

Statement by PolySeSouvient on the 34th anniversary of the femicide at the École Polytechnique

Montreal, December 6, 2023 – The following statement is attributed **PolySeSouvient (PolyRemembers)**, the gun-control advocacy group created by survivors and families of victims of the December 6, 1989 anti-feminist mass-shooting in which 14 women were murdered and another ten women and four men were injured:

“On the 34th anniversary of the femicide at the **École Polytechnique**, survivors, witnesses and families of victims of the femicide at **Polytechnique** wish to highlight the concrete progress on gun control provided by **Bill C-21**.

The legislation has emerged unscathed (without amendments) from the **Senate Standing Committee on National Security**, which has just completed its detailed study, and is now headed towards its final vote on the floor of the **Red Chamber**. We concur with the majority of the **Senate committee** who is calling for the bill to ‘[go back to the Senate Chamber for third reading on an urgent basis](#)’. We urge Senators to proceed quickly and to pass the bill as is, without amendment.

The bill introduces a national freeze on the transfer of handguns (a “phase-out” of the private possession of handguns over the next three or four generations), as well as several groundbreaking measures to protect victims of domestic abuse from gun-related threats and violence (including an automatic prohibition to own guns for anyone subject to a protection order related to domestic violence).

While the imminent passage of **Bill C-21** will represent an important victory for public safety, it's important to remember that its public safety benefits [will be determined](#) by the strength of the (forthcoming) regulations, and that the government has yet to deliver on its [multiple commitments](#) to completely ban assault weapons and large-capacity magazines. Indeed, the measure in **C-21** concerning assault weapons will have no impact on [hundreds of existing models](#), nor on [many new ones](#).

That being said, we thank **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau**, **Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc** and **former Minister Marco Mendicino** (author of **C-21**) for this important step forward for the safety of all Canadians, especially women, and look forward to supporting the government in its work to deliver on its promise to finally ban assault weapons.”

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