

Gun-Control Advocates Urge Liberals, NDP and Bloc to Make Minority Parliament Work

Uncertain timing of federal election threatens implementation of new gun-control measures – including buyback program – which Conservatives have pledged to reverse

OTTAWA, September 17, 2024 – Gun-control advocacy groups **PolyRemembers**, **Danforth Families for Safe Communities**, **Angie’s Angels**, **Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns**, **Dawson Families for Gun Control** and the student movement **NOT_HERE**, as well as the **Quebec Mosque** and the **National Association of Women and the Law** which leads the **#Women4GunControl** coalition, are all calling on the **Liberal government** and **NDP** and **Bloc** opposition parties to avoid triggering an early election in order to provide time for the implementation of critical new gun-control measures introduced through **Bill C-21, An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)**, which became law last December.

The groups are also sounding the alarm that the long-awaited ban on military-style assault weapons will not be fully implemented (with an [updated and complete list of existing models](#)) if the government is defeated by a vote of non-confidence this fall or winter.

“Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre is a gun extremist. His [pledge to gun owners to reverse ‘every \[gun control\] law that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has implemented’](#), including the [ban on assault-style firearms](#), if he becomes Prime Minister does not reflect that most Canadians feel these high-powered weapons have no place in our cities and towns,” said **Nathalie Provost**, a survivor of the **Polytechnique massacre** and spokesperson for the gun-control group **PolyRemembers**.

The **Liberals**, **NDP** and **Bloc** all promised stronger gun-control measures in their previous campaign platforms. *“Why should we believe anything they say in the coming election if they allow these control measures that will make our homes, classrooms and communities safer from gun violence to be sacrificed for their own political interests,”* **Ms. Provost** said.

“No hunter needs a weapon designed for military use to kill a deer or moose. There are thousands of legal firearm models for that. Yet [Mr. Poilievre persists in falsely characterizing the 2020 prohibitions as a ‘hunting rifle ban’](#),” said **Boufeldja Benabdallah**, co-founder and spokesperson of the **Quebec Mosque**.

Other **Bill C-21** measures at risk of not becoming law in the event of an early election include the automatic revocation of a licence to own guns when an individual is subject to a protection order or when a gun owner has committed domestic violence or stalking. *“These measures are essential to address the epidemic of gender-based violence in Canada and prevent femicides perpetrated with firearms,”* said **Suzanne Zaccour**, **Director of Legal Affairs at the National Association of Women and the Law**.

“Every month that goes by without enacting these new laws is literally costing lives,” said **Brian Sweeney**, whose daughter **Angie** and three children from a previous marriage were shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend in October 2023. *“There have been several [mass intimate shootings](#) in recent months. These tragedies are preventable,”* added **Sweeney**, spokesperson for **Angie's Angels**, a group of families and friends of Angie that formed in response to the tragic mass shooting.

“The measures in Bill C-21 are evidenced-based and will reduce gun injury and death in Canada. They will also provide some relief to overwhelmed emergency rooms and the broader health-care system struggling to meet patient care demands across Canada,” said **Dr. Najma Ahmed, spokesperson for Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns.**

“Many of the regulations and enforcement directives are still not in force, and we call on the Bloc and NDP, who supported Bill C21 in the House, to work with the Liberal government to ensure the law’s full implementation during the current session of Parliament,” said **Ken Price, spokesperson for Danforth Families for Safe Communities.**

The call from the gun-control groups comes on the heels of an [Ipsos survey which found a majority of Canadians do not want an early election.](#)

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