

## **Coalition for Gun Control Welcomes Action by the Government of Canada to Implement New Regulations for Bill C-21**

Ottawa, December 5, 2024: On the eve of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Montreal Massacre on Dec. 6, 1989, the Coalition for Gun Control (CGC) and its supporters stood together at a Government of Canada announcement in Ottawa about regulations for former Bill C-21, an Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms). “Laws are only words on paper without strong regulations and implementation which is why we are pleased to see action today from the Government of Canada that they are proceeding with the buyback program and implementation of new regulations for the game-changing law,” said Wendy Cukier, co-founder of the Coalition for Gun Control. “Canada is set to accomplish what the Coalition for Gun Control (CGC) set out to do almost 35 years ago after the Montreal Massacre on Dec. 6, 1989.”

Today's announcement focusing on adding several hundred banned models and variants of firearms to the list is welcome especially to defend against gender-based violence and ensure communities remain safe. The ban focuses on military style semi-automatics not firearms reasonably used in hunting.

Over the last year, CGC has made a huge push for implementation of the former Bill C-21 because the forward-looking legislation's key measures include removing firearms from people who are a risk to themselves or others; implementing a ban on the import, transfer, and sale of handguns, implementing further restrictions to prohibit military-style semi-automatic firearms; and tackling a reduction of firearm diversion and smuggling.

These are key firearms control measures that CGC has been advocating for over three decades to help ensure Canadians are safe from gun violence.

“Countries have different definitions, lists, and rules, and there's no recognized global standard for a global ban on military assault weapons but Canada's approach to the implementation of measures including the buyback program which is a move forward from the past which allowed grandfathered owners and firearms to remain in communities is agile and forward-looking,” explains Cukier. “Over the last year, the policy process of C-21 also addressed legitimate concerns around Indigenous hunting rights.”

Also of major significance is that the law directly addresses the Mass Casualty Commission's recommendations after the worst mass shooting in Canada's history in Portapique, N.S. The call for a ban on handguns began with the Concordia University shooting in 1992, and has been amplified by CGC and many Coalition supporters. Already in effect is a temporary ban on the import, sale, and transfer of handguns.

“Firearms violence is experienced in many ways from gang violence and intimate partner violence to suicide, hate crimes and mass shootings,” adds Cukier. “All forms of gun violence are horrific. No one measure can remedy it all, but this law responds to the evidence from

researchers, expert advice and public opinion. The law is a critical step forward and the best we have seen in the last three decades. We must come together to support the change-making legislation and its implementation.”

Founded in the wake of the Montreal massacre, the Coalition for Gun Control is a national network of more than 200 healthcare, violence prevention, community, victims, public safety and women’s organizations and has worked nationally on evidence-based strategies to reduce gun violence.

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