

## **PolySeSouvient responds to today's developments regarding gun control**

**Montreal, April 25, 2023** – PolySeSouvient responds to today's developments regarding an eventual ban on assault weapons as well as the freeze on the purchase of new handguns:

### **NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh's April 25<sup>th</sup> news conference:**

"We are very happy to hear Mr. Singh clearly state his and his party's unequivocal support for both a ban on assault weapons and a ban on handguns. We hope this means that the NDP will not support half-measures, like an incomplete ban on assault weapons that only targets future models and not current ones, or a freeze on new handgun purchases that is watered down by exemptions.

"With respect to new amendments to Bill C-21 aimed at ensuring a comprehensive and permanent ban on military-style weapons, we remain concerned about the possibility of the NDP going at it alone, that is, by proposing their own amendments, as Mr. Singh suggested today. In the context of a minority government and at this stage of the process, the only viable amendments are those that, from the outset, have the support of a majority of the members of the Public Safety Committee. That is why we continue to ask the NDP to work with the Liberals and the Bloc Québécois, in good faith and ahead of the resumption of the Committee's clause-by-Clause stage, to negotiate a common legislative solution."

### **Minister Marco Mendicino's testimony on (withdrawn) amendments G-4 and G-46 before the Public Safety Committee (Video):**

"We are encouraged by the exchange between the minister and the NDP and Bloc members of the Public Safety Committee. It's clear that there is now a firm and shared intent to find a legislative solution aimed at including a ban on assault weapons in Bill C-21, consistent with the recommendations of the Mass Casualty Commission.

"While we eagerly wait to see the details of such a measure, we can say for now that we are encouraged by a number of related objectives that were raised, including the need to address the ability of gun manufacturers to introduce new models onto the market without prior verification or authorization by the RCMP, as well as the array of [loopholes and exemptions](#) that undermine the 1991 ban on large capacity magazines."

**The possibility of not opting for a list of prohibited models embedded in the Criminal Code** (as proposed by amendment G-46) was also raised. "It is important to understand that the goal of such a measure was to protect the list of prohibited models against a future government that would seek to legalize them. Under the current system, a government, including a minority government, could do so from one day to the next, without debate, as the Harper Government [did in 2015](#). An embedded list would prevent such declassifications without a vote in the House of Commons and the Senate. However, there are other ways to protect the prohibited status of assault weapons and we are confident these are currently being considered. Indeed, the Bloc Québécois' Public Safety Critic, Kristina Michaud, [has proposed a measure](#) that would have the same beneficial effect. That being said, we fully expect current assault weapons to be banned under a new approach."

**Regarding a new pre-authorization process:** Read this Twitter thread in response to the Bloc Québécois Public Safety Critic's recommendation to that effect which explains the current process:

<https://twitter.com/Polysesouvient/status/1651333004231409664> (\*updated 23/04/27)