

## Gun lobby group launches campaign to “scrap” Bill C-21 based entirely on false or misleading claims

[\(Version française\)](#)

**Montreal, February 3, 2023** – While Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino is meeting indigenous and hunting groups to explain the proposed amendments to **Bill C-21** aimed at banning assault weapons (**G-4** and **G-46**) and to reflect on ways to “fine tune” the legislation, the **Canadian Coalition for Firearms Rights (CCFR)** has launched what it calls “[the largest offensive against Liberal Bill C-21 in the country](#)” which reinforces much of the disinformation that has contaminated the debate since the amendments were tabled last November.

The campaign includes a series of [downloadable memes](#) that showcase 17 models that the **CCFR** claims are hunting firearms “TO BE BANNED BY C-21”, as well as a claim that “any bolt-action or single shot rifle could be banned by C-21 if declared a variant.”



**Based on expert testimony regarding amendment G-46, all 18 claims are false or misleading. See summary findings below as well as [detailed analysis here](#).**

Indeed, government legal and firearms experts have debunked claims made by this campaign before the **House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety** on numerous occasions. For example, the **CCFR** is showcasing models of guns for which hunting caliber versions are currently non-restricted and will remain so under Bill C-21. In addition, military-grade versions of these models are already prohibited. The only example of a model that would be newly prohibited by **C-21** is the **SKS**, a Soviet military weapon that has been used to shoot **11 Canadian police officers in the last 6 years**.

“One has to wonder why the **CCFR** is showcasing models whose classification would not change under **Bill C-21**, as they are either hunting calibers that are unaffected by the proposed changes, or military-grade that are already prohibited. Is it because they couldn’t find a single example of a legitimate hunting gun that would be newly banned by **C-21**?” asks **Heidi Rathjen, PolySeSouvient coordinator** and witness to the 1989 **Polytechnique** massacre.

“The goal does not seem to be to actually block measures that are in **C-21**, as the hunting gun prohibitions they claim to oppose are not part of the bill. Rather, it looks like the goal is to mislead and scare hunters into joining their movement, more like a fundraiser or a membership drive. Or, the **CCFR** may be resorting to fear mongering about non-existing prohibitions of hunting guns because they know that the **80% of Canadians** want to get rid of assault weapons and would likely be appalled by their arguments in favour of owning such weapons, especially in light of the recent spate of mass shootings in the US.”

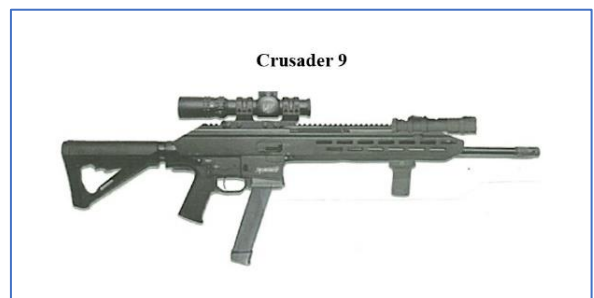
By showcasing the most innocuous looking models, the **CCFR** is doing exactly what they accuse gun control supporters of doing, which is to focus solely on appearances, conveniently omitting the technical functions on the bases of which specific versions are prohibited. Indeed, for most of the models they name, only versions that exceeds safe or legitimate civilian use due to their muzzle energy (e.g. that can [pierce military vehicles](#)) or their bore diameter (akin to a grenade launcher) are already or would be banned.

## Summary findings re CCFR claims (see details here)

- 1) One model (**Phillippe Grifnée Holland & Holland**) is not listed in **G-46**.
- 2) All but one of the 16 remaining models are currently prohibited (only the military-grade ones). **Bill C-21** (as amended by **G-46**) would not change their classification.
- 3) The only model that would be newly prohibited by an (amended) Bill C-21 is the SKS, a weapon designed for the military of the Soviet Union. (Just because a military weapon is used by some for hunting, that does not make it a hunting firearm. It is worth noting that the **CCFR considers the AR-15** and even **handguns** firearms fit for hunting.)
- 4) All but one of the **15 remaining models** that are already prohibited were banned in 2020. The **Benelli M1 Super 90 Shotgun** was banned in the 1990s.
- 5) Of the **14 models** banned in 2020, hunting caliber versions are not prohibited now and would not be prohibited under C-21. ONLY versions whose muzzle energy surpasses 10 000 joules (**10 models**) or whose bore diameter is greater than 20 mm (**2 models**) are currently prohibited. These are firearms “that exceed safe civilian use. These are characterized by ... a 20 mm bore or greater (e.g. grenade launcher) and the capacity to discharge a projectile with a muzzle energy greater than 10,000 joules (e.g. a .50 calibre BMG). These weapons are primarily designed to produce mass human casualties or cause significant property damage at long ranges, and the potential power of these weapons exceeds safe or legitimate civilian use.” For comparison’s sake, an **AK-47** produced less than 2,000 joules of muzzle energy.
- 6) Of the **2 remaining models** banned in 2020, one is the **Ruger Mini-14**, which was used to kill 14 women in the 1989 **École Polytechnique** massacre. It was also used to kill 69 people (mostly youth) in the 2011 **Norway** summer camp massacre and was among the guns in the possession of the 2020 **Nova Scotia** gunman. Gun experts call it “the poor man’s assault weapon”.
- 7) The second of **2 remaining models** banned in 2020 is the **Springfield Armory M1A Rifle**. It is prohibited because it is a variant or modified model of the **US Rifle M14**. The **M14** was the standard-issue rifle for the U.S. military.

“The survivors and victims’ families that we represent do not want to take anything away from hunters. What we want is to ban are military-style firearms that are not reasonably used for hunting, weapons that can kill numerous people in a matter of seconds”, like those with military characteristics such as the **Crusader 9** or the **Lockhart Tactical Raven 9**, (recently introduced to the Canadian market) explains **Nathalie Provost, survivor of the 1989 femicide at Polytechnique** and **PolySeSouvient** spokesperson.

“If specific legitimate hunting rifles are captured by the amendments, we agree that corrections are warranted. However, the hunting caliber versions of the models showcased by the **CCFR** would not be banned and so they require no corrections.”



“The **CCFR**, along with the **Conservative Party of Canada**, are among the most prolific propagators of disinformation with respect to the true impacts of the proposed measures. We hope that **Liberal**, **NDP** and **Bloc** MPs will see through this disingenuous campaign and understand that most if not all the letters and emails they are receiving from fearful gun owners are likely based on misinformation,” adds **Ms. Provost**.

### Other claims & components of the CCFR campaign:

In these videos, the **CCFR** claims that **Bill C-21**, if passed, “provides the legal ability to ban every firearm left in Canada” and “could lead to virtually all firearms in Canada being banned”, asserting that any “bolt-action rifle can be

prohibited by declaring it a variant”. This is patently false, as prohibitions would be limited to the technical evergreen definition in the **Criminal Code** (as amended by **G-4**) and the models specifically named in **Schedule II (G-46)** with variants applying only in

On the basis of such claims, they say that the **Liberal government** is in the process of banning half of the legal firearms in Canada and possibly even more.”

Finally, “it is shameful that the **CCFR** campaign includes a meme for their followers to use to personally attack a prominent gun control advocate. Such *ad hominem* attacks are typical of the **CCFR** and are usually based on distorted facts” says **Ms. Rathjen**. For example, the quote they are attributing to the **president of the Coalition for Gun Control** is not hers but a reporter’s interpretation of her testimony which has since been retracted.



paragraphs where this is specified.



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Source :

PolySeSouvient / PolyRemembers

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