

April 25, Gun Control Survey

QG1. Based on whatever you know and on your own impressions, would you say, the current gun laws in Canada are too strict, not strict enough, or about right?

Too strict
Not strict enough
About right
Not sure/can't say

And in your opinion, here in Canada...

QG2. Should more be done to limit access to handguns?

Yes
No
Not sure/can't say

QG3. Should more be done to limit access to assault weapons?

Yes
No
Not sure/can't say

QG4. As you may know, there are laws and rules that regulate who is allowed to own guns, which types of guns are allowed to be owned, how they must be stored, etc. Overall, how well – if at all - would you say you know and understand the laws and regulations around owning and storing guns in Canada. Would you say you...

Know the laws and regulations very well
Know quite a bit
Don't know much about them
Know nothing about the laws and regulations

[Standalone Screen]

Here are some basics about gun ownership in Canada. We are going to show you some images of common guns and what category they fall under.

There are three types of gun classifications. Generally speaking, these are:

- **Non-restricted**, which include: long guns, ie: "regular" shotguns and rifles, and *some* military-style rifles and shotguns.

A non-restricted rifle



A non-restricted shotgun



- **Restricted**, which include: Most handguns, semi-automatic centre-fire rifles or shotguns with barrel lengths less than 470 mm (18.5 inches), Rifles or shotguns that can fire when their overall length is reduced by folding or telescoping to less than 660 mm (26 inches)

A restricted AR-15



A restricted 9mm handgun



- **Prohibited**, which include: most handguns that either have a short barrel or are .32 or .25 calibre (note, calibre refers to the inner diameter of the barrel), fully automatic weapons, guns with sawed-off barrels, and certain military rifles like the AK-47.

A prohibited AK-47



A prohibited .25 calibre handgun



All three of these classifications of guns can be purchased and owned legally (even "prohibited" ones) but the requirements for owning restricted and prohibited guns are much stricter.

QG5. There are generally three steps in order to acquire a **non-restricted** firearm in Canada. (Again, this mainly covers rifles and shot guns)

An applicant must complete the **Canadian Firearm Safety Course**, apply for a Possession Acquisition License (PAL) and agree to having the last five years of a potential gun owner's history investigated. There is also a 28-day mandatory waiting period.

When thinking about the process to legally possess a **non-restricted** gun in Canada, would you say it is....

- Too strict
- About right overall
- Not strict enough
- DK/not sure

QG6. In order to acquire a **restricted** firearm in Canada, a person must first do these same initial steps, but also take an extra course called the **Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course**. All restricted guns also need to be registered with the government, and transfer or sale of restricted firearms requires government approval, so that the government can track who owns these restricted weapons.

Canadians are not authorized to carry these weapons in public without special authorization, which is mostly reserved for people who have a job which requires this.

When thinking about the process to legally possess a **restricted** gun in Canada, would you say it is....

- Too strict
- About right overall
- Not strict enough

DK/not sure

QG7. There is a new proposed federal law that, if passed, would change the mandatory background checks on anyone applying for a Possession and Acquisition License (PAL) which, as noted, is one of the steps needed to own a gun in Canada.

As we mentioned, the current laws limit this background check period to five years. Under the proposed law, this five-year limit would be removed, and an applicant's entire history could be considered.

Do you support or oppose removing the five-year limit from the mandatory background checks for firearm licenses?

Strongly support

Support

Oppose

Strongly oppose

QG8. The proposed law also includes a number of other measures. Would you support or oppose each of the following proposals regarding retailers/sellers of guns...?

Businesses will have to keep records of all gun sales, as well as firearms license information of the buyer for at least 20 years

Anyone selling a non-restricted firearm would have to make sure the buyer has a valid firearms license

Strongly support

Support

Oppose

Strongly oppose

QG9. There has been some discussion about a full ban on handguns and assault weapons in Canada. In general, assault weapons are semi-automatic guns that hold a lot of ammunition and are designed for rapid fire.

A full ban would mean that private citizens are not allowed to purchase or possess these types of firearms for any reason. (Police and security professionals would still be able to access prohibited firearms.) Long-guns -- ie non-automatic rifles and shotguns -- used for hunting and recreation, would not be affected. Would you support or oppose Canada having a complete ban on civilian possession of...?

Handguns

Assault weapons

Strongly support

Support

Oppose

Strongly oppose

QG10. Suppose Canada did implement a ban on handguns and assault weapons. Which statement best reflects how you think such a ban should be applied?

It should only affect new sales. People who already have these guns should be able to keep them

It should affect all guns, even those already purchased. People who have illegal weapons should have to turn them in

Not sure/Can't say

QG11. Some governments implementing such a ban have offered 'buy-back' programs where residents can turn in guns for financial compensation. Would you support or oppose this type of program, knowing it would be funded by taxpayers?

Strongly support

Support

Oppose

Strongly oppose

Not sure/Can't say

QG12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

A ban on guns would make it more difficult for criminals to get their hands on them

Canada needs to spend more on mental health programs to stop gun violence

I worry about being the victim of gun violence

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not sure/can't say

QG13 Thinking about gun violence now, is this a serious problem in Canada, or something you think is overblown by politicians and the media?

A serious problem in Canada

Overblown by politicians and the media

QG14. And based on what you may have read, seen or heard, would you say that gun violence has been increasing, decreasing or staying the same in each of the following places over the past five years or so?

Your community

Your province

Canada overall

Increasing

Staying the same

Decreasing

QG15. Gun violence can take different shapes and forms. Thinking about your own community, which, if any, are of the greatest concern to you?

[Randomize]

[select up to two]:

Gang violence

Mass shootings

Accidental shootings

Suicide

Shootings during crimes – robberies, assaults etc.

[Anchor] Other specify

[Anchor, Exclusive] Not worried about gun violence in Canada

QG16. And now a few questions about your own **personal experience** with guns.

First, have you, yourself, ever fired a gun? Please note, we do not mean BB guns or pellet guns; we mean rifles, shotguns or handguns.

Yes, I have a fired a gun many times

Yes, I have fired a gun once or twice

No, I have never fired a gun

QG17. Have you ever personally owned a gun?

Yes, currently own a gun(s)

Have owned a gun(s) in the past but not currently

No, never owned a gun

QG18. And, even if you do not personally own a gun, do you have any friends or close family members who are gun owners?

Yes, someone else in my household owns a gun

Yes, a close friend or family member (outside of my household)

No

Not sure/can't say

QG19. How common do you believe gun ownership is in your own community, would you say it is...?

Very common, many people own guns

Fairly common

Not that common

Very uncommon, almost no one owns guns

Not sure/Can't say

[If yes current or past gun owner in QG17]

QG20. You mentioned that you own or have owned a gun. What is/was the primary purpose for your gun ownership?

Hunting

Animal control/nuisances

Recreational shooting

Personal safety

Collecting/hobby

Prefer not to say

Other: _____

QG21. And, broadly speaking, what type of gun(s) do you or did you own? Please select all that apply (remember, your individual answers are confidential):

Rifle

Shotgun

Handgun