



THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS RELEASES A STATEMENT REGARDING THE NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION ON GUN CONTROL

For Immediate Release

Ottawa, ON: April 3, 2019

On this National Day of Action, Canada's emergency physicians join our professional colleagues in calling for comprehensive legislation to end firearms violence in Canada.

We join trauma surgeons, family physicians, psychiatrists and pediatricians in calling for a ban on handguns and assault-style rifles.

The Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP) is just over 40 years old. With the birth of our specialty, our primary focus was on education and training to identify and treat life and limb-threatening emergencies. Over the ensuing decades, our role has expanded. Emergency physicians bear daily witness to failed social policies that result in increasing visits to our departments with substance abuse, alcoholism, poverty, marginalization and violence. We cannot ignore root causes.

Canada has a gun problem. The OECD ranks Canada as the fifth highest nation for gun deaths per capita. That Canadian emergency departments now routinely practice Active Shooter Protocols, in order to further protect patients and staff, is sad testament to the pervasiveness of firearms violence in our country.

The chilling effect of gangs and guns, and the fear of another mass shooting is on the front pages daily and always in the back of our minds. But the lethal consequences of firearms in Canada go far beyond that. Every day, Canada's emergency physicians deal with the consequences of suicide attempts, victims of intimate partner violence and unintentional pediatric injury.

Lessening access to firearms in society as a whole has proven to lessen the risk of firearm injury and death these high-risk groups.

It is time for our legislators to apply common sense, courage and wisdom to the issue of firearms in our country. It is

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CAEP Position Statement on Gun Control: https://caep.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/caep_position_statement_on_gun_control.pdf