



The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C. M.P.
Prime Minister and Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada
House of Commons
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

November 22nd, 2024

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Re: **Your leadership and commitments to address the crisis of intimate-partner gun violence through implementation of stronger gun control measures**

OUR ASK:

1. Ensure all measures in **Bill C-21**, an *Act to Amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)*, are fully implemented and in force across Canada before the next federal election **to prevent the injury and killing of women and children by intimate-partner gun violence.**

This includes:

- **Subsection 6.1**, which makes an individual ineligible to hold a firearms licence if they are subject to a protection order or have been convicted of an offence involving violence.
- **Subsection 70.1**, which obliges a chief firearms officer who has reasonable grounds to suspect that a licensee may have engaged in domestic violence or stalking to revoke the licence within 24 hours.
- **Subsection 70.2**, which automatically revokes the licence of an individual who becomes subject to a protection order and requires them to deliver their guns to a peace officer within 24 hours.

Additionally, we ask that you recommit to and deliver on:

- maintaining the national freeze on the sale, purchase or transfer of handguns by individuals within Canada,
- banning large-capacity magazines, before the next election.
- completing the buy-back of all military-style firearms, including the models that were omitted or exempted from the 2020 Order in Council, before the next election.

2. Publicly meet with representatives of our groups to personally deliver these commitments.

CONTEXT:

Despite having received Royal Assent on December 15, 2023, many of the key provisions in Bill C-21 designed to protect women and children from gun violence have not yet come into force. The rationale provided for this delay is that these provisions require the development of new regulations and consultation with stakeholders like the RCMP and other police services. This delay is leaving women and children at greater risk of injury and murder by intimate-partner gun violence. A [coalition of 50 women's organizations](#) has asked the Government to urgently bring these measures into force.

Our urgent call for action follows an alarming increase in femicides and familicides in Canada, many by gun violence. So far in 2024, there have been 163 femicides of women and girls, which is already 12 more than at this same time in 2023. Guns are one of the most common methods used to commit these murders (when the method is identified), with at least 22 women killed by guns so far this year and 7 children killed alongside their mothers.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) was formally declared an epidemic by the [Mass Casualty Commission \(MCC\)](#), the public inquiry that examined the circumstances of the 2020 mass killing in Nova Scotia, where a gunman killed 22 people following a vicious assault on his spouse. The Commission's final report recommended stronger measures be put in place to prevent gun possession by people involved in domestic or gender-based violence.

Furthermore, the Commission also recommended the federal government "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." This demand was echoed by the [Women4GunControl coalition](#), comprised of 33 women's and feminist organizations.

A [survey](#) conducted by Abacus Data in 2023 found that 89% of Canadians support requiring authorities to revoke a firearms licence and remove firearms quickly from individuals who have committed acts of

domestic violence, family violence or stalking. The survey also found that 62% of women 'strongly oppose' civilian ownership of assault-style firearms, compared to only 8% of women who 'strongly support' them.

CONCLUSION:

A Prime Minister's first duty is to protect the safety and security of all Canadians. The measures in Bill C-21 are essential to address the epidemic of gender-based violence in Canada and prevent femicides and familicides perpetrated with firearms. **They will save lives.**

We look forward to seeing Bill C-21 fully implemented under your leadership as Prime Minister, before the next federal election, to substantively address the crisis of intimate-partner gun violence and the high number of femicides and familicides committed using firearms, in cities, towns, as well as rural and remote communities, across Canada.

Thank you for your timely consideration,

Tara Graham

Daughter of femicide victim Brenda Tatlock-Burke of Nova Scotia

Brian Sweeney

Father of mass shooting victim Angie Sweeney of Sault Ste. Marie and Founder of Angie's Angels, an advocacy group working to reduce intimate partner violence in Canada

Nathalie Provost

Survivor, École Polytechnique massacre
Spokesperson, PolySeSouvient/PolyRemembers

Tiffany Butler

Executive Director, National Association of Women and the Law

Myrna Dawson

Director, Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability