

## Bill C-21 in Committee: Liberals table an amendment that introduces a comprehensive ban on assault weapons

**Montreal, November 22, 2022** – Families, survivors and witnesses of mass shootings, including the tragedies at Polytechnique, Dawson and the Quebec Mosque, are pleased to finally see concrete legislative progress towards a complete ban on assault-style weapons in Canada, following the first day of the “clause-by-clause” stage of the [Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security \(SECU\)](#).

Consistent with Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino [promised](#) during the new conference announcing the Bill C-21 last May, Liberal SECU member Paul Chiang tabled an amendment that would introduce a new definition of prohibited weapons in the Criminal Code which would cover most if not all conventional semi-automatic assault weapons.

**Nathalie Provost, Polytechnique graduate and survivor** says: “Today marks another critical step towards a comprehensive and permanent ban on assault-style weapons in Canada. While we still need to analyze the proposed definition and its real-world impact on the assault weapon market, our preliminary assessment is that the new definition is simple and straightforward (similar to [the New Zealand ban](#)) and would cover most if not all conventional assault weapons.

“We wholeheartedly congratulate and thank Minister Mendicino and Prime Minister Trudeau, as well as the [Members of Parliament who fought behind the scenes](#) to make this happen.”

The amendment changes the definition of “*prohibited firearm*” in subsection 84(1) of the Criminal Code by adding the following criteria (transcript of amendment read at SECU): “is capable of discharging a projectile with a muzzle energy exceeding 10 000 Joules”, “with a bore diameter of 20 mm or greater” and “is capable of discharging centrefire ammunition in a semi-automatic manner and is designed to accept a detachable cartridge magazine with a capacity greater than five cartridges of the type for which the firearm was originally designed”. There does not seem to be any exemptions for weapons that are deemed not “of modern design” or that are not “present in large volumes in the Canadian market” - exemptions that were part of the [May 2020 Orders in Council](#).

PolySeSouvient is optimistic that the amendment will eventually pass in committee and in the House of Commons, as both [the NDP](#) and [the Bloc Québécois](#) in the last election promised to support changing the definition of prohibited weapons in order to ban all assault-style weapons. The Bloc Québécois even tabled their own similar amendment today, which was defeated to make way for the liberal amendment.

For more information on other potential amendments, see:

[https://polysesouvient.ca/Documents\\_2022/DOCU\\_22\\_11\\_22\\_C21\\_AmendmentsToWatchOutFor.pdf](https://polysesouvient.ca/Documents_2022/DOCU_22_11_22_C21_AmendmentsToWatchOutFor.pdf)

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For information or interviews: [info@polysesouvient.ca](mailto:info@polysesouvient.ca)

Nathalie Provost: 514-796-0142

Heidi Rathjen : 514-816-7818