

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament,  
70-71 Elizabeth II - 1 Charles III, 2021-2022-2023

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA

## BILL C-321

An Act to amend the Criminal Code (assaults against health care professionals and first responders)

FIRST READING, MARCH 9, 2023

Mr. DONNEY

441010

### SUMMARY

This enactment amends the *Criminal Code* to require a court to consider the fact that the victim of an assault is a health care professional or a first responder to be an aggravating circumstance for the purposes of sentencing.

Available on the House of Commons website at the following address:  
[www.ourcommons.ca](http://www.ourcommons.ca)

1st Session, 44th Parliament,  
70-71 Elizabeth II - 1 Charles III, 2021-2022-2023

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA

## BILL C-321

An Act to amend the Criminal Code (assaults against health care professionals and first responders)

### Preamble

Whereas there is an increasing number of incidents involving violence against health care professionals and first responders;

Whereas assaults on health care professionals and first responders have both a physical and a psychological impact;

And whereas health care professionals and first responders, who care for and protect others, deserve to feel protected and valued by the justice system;

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

S.S., L. C-66

### Criminal Code

1 The *Criminal Code* is amended by adding the following after section 269.01:

#### Aggravating circumstance — assault against health care professionals and first responders

269.02 When a court imposes a sentence for an offence referred to in paragraph 264.1(1)(a) or any of sections 266 to 269, it shall consider as an aggravating circumstance the fact that the victim of the offence was, at the time of the commission of the offence, a health care professional or a first responder engaged in the performance of their duty.

Bill C-321  
(First Reading)  
March 9, 2023

### Table of Contents

SUMMARY

1 Criminal Code