

PolySeSouvient welcomes the recommendations of the Mass Casualty Commission to ban assault weapons and large capacity magazines

Montreal, March 30, 2023 – The group representing survivors and family of victims associated with the 1989 mass shooting at the **École Polytechnique** welcomes [the recommendations](#) of the **Mass Casualty Commission**, which reiterate many of the demands they have made over the years.

“We hope this extraordinarily comprehensive report and its specific recommendations on gun control will convince Canadian legislators to multiply their efforts [to reintroduce amendments](#) to Bill C-21 in order to permanently ban all assault weapons. The withdrawal of the initial amendments was [mired in disinformation](#) and highly politicized, and this report puts public safety objectives squarely back on the agenda,” says **Nathalie Provost, survivor and spokesperson of PolySeSouvient**.

Recommendations (a) and (e) put forward measures that are very similar to those that were introduced through amendments [G-4](#) and [G-46](#) to **Bill C-21** (amendments since withdrawn): an evergreen definition in the **Criminal Code** to ensure a comprehensive ban on assault weapons (i.e. prohibiting any “firearm that is a rifle or shotgun, that is capable of discharging centre-fire ammunition in a semi-automatic manner and that 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” and encoding into law (**Criminal Code**) the list (schedule) of all prohibited models.

Recommendation C.21

REDUCING GUN LETHALITY

The Commission recommends that:

- (a) The federal government should amend the Criminal Code to prohibit all semi-automatic handguns and all semi-automatic rifles and shotguns that discharge centre-fire ammunition and that are designed to accept detachable magazines with capacities of more than five rounds.
- (b) The federal government should amend the Criminal Code to prohibit the use of a magazine with more than five rounds so as to close the loopholes in the existing law that permit such firearms.
- (c) The federal government should amend the Firearms Act (i) to require a licence to possess ammunition; (ii) to require a licence to buy a magazine for a firearm; and (iii) to require a licensee to purchase ammunition only for the gun for which they are licensed.
- (d) The federal government should establish limits on the stockpiling of ammunition by individual firearms owners.
- (e) The federal government should reform the classification system for firearms and develop a standardized schedule and definitions of prohibited firearms within the Criminal Code of Canada, with an emphasis on simplicity and consistency.
- (f) The federal government should take steps to rapidly reduce the number of prohibited semi-automatic firearms in circulation in Canada.