

Andrew Scheer's plan for A Safer Canada

Too many families in Canada continue to live in fear of violent gang, gun, and drug-related violence.

Justin Trudeau talks a good game about fighting gun violence but it is clear he is not as advertised. His failure to keep illegal guns from crossing the border or to keep violent gang and gun criminals behind bars continues to leave too many innocent families at risk.

Justin Trudeau's plan – forcing people who already follow the law to follow more laws in the form of a firearms ban – will do nothing to tackle crime or gun violence.

As Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders has said:

“In recent years, we have seen that 80% of the firearms are coming in from the border.”

And:

“By and large, shootings have street gang connotations to them or are street gang related.”

Only Andrew Scheer and the Conservatives have a plan to fight gang violence and gun crime.

Not only will a Conservative government do more to keep your family safe from gang and gun crime, it will also take meaningful action to fight the addiction crisis by helping more people get the treatment they need for recovery, while cracking down on the despicable practice of human trafficking.

THE ISSUE

- Since 2015, homicides in Canada are up by 8% and incidents of violent crime are up by 7%.
- Last year Canada had the second highest gang homicide rate since the data began being collected in 2005.
- According to Peel Region police, 75% of illegal handguns seized are smuggled from the U.S., while Ottawa's police chief has also acknowledged that firearms smuggled from the U.S. are the source of the majority of local gun crime.
- Cases of human trafficking continue to rise in Canada going from 200 incidents in 2014 to a peak of 371 incidents in 2017

THE PLAN FOR A SAFER CANADA

A Conservative government will protect families from gang and gun violence and keep our streets safe. As Prime Minister, Andrew Scheer will:

- End the practice of granting automatic bail for gang members by extending reverse onus bail to all gang crime offences and to those who have previously been convicted of gang crime offences.

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- Revoke parole for gang members who return to associating with a gang after release.
- Identify known organized crime and gang organizations in the Criminal Code, similar to the manner in which terrorist organizations are currently identified. This will spare prosecutors from repeatedly having to establish that the gang in question is a known entity with criminal intent each time a gang member is on trial.
- Implement a minimum five year sentence for ordering or participating in violent criminal activity.
- Strengthen background checks for gun licenses by ensuring the RCMP conducts reference checks and follows up with references.
- Make possession of a smuggled firearm a criminal offence with a mandatory sentence of five years in prison.
- Keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous individuals by ensuring that anyone who provides a firearm to someone who is prohibited from owning them faces up to 14 years in prison.
- Create a CBSA firearms smuggling task force that will work with local law enforcement on both sides of the border to interdict smuggled guns.
- Implement better information sharing processes to ensure that different police forces can more easily cooperate with each other and with the RCMP to track illegal firearms.
- Deliver new funding to fight gangs, including a dedicated anti-gang fund, a police infrastructure grant program, and a youth gang prevention fund.

A Conservative government will protect families from the addiction crisis by:

- Revising the Canadian Drugs and Substance Strategy to focus on helping more Canadians recover from addiction.
- Invest in treatment and recovery centres, including recovery high schools and treatment centres. This will give those who suffer from addiction, their families, and those who have recovered, spaces where they can get the help they need and support each other.
- Launch a national education campaign to warn children, youth, and teenagers about the dangers of drug use while highlighting the benefits to young Canadians of staying drug free.

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- Partner with municipalities and school districts to help clean up used needles in public spaces.

A Conservative government will protect Canadians from human trafficking by:

- Strengthening human trafficking laws to remove the presence of coercion or fear as a requirement for conviction. A Conservative government will bring Canadian laws in line with the Palermo protocol by including trafficking based on manipulation, such as through a faux romantic relationship, as also being grounds for conviction.
- Ensure that convicted human traffickers receive consecutive sentences for each conviction.

THE CHOICE

- Justin Trudeau is not as advertised. He reduced sentences to as little as a fine for gang crime, impaired driving causing bodily harm, and using the date rape drug.
- An Andrew Scheer led Conservative government will do the hard work of getting illegal and smuggled firearms off our streets and keeping violent gang and gun criminals behind bars where they belong.
- On October 21, the choice is clear. You can choose Justin Trudeau's inaction and weak promises. Or you can choose Andrew Scheer's real plan to tackle crime and keep our streets safe.