



## **Coalition for Gun Control Supports the Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program (ASFCP)**

Toronto, ON, January 17, 2026: 'The Coalition for Gun Control supports the Government of Canada's Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program (ASFCP) which is launching for individual firearms owners on January 19, 2026.

While mass shootings are rare in Canada, when they do occur the firearms involved are often legally obtained and possessed by licensed owners. In countries all over the world, researchers have shown the relationship between the rates of civilian firearm ownership and rates of gun death and injury.

While smuggled guns are a problem, particularly with urban and gang violence, the vast majority of mass shootings in Canada have been by legal gun owners or with guns diverted from legal sources.

While definitions vary by jurisdiction, most industrialized nations prohibit ordinary semi automatic military style firearms which are not needed for hunting. While some wish to collect them or use them for "practical" shooting games, the threat they pose outweighs their utility.

For more than 35 years, the vast majority of Canadians, including many gun owners, support a ban on military style semi-automatic firearms. Efforts to advance restrictions have also faced organized opposition, including campaigns fueled by misinformation rather than evidence. Public policy should be guided by risk reduction and outcomes, not by rhetoric.

The CGC along with its more than 200 public health, violence prevention, public safety, community, women's, and victims' organizations have advocated for evidence-based approaches to preventing gun violence for almost 35 years. Despite the voracious opposition, the Government of Canada is continuing with its Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program (ASFCP) combined with other measures to support the safety of Canadians through an effective approach to public safety.

This is an important part of a comprehensive strategy - Canada should continue to address the root causes of violence and to strengthen screening and eligibility for all firearms owners, to ensure that the ban on handgun sales, transfers, and importation are implemented and enforced as intended. In parallel, stronger measures to disrupt gun trafficking and illegal supply chains are essential. Serious commitments to implementation, enforcement capacity, and measurable results are required for any legislative change to deliver real public safety benefits.'

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**About the Coalition for Gun Control**

Founded in the wake of the Montreal massacre in 1989, the Coalition for Gun Control (CGC) has worked on evidence-based strategies to reduce gun violence. Significant gun control measures were made in Canada in 1991, 1995 and then again in 2020. The Coalition is the only pan-Canadian organization dedicated to research, advocacy and policy to inform stricter gun control measures in Canada. The Coalition's efforts are supported by more than 200 healthcare, violence prevention, community, victims, public safety and women's organizations.