



THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA
LE CONSEIL NATIONAL DES FEMMES DU CANADA

May
26,
2025

Hon. Gary Amandasangaree
Minister of Public Safety
Government of Canada

Re: Firearms Control

Dear Mr. Amandasangaree;

On behalf of the members of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) I urge you to make every effort to maintain restrictive laws aimed at firearms control. The lives of women and girls depends on it.

As you are aware the weapon of choice in Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) for many abusers is a gun, often a legally obtained weapon. The steps taken by your government to ban restricted weapons and offer a buy back of legally obtained but banned firearms can not be underestimated. Canada does not need or should not support a culture that allows for unfettered gun ownership. Both possession and sale of restricted weapons must continue to be the focus if women are to be protected from abusers.

The experience and example of a survivor of the Montreal Massacre of women in 1989 simply because they were women, is inexcusable. She has suffered abuse, including sexual and violent threats to this day, because she has continued over the years, to fight for gun control to ensure that this never happens again. Her experience serves as a demonstration of the lived experience of many women who live with abusers who threaten their existence with a gun.

If there is any hope that women will avoid femicide, Canada must continue to demonstrate it's belief that gun ownership is a privilege not to be abused. This must extend to the importation of firearms and remain a step forward for public safety by reducing the circulation of such weapons.

These actions are critically important to women.

Sincerely

Marianne Wilkinson
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