

Coalition for Gun Control Looking to Today's Throne Speech for Government to Prioritize Gun Control.

December 5, 2019, Toronto, ON: On the eve of the thirtieth anniversary of the Montreal Massacre and as Parliament resumes, the Coalition for Gun Control which was founded in response to the December 6, 1989 mass shooting of 28 people, killing 14 young women, is hopeful that the Government of Canada will include gun control as a priority in today's throne speech and keep its election promise to "bring in the toughest gun laws Canada has ever had to stand up to gun violence."

"We are hopeful that the new government will mention in today's throne speech its intention to move quickly on their election promise to prohibit and buy back military assault weapons," said Wendy Cukier, President of the Coalition for Gun Control. "And, we hope the ban will finally include the Ruger Mini 14 used in the Montreal massacre, which they promised to ban twenty years ago, as per a letter from then Justice Minister Anne MacLennan. We are also looking for an evidence-based and meaningful strategy to address the proliferation of handguns, at a minimum, a ban on the import and sale coupled with far stricter interpretation of what it means to legally possess a restricted weapon."

The majority of Canadians support stricter controls on licensing and gun sales, a ban on military assault weapons and a ban on handguns. Handguns are designed for killing and should not be readily available in cities or in rural communities. Finally, the Coalition for Gun Control expect clear commitments to implement Bill C-71 and ensure that the issues around firearm fueled violence against women and suicide are no longer ignored.

All Canadians, whether they live in rural or urban areas, deserve to be safe. Legally owned guns are most often used in domestic violence, in suicide, in the murders of police officers and in mass shootings. Concrete actions can be taken in the 43rd Canadian Parliament. The Bloc Quebecois supports a ban on assault weapons and while the NDP and Green Party positions are less clear we are hopeful that they will act on behalf of Canadians.

Gun control is only part of the solution - but the evidence is strong worldwide that industrialized countries with strong laws are safer from gun violence.

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