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The Beretta Storm, the rifle used by the perpetrator of the mass shooting at Montreal's Dawson College on September 12th, 2006, is an assault weapon that was specifically designed to evade the U.S.'s federal assault weapons ban that expired on September 13, 2004.

- The devastation wrought by the weapon in Montreal starkly demonstrates the urgent need for an effective federal assault weapons ban that covers guns such as the Storm. Such a ban is currently in place in California.
- The Beretta Storm (seen below) is aggressively marketed to law enforcement, the military, and civilians as meeting the new demands of "homeland security." Beretta promotes the gun with the slogan, "There's a Storm on the horizon."



- Introduced in 2003, the Storm represents a new breed of assault weapon, utilizing a compact and futuristic design that includes the FN Herstal PS 90 (seen below).



- Production figures on the Storm are not available. The number of the guns traced to crime in the United States cannot be determined because of Congressionally mandated restrictions on the release of crime-gun tracing data.

For more information on how the gun industry evaded the now-expired U.S. federal assault weapons ban, see the July 2004 VPC study *United States of Assault Weapons: Gunmakers Evading the Federal Assault Weapons Ban* (<http://www.vpc.org/studies/USofAW.htm>).