

Bill C-233: Myths vs. Facts

Myth 1: Bill C-233 would decimate Canada's defence industry.

Fact: The bill *only* standardizes export controls. It does **not** restrict production, sales, or innovation. It simply applies the same rules to all Group 2 exports.

Myth 2: This would weaken Canada's role in NATO.

Fact: Almost every NATO member is part of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Aligning our controls strengthens cooperation with our allies—not the opposite.

Myth 3: This would delay critical Canadian support to Ukraine.

Fact: Military aid to Ukraine is sent through the Department of National Defence using a **streamlined process** unaffected by the bill. Bill C-233 focuses on exports to the **United States**, not Europe or Ukraine.

Myth 4: This harms the Canadian Armed Forces' access to equipment.

Fact: The bill concerns **exports**, not imports. It does **not** affect how the CAF buys or receives equipment.

Myth 5: Canada's export system already covers everything.

Fact: Most Canadian arms exports—those going to the US—are **not** subject to permits, oversight, or transparency. A system cannot be “world-leading” when most exports are exempt from it.

Myth 6: The bill adds burdens without improving assessments.

Fact: Canada is required under international law (the ATT) to assess **all** arms exports equally. Current exemptions for US-bound exports leave Canada in violation of these obligations.

Myth 7: Canada already applies exemptions more narrowly than other ATT countries.

Fact: Other ATT States Parties, like the UK, still apply oversight and report publicly even when using general licences. Canada does **neither** for most exports to the US.

Myth 8: Canada already controls a wider range of items than the ATT requires.

Fact: Controls on dual-use, nuclear, chemical, biological and missile technologies are unrelated to ATT obligations. They are separate systems and not relevant to Bill C-233.

Myth 9: Canada has been reporting on ATT items for decades.

Fact: The annual report excludes most US-bound exports because they require **no permits**. Canada's report provides only a partial picture of actual arms transfers.

Myth 10: The US may retaliate with new permit requirements.

Fact: The US already applies its own strict licensing rules (ITAR) to exports to Canada. Bill C-233 does not change this reality.

Myth 11: Canada has no "loophole."

Fact: Most conventional weapons exported to the US require **no permit at all**. That *is* the loophole.

Myth 12: Permit-free exports to the US are low-risk because our systems are similar.

Fact: Canada and the US do **not** have similar risk thresholds. Canada restricts transfers that the US routinely allows—including to end-users Canada has barred. Requiring permits prevents Canadian goods from reaching high-risk users via the US.

Myth 13: The ATT allows Canada to exempt the United States.

Fact: The ATT permits flexibility in structure—not in deciding which obligations to follow. Canada must regulate **all** exports consistently.

Why Bill C-233 Matters

- Brings Canada in line with NATO allies
- Closes a major transparency and oversight gap
- Ensures Canadian parts and components cannot be routed to high-risk destinations
- Strengthens Canada's compliance with international law
- Supports long-term efforts to diversify Canada's defence supply chain