



## **BILL C-21: National FREEZE on HANDGUNS**

“We are capping the number of handguns in this country...” With Bill C-21, **“It will be illegal to buy, sell, transfer or import handguns anywhere in Canada...** Other than using firearms for sport shooting and hunting, there is no reason anyone in Canada should need guns in their everyday lives. We need less gun violence.

We cannot let the gun debate become so polarized that nothing gets done. We cannot let that happen in our country. This is about freedom. People should be free to go to the supermarket, their school or their place of worship without fear....Gun violence is a complex problem, but at the end of the day, the math is really quite simple. The fewer the guns in our communities, the safer everyone will be.” (Prime Minister Trudeau, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

**Out Of Bounds (OOB)**, was privileged to stand in solidarity with the Coalition for Gun Control, Victims, Survivors and many other Advocates across Canada, to commend this historic announcement.

Primary victims and survivors, siblings, friends, colleagues within marginalized communities, can anticipate a steady change in gun activities, with reduction over time.

This Bill speaks volumes for children, youth, mothers, families who live with the life-long traumatic effects of gun violence. Communities living in continuous fear of impending, sudden attacks and/or deaths, can breathe a sigh of relief, with hope, at this momentous step in the right direction.

Additionally, this **“National Freeze”** forms a foundational platform for the many other layers of actions needed to create a comprehensive framework, to eradicate gun violence. Attention needs to be placed on the **“Social Determinants of Gun Violence,”** including poverty, racism, adequate housing and financial support for community agencies that provide immediate, primary, and post care to victims and survivors of gun violence.

Out Of Bounds continues to provide the continual support and services to survivors of gun violence trauma, and other forms of traumatic grief.

Rev. Sky Starr,  
Founder/Executive Director & CAO  
Out Of Bounds: Grief & Trauma Support