most effective? What might the consequences be for law abiding Canadians?**

Why pit one against the other? Both could and should be addressed. Consequences for law abiding citizens are secondary to public safety benefits

**Where do you believe efforts to limit assault weapons should be focused?**

- Legally-owned firearms
- Illicit firearms
- Both legally-owned firearms and illicit firearms
- Neither legally-owned firearms nor illicit firearms
- No opinion

**What is likely to be the most effective? What might the consequences be for law abiding Canadians?**

They should not be legal in the first place. Consequences for law abiding citizens are secondary to public safety benefits.

**With respect to limiting handguns, assault weapons, and other firearms in the illicit market, in which of the following areas do you think efforts should be focused? [check all that apply]**

- Theft from businesses and individuals
- Straw purchasing (i.e., a legal purchase that is then diverted to the illicit market)
- Smuggling
- None of these – no efforts are required
- No opinion
- Other [Please indicate below]

**Other**

Legal ownership

**What strategies are likely to be most effective?**

Banning these weapons will reduce theft from stores and legal owners as well as straw purchases. Smuggling should be fought in any case independent of what is legal.

**Are there any other comments you would like to share with respect to limiting firearms?**

The government should prioritize public safety and heed the will of the majority of Canadians.

**In order to allow for more detailed analyses of Canadians' responses, we are interested in your background. Answering the following questions is optional.****Do you identify as?**

- Man

- Woman
- Other gender identity [Please indicate below]
- Prefer not to say

**Other gender identity**

Please enter your feedback

**How old are you?**

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+
- Prefer not to say

**In what province or territory do you live?**

--- Please Select ---

**Which of the following best describes your residence?**

- Urban
- Rural
- Remote
- Prefer not to say

**Which of the following best describes your ethnicity?**

- Non-Hispanic Caucasian or Euro-Canadian
- Black, Afro-Caribbean, or African-Canadian
- Latino or Hispanic Canadian
- East Asian or Asian Canadian
- South Asian or Indian Canadian
- Middle Eastern or Arab Canadian
- Indigenous – First Nations

- Indigenous – Métis
- Indigenous – Inuit
- Other
- Prefer not to say

**Do you currently own a firearm?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

**Do you currently own a handgun?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

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## Footnote

- 1 US Department of Justice, Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act (known as the Federal Assault Weapon Ban), enacted in 1994 and expired in 2004.

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### Providing feedback

For more information on other ways to provide feedback please visit the **Reducing violent crime: A dialogue on handguns and assault weapons** (<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/policing/police/crime-and-crime-prevention/reducing-violent-crime-dialogue-handguns-assault-weapons.html>) webpage.

Please note that participation in this consultation – in whole or in part – is voluntary. Acceptance or refusal to participate will in no way affect any relationship with the Government of Canada or with any of its organizations. The information provided during this engagement initiative can be subject to access to information and privacy requests and will be administered in accordance with the *Access to Information Act* and *Privacy Act*.

Submit

## Reducing violent crime: A dialogue on handguns and assault weapons - Engagement Paper



([rdcng-vlnt-crm-en.aspx](https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cnslttns/hndgn/index-en.aspx))

The Engagement Paper provides additional background on firearms, gun crime, theft, straw purchasing and firearms smuggling.

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