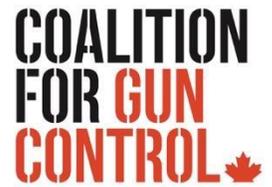


November 12, 2018



Dear Friend:

We are calling on you, and other Canadians, who believe that decisive action is needed stem the surge of gun violence rising in our country. We are saddened the issue continues to go unchecked, yet hopeful we can make real change. We have a small window of opportunity: most Canadians now want a complete ban on handguns and military assault weapons. And for the first time in many years, the Federal government seems to be listening

But we need your help. **You can be part of the change by signing our petition at [triggerchange.ca](http://triggerchange.ca).** Please join the movement and encourage your friends and colleagues to do the same.

There are now nearly one million handguns legally owned in Canada, which is more than double the number from 10 years ago. When the number of legally owned guns increases, so do the risks that they will be misused, stolen or illegally sold. For the first time in thirty years more than half of crime guns traced in Toronto were owned by Canadians as opposed to being smuggled in from the US. This phenomenon has been documented across Canada.

We need action now. We are approaching the tipping point, from which there is no return. In 2004, there were 384,000 restricted weapons, primarily handguns. Today there are more than 900,000. In another ten years there will be almost 2 million, unless we take action.

After years of erosion, we have gaping holes in our gun laws and predictably, we are paying the price. What is so tragic is that this was entirely predictable and preventable. Gun homicides, domestic violence and even suicide have increased year by year.

- Firearm related crime has increased 42% between 2013 and 2017.
- Handguns account for 58% of shooting homicides.
- Military weapons such as the AR-15 used in the Parkland Florida massacre and more recently in the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in Pittsburg are sold to civilians in Canada.
- These weapons are not used for hunting, by farmers or indigenous people for legitimate purposes and US-style arming for "self-protection" with handguns is rising.
- Canada has the fourth highest rate of gun deaths among OECD countries and is one of few industrialized countries to have loosened its gun laws in past decades.
- Countries like the UK, Australia and Japan have shown that strict gun control laws lead to dramatically lower gun homicide, crime and death rates. The UK had only 27 gun murders in 2016.
- Independent 2018 public opinion polling shows majority of Canadians support stronger gun laws.

Over the past two years, we have been working hard to drive for change in our gun laws. We managed to get some amendments to Bill C-71, and have brought a ban on handguns and assault weapons within our reach. But we need your support now more than ever.

Bill C-71, An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in Relation to Firearms, is currently before the Senate. We are working to restore provisions from 1977 which allow police access to gun sales records to trace guns and to restore restrictions on carrying and transporting handguns and assault weapons. But we have an even bigger goal: **The time has come to ban handguns and military assault weapons in Canada.** Right now, you can be part of the change by signing our petition at [triggerchange.ca](http://triggerchange.ca).

Time is of the essence. Minister Bill Blair and the Liberal government are conducting a national consultation on gun control. It's time to move from words to action on a national ban on civilian possession of handguns and military assault weapons.

By signing this petition you are holding our government accountable and to prompt real action to make our communities safer. You are standing up to the vocal minority of gun lobbyists and special interest groups who block any gun reform. You are making a difference. You will be heard.

Should you wish to further your support, the Coalition for Gun Control relies on generous donations and support to continue to be an effective citizen-funded voice on the issue of gun violence. Donations can be made online at [guncontrol.ca/donate-now/](http://guncontrol.ca/donate-now/).

**Your voice is ammunition to trigger change in Canada.**

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Cukier".

Wendy Cukier, President, Coalition for Gun Control

[www.guncontrol.ca](http://www.guncontrol.ca)

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