

New models of assault weapons continue to hit the market, adding to hundreds that remain legal - despite Liberal government claims that they “banned military-style assault weapons”

Gun manufacturers can easily circumvent the new definition of “prohibited weapon,” introduced through Bill C-21, that was supposed to ban future models

Montreal, September 11, 2024 – Despite **Liberal government** assurances that **Bill C-21** (via amendments announced on **May 1st 2023** by former **Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino** and passed into law under the leadership of by his successor, **Minister Dominic LeBlanc**) “ban(s) new assault-style firearms,” new military-style semi-automatic weapons continue to hit the **Canadian** market – in addition to the **hundreds of models** that remain legal because the **2020 Order in Council** exempted them (see details of new models in appendix 1).



New 2024 models



Buyback pointless without total ban

“We now fear that the numerous Liberal promises to ban assault weapons won’t lead to any concrete change to save lives,” said **Nathalie Provost**, mass shooting survivor and spokesperson for **PolySeSouvient**. *“Even the mandatory buyback program for the two thousand models banned under the 2020 Order in Council will lose all of its meaning if current owners of prohibited assault weapons can simply take the money from the buyback to purchase those that remain legal or new models introduced to the market by manufacturers seeking to increase their sales and profits.”*

No tangible change with respect to access to assault weapons

The new **Criminal Code** definition of “prohibited firearm” applies only to models introduced after **December 2023**, ignoring the approximately 480 existing models that would have been banned under similar criteria were they to apply to models marketed before 2024, as was proposed by failed amendments to **Bill C-21**, **G-4** and **G-46**.

Updated definition of “prohibited firearm” is easily circumventable by manufacturer

The main addition under **Bill C-21** is a ban on future semi-automatic center-fire long guns that were “originally designed with a detachable cartridge magazine with a capacity of six cartridges or more.” It does not consider any other military characteristics - as do most US state laws that ban assault weapons – nor does it incorporate the concept of “capacity” like the New Zealand ban.

In order to circumvent the new criteria, manufacturers need only “originally design” their new models with a magazine of five rounds or less. Nothing prevents them from subsequently marketing higher capacity magazines for the same models (an array of loopholes allow this).

C-21 essentially changed nothing with respect to legal access to assault weapons. Protecting Canadians from the risk of mass shootings continues to be severely compromised despite the new rules.

Unfulfilled promises on eve of election

In October 2023, the newly appointed **Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc** reiterated the **Liberal** promise to ban all assault weapons, specifically promising “a future Order-in-Council to ban all existing assault weapons” and to strengthen regulations “to eliminate loopholes and exemptions that allow access to magazines of more than 5 or 10 cartridges.” There has been no detectable progress since then.

To deliver on its promise to **Canadians** to ban assault weapons as well as their deadly accessories before the next election, the **Liberal government**, urgently needs to:

1. Ban current assault weapons through an Order in Council that eliminates the arbitrary exemptions of 2020,
2. Implement the buyback program without delay (for ALL assault weapons) and complete it within months, and
3. Amend regulations to eliminate loopholes and exemptions that allow large-capacity magazines that continue to put public safety at risk (and that have already cost lives).

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SEE APPENDIX 1: [NEW 2024 MODELS](#)

SEE APPENDIX 2: [PRE-2024 MODELS THAT REMAIN UNDER 2020 ORDER IN COUNCIL](#)