



Coalition for Gun Control Applauds Action by Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Bill Blair to Ban Military-Style Assault Weapons and is Counting on Parliamentarians to Make it Permanent

May 1, 2020, Toronto, ON: The Coalition for Gun Control applauds Prime Minister Trudeau's announcement today of the orders-in-council that prohibits the [purchase, selling, transportation, import or use of military grade assault weapons in Canada](#). The Coalition for Gun Control and its other anti-gun violence and public health partners have called for a complete ban of civilian owned military-assault weapons for thirty years. In 1991 and 1995 some semi-automatic firearms were banned, but they stopped short of banning the Ruger Mini 14 used in the Polytechnique massacre or the AR-15 notorious for its use in multiple mass shootings including the Parkland.

"We welcome the decisive action by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Minister Bill Blair and others, in banning 1500 additional models military-style assault weapons. While waiting for the prohibition, we have seen too many people die," said Cukier. "It's been a long wait. This is a milestone for Canada and an important step forward. We are counting on all Parliamentarians to support a mandatory buy back program and to keep this ban permanent." She also referenced a [1999 letter from then Minister Anne McLellan](#) promising a ban on the Ruger Mini 14 and the AR 15.

The Coalition for Gun Control and its network of 200 public health, women's groups, anti-gun violence and community groups continue to call for the implementation of the regulations associated with Bill C-71 and action to ban handguns nationally. "When Prime Minister Paul Martin, proposed a national ban on handguns, there were 360,000 legally owned, now there are more than 1 million," said Cukier. "In the last four years, the number of legally owned handguns has increased by more than 24 per cent. We need action to stem the proliferation. Just as Prime Minister Trudeau noted today that you don't need an AR-15 to bring down a deer, handguns are also not used in hunting or farming. They have no more utility in rural areas than in urban areas. We need a national ban."

Easy access to firearms fuels gang violence, domestic violence, suicide and undermines community safety. Firearms figure prominently in the cycle of violence against women and when firearms are present, women and their children are more likely to die. Firearms are used to intimate, threaten, injure and kill women. They increase the likelihood women will be killed in situations of domestic violence and they increase the number of victims (children, family members, perpetrators). Two-thirds of the women with firearms in their home (66 percent) said knowing firearms were present made them more fearful for their safety and well-being, and 70 percent said it affected their decisions whether to tell others about or seek help for abuse they received. Military assault weapons are [banned in most industrialized countries](#).

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