

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF MCC REPORT:

No Concrete Progress on Key Recommendations in Mass Casualty Commission Report: Sale of Assault Weapons and Large Capacity Magazines in Canada Remain Virtually Unchanged.

“Priority should be placed on reducing access to the most dangerous, high-capacity firearms and ammunition in recognition of the risks they pose and the fact they do not serve a hunting or sporting purpose.” - MCC

Montreal, March 28, 2024 – The group representing survivors and family of victims associated with the 1989 mass shooting at the **École Polytechnique** wishes to remind Canadians that, a year after the **Mass Casualty Commission (MCC)** unveiled its **final report** on March 30, 2023, key recommendations related to access to assault weapons and large capacity magazines remain unfulfilled.

While **Bill C-21** adopted last December 14th includes many **MCC** firearm-related recommendations, it failed to deliver on the top recommendation related to firearms: “**REDUCING GUN LETHALITY**” (page 205). This includes prohibiting “*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,*” as well as closing “*the loopholes in the existing law that permit ... the use of a magazine with more than five rounds.*”

Since the **MCC** tabled its report, gun manufacturers continue to sell assault-style weapons. Reporters and other interested parties need only peruse online advertisements for non-restricted “**tactical rifles**” (code word for “**assault weapons**”) to see the kinds of weapons that are currently being sold, many of which would have been banned under the failed **C-21** amendments (**G-4** and **G-46**) that were withdrawn amid widespread **disinformation** orchestrated by **the gun lobby** and reinforced by **Conservative** and **NDP** MPs):

The collage consists of several screenshots from online retailers:

- Lockhart Tactical:** Shows a 'Lockhart Tactical Raven 5.56 NATO Modular Sem automatic Rifle - NON-RESTRICTED' for \$1,845.00. Features include a 'Carbine (Single Stack)', 'AR15 / AR10 Gen 2 Trigger', and '5.56 NATO / 5.56 NATO / 5.56 NATO' magazines.
- Smash Sports Canada:** A grid of 'Non Restricted' rifles including the 'Chinese SKS Type 56', 'Hi-Point 18.5" BBL CARBINE', and 'Kral Vector GEN II CRB Enhanced 18.6"'. Prices range from \$649.99 to \$1,399.99.
- Smash Sports Canada (Grid):** A grid of 'Non Restricted - SMASH SPORTS CANADA - YOUR #1 RETAILER FOR FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, AND OUTDOOR GEAR' showing various rifle models with prices like \$1,199.99 and \$1,399.99.
- Non Restricted Tactical Rifles:** A grid of rifles with a message: 'If you are unable to find something that you are looking for, or if you have questions about the availability of a product, please contact us for further assistance.' Products include 'Hi-Point Carbine, Model 905', 'Just Right Carbine M-LOK', and 'Kodiak Defense K9 Carbine'.
- Centerfire Rifles:** A grid of rifles including 'Kodiak Defense', 'Hi-Point', and 'Kodiak Defense' models. Prices range from \$1,499.99 to \$1,469.99.
- Bottom Grid:** A grid of rifles including 'Kodiak Defense', 'Hi-Point', and 'Kodiak Defense' models. Prices range from \$1,499.99 to \$1,469.99.

Banning assault weapons was repeatedly promised to **Canadians** by the **Liberal Party**: in **2015, 2019** and **2021**, including a mandatory buyback of existing ones. However, the new definition of “prohibited firearm” in **C-21** only applies to models of assault weapons **that had not yet been invented at the time of its adoption, and is easily circumventable**. Hundreds of **models** remain legal (and non-restricted), and magazines that surpass five rounds remain **widely accessible**. **Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc committed** last October to introducing a new **Order in Council** to complete the 2020 ban and to eliminate magazine loopholes, but so far there has been no detectable progress. The **Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee** that was supposed to deliver recommendations, **before August 31, 2023**, to review the classification of existing firearms **has yet to be revived**.

*“We are trying to remain positive with respect to the government’s commitments to deliver on its promise to completely ban assault weapons, but it is becoming harder and harder. We know the gun lobby is fighting this measure with its considerable resources while Conservative politicians continue to lie to hunters, claiming their firearms are being targeted,” says **Nathalie Provost, survivor and spokesperson of PolySeSouvient**. “We hope to see concrete progress very soon, including funding for the promised buy-back of assault-style weapons designed to kill as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, in the upcoming federal budget. As the Trudeau government approaches the final year of its mandate, time is running out for meaningful action on this critical public safety issue, in accordance with the wishes of the vast majority of Canadians.”*

Bill C-21 addresses several important **MCC** recommendations related to domestic violence, including:

- amending the Firearms Act to automatically revoke the firearms licences of persons convicted of domestic violence,
- amending the Firearms Act to suspend the firearms licences of persons charged with such offences,
- require all police services to immediately inform the chief firearms officer (CFO) of charges related to intimate partner violence after they are laid, and
- recognizing coercive control as part of the definition of domestic violence: such a definition appears in the Firearms Act although not, **as of yet**, in the Criminal Code.

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.**