

Gun Control Advocates Call on Senators to Pass Gun Control Legislation Before Senate Breaks for Summer

Majority of Canadians want stronger gun control

MONTREAL, June 20, 2023 - A coalition of gun control advocacy groups are calling on Senators to pass Bill C-21 before the Senate adjourns for the summer months.

"There is no more important responsibility of Senators than protecting the safety of Canadians, including from gun violence," said Nathalie Provost, a survivor of Montreal's École Polytechnique mass-shooting and spokesperson for PolySeSouvient. "While the legislation does not contain all the measures that were promised to Canadians, those that are included in Bill C-21 represent a significant step forward in making communities across Canada safer from gun violence. That is why we want it passed as quickly as possible, without any amendments," she emphasized.

"The measures aimed at protecting victims or potential victims of domestic violence will save the lives of many women," said Suzanne Zaccour, Director of Legal Affairs at the National Association of Women and the Law. For example, "an individual subject to protection orders related to domestic violence or stalking will automatically be prohibited from owning firearms. Indeed, the measures in the Bill C-21 are generally consistent with the Nova Scotia mass shooting inquiry recommendations that call for stricter gun control laws. Delaying their implementation will cost lives."

"These measures will prevent many Canadians from knowing the lifelong trauma of being the victim of gun violence, or the pain and devastation of having a child, parent, spouse, sibling, best friend or colleague shot and killed," adds Ken Price, spokesperson for Danforth Families for Safer Communities whose daughter, Samantha Price, is a Toronto Danforth mass shooting survivor. "Magazines will be harder to obtain for those that are not legally authorized to own guns," for example.

"Senators will be acting to increase public safety by passing Bill C-21 before their long summer break," said Boufeldja Benabdallah, spokesperson for the community affected by the massacre at the Quebec Mosque. "The bill will freeze and progressively reduce the number of handguns circulating in Canada. There is no reason any civilian needs a handgun or assault weapon in Canada."

A [poll](#) recently commissioned by the National Association of Women and the Law on behalf of 34 women's and feminist organizations from across Canada found that a majority of Canadians "strongly support" banning new handgun purchases as well as measures to remove guns from domestic abusers.

Other groups supporting the call to senators include : Dawson Families for gun control, Student movement NOT_HERE, Association des Étudiants de Polytechnique, Fraternité des policiers et policières de Montréal, Fédération des policiers et policières municipaux du Québec, Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses, Fédération des femmes du Québec, Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians, Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale, Alliance des maisons d'hébergement de 2e étape pour femmes et enfants victimes de violence conjugale, Fédération des maisons d'hébergement pour femmes, Women's Shelters Canada, Association féministe d'éducation et d'action sociale (Afeas), Regroupement québécois des centres d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel (RQCALACS), Canadian Women's Foundation, Canadian Federation of University Women, Ending Violence Association of Canada, South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario (SALCO).

-30-

For more information:

Nathalie Provost, info@polysesouvient.ca ; 514-796-0142 Suzanne Zaccour, suzanne.zaccour@nawl.ca, 438-345-7445

Heidi Rathjen, info@polysesouvient.ca ; 514-816-7818

Boufeldja Benabdallah, administration@cciq.org ; 418-454-7526

Ken Price, 416-564-6812