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News Release

30 months have passed while over 350 women & girls have been murdered: **Prime Minister Carney urged to prevent weakening of measures to protect women from gun-related threats & femicides in former Bill C-21 and to implement them this summer**

MONTREAL, June 18, 2026 — Thirty months after **Parliament** adopted life-saving measures to prevent intimate partner gun violence, the **federal government** has still not operationalized them — and now appears poised to water them down. A coalition of groups in support of gun control is calling on **Prime Minister Mark Carney** to immediately commit to enabling regulations that fully reflect the protections **Parliament** passed into law in December 2023 when it amended the **Firearms Act** through former **Bill C-21**.

Data from the **Femicide Observatory for Accountability and Justice** shows that, in the 30 months since those amendments were adopted, over 350 women and girls have been killed by femicide in Canada, including 30 **by March 15, this year**. Historically, **about a third** of domestic homicides involve a firearm. Intimate partner violence that involves a firearm is **12 times more likely** to result in death than similar incidents that do not involve a firearm.

Parliament's intent in 2023 was explicit: individuals subject to a protection order should not be permitted to hold a firearms licence. On the recommendation of the **National Association of Women and the Law (NAWL)**, Members of Parliament amended the bill to define protection orders in the broadest possible terms, so that all those at risk would be protected. To bring the measure into force, the federal government simply needed to confirm that broad definition through regulations.

Instead, **draft regulations** published in the **Canada Gazette** in March 2025 signal the government's intent to do the opposite — limiting the automatic licence revocation to only some categories of protection orders, and not all. The proposed regulations define “protection order” as any civil order made in the interest of the safety and security of a person. That single word — “civil” — captures family-court protection orders but excludes section 810 peace bonds under the Criminal Code, along with bail conditions, probation orders, and other no-contact conditions imposed through the criminal process. It took a full year for **Public Safety** to open a **new consultation**, now proposing to cover peace bonds, but not other criminal orders.

Parliament wrote section 15 of **former Bill C-21** with the intent on capturing ‘**any binding order made by a court or other competent authority in the interest of the safety or security of a person**’.

PolySeSouvient, Danforth Families for Safe Communities, Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns, the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians, the Quebec Mosque, the Polytechnique Student Association, the student movement NOT_HERE, Dawson families for gun control, Angie's Angels and victims' advocates like **Alison Irons** and **Tara Graham** all support the **legal analysis** advanced by **NAWL** as spelled out in its **briefs**.

“With women's lives literally at stake — and femicides on the rise in Canada — there is no acceptable justification for the new government rewriting Parliament's legislation through the back door of regulation, in a way that shifts the risk back onto women and children,” said **Heidi Rathjen, Coordinator of PolySeSouvient**.

According to **Suzanne Zaccour, NAWL's Director of Legal Affairs**: "It makes no sense that some survivors would receive protections while others would not, based not on the level of danger they face, but on procedural technicalities. Violence does not become less lethal because it is dealt with in a different stage of the legal system. A narrow definition would not only undermine a core public safety measure of the Firearms Act — it would likely be legally invalid¹. Regulations that contradict the broad definition Parliament adopted would be open to court challenge — and, more importantly, would leave women exposed in the meantime."

The groups are urging **Prime Minister Carney** and the **federal government** to:

- ➔ **Respect the law as adopted by Parliament** by adopting regulations that define "protection order" as any protection order, in line with the 2023 amendments to the Firearms Act.
- ➔ **Operationalize the intimate partner violence measures without further delay**, so that licence revocation is issued alongside all protection orders for individuals deemed a threat to public safety.

Additional quotes:

"Every delay carries consequences. Every narrowing of the law leaves gaps through which women and children can fall. And every failure to remove firearms from dangerous individuals increases the risk that intimate partner violence will become fatal. My daughter lost her life because the system failed to provide adequate protection. How many more women need to pay with their lives?"

— **Alison Irons, former RCMP officer and mother of gun femicide victim Lindsay Wilson (1986-2013)**

"Thirty months and more than 350 femicides after Parliament voted to take guns out of the hands of dangerous domestic partners, women in Canada are still waiting for those protections to come into force. The answer cannot be regulations that quietly rewrite the law to cover fewer survivors. A woman's safety should not depend on which courtroom her abuser ended up in."

— **Myrna Dawson, Director, Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability**

"We know from a wide body of research that the mere presence of a gun in the home increases the risk of harm to women. If a court decides someone is dangerous enough to need a protection order, that person should certainly not have a firearms licence. Parliament was right to make that clear in legislation in 2023, there should be no further delay by the government in implementing this change."

— **Dr. Najma Ahmed, Co-founder, Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns**

"When a government takes 30 months and counting to operationalize a life-saving measure, and then uses that time to narrow it, the message to women experiencing intimate partner violence is devastating. Prime Minister Carney has the authority to fix this with a single decision: confirm in regulation that 'protection order' means any protection order, as Parliament intended."

— **Tara Graham, daughter of femicide victim Brenda Tatlock-Burke of Nova Scotia (1964-2024)**

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¹ The **Government of Canada's** own [Guide to making Federal Acts and Regulations](#) makes clear that: "Enabling Acts provide an additional source of legal constraints. Regulations must stay within the scope of the authority that the enabling Act grants and must not conflict with it or restrict or extend the scope of its application."