

# Poly Remember

Students and Graduates of  
Polytechnique for Gun Control



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## LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES RECOMMENDATIONS

(March 2019)

- 1) **Revise the measures banning large-capacity magazines in order to eliminate the loophole created by the previous government that allows magazines to surpass the 1991 5/10 limit.**

The 1991 law (Bill C-17) imposed a limit of 5 cartridges for long guns and 10 cartridges handguns. This was universally accepted and repeated by many official sources, including the firearms safety manual<sup>1</sup>. However, in March of 2011 under the previous Conservative government, the RCMP put forward a new interpretation of these restrictions: [a special bulletin](#) said the limits only apply to magazines inserted in firearms for which that magazine is designed, not other models that happen to accommodate them<sup>2</sup>. In other words, semi-automatic long gun X can be equipped with a magazine with more than five cartridges, provided that it was designed for gun Y, even if gun Y is prohibited in Canada, and even though the magazine contains 10 rounds or more. Thus, it is considered legal to use a magazine filled with 15 cartridges (5.56 caliber) designed for a "Beowulf" rifle (50 caliber), a prohibited weapon in Canada, in a semi-automatic rifle as long as that rifle is not a Beowulf, as confirmed the RCMP in response to a reporter's question.<sup>3</sup> Such a configuration is illegal in at least six U.S. states.


- 2) **Ban large capacity magazines that can be converted to their full capacity by means that are readily available to ordinary citizens.**

Large capacity magazines continue to be shipped to Canada, but in order to comply with the law they have a rivet installed that “[blocks the magazine from holding more than the legal limit. However, the actual magazine is still built to hold what it was originally designed to hold.](#)” These are commonly called "pinned magazines", for example a “5/30 pinned magazine” is a magazine originally designed for 30 rounds but where a rivet prevents more than 5 to be inserted. The RCMP found that it was fairly easy to convert a magazine to its full capacity.<sup>4</sup> In the cases of the tragedies in Moncton, at the Quebec Mosque and during the PQ election night celebrations, the perpetrators had modified their magazines so they could hold more than the legal limit of cartridges.

and para-military firearms are promoted, some of which remain in circulation among gun owners. Large capacity magazines are widely available for the military and para-military firearms, and although limited in capacity by law and generally reduced to five shots by a pin or similar modification, the original capacity is typically readily restorable. The materials required for improvised full automatic fire are ordinary everyday products.

Today in Canada, one can buy a “pinned” 5/100 dual drum magazine over the Internet.

**AR 15 Dual Drum Magazine**



**Price: \$249.99**

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**Brand: KCI**

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CALIBRE	CAPACITY	CONDITION
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100 round (5/100rds) twin drum magazine\* for your favorite .223 caliber AR rifle. Superior quality plastic construction. Clear cover allows round count at any time. Includes high quality Nylon carry case which is Molle compatible.

\*Certain high capacity magazines for the AR platform rifles may require some final fitting due to tolerance variances between producers and series.

### 3) Ban magazines that hold more than five bullets.

As the details of many mass shootings clearly demonstrate, there are colossal risks associated with large capacity magazines. Currently, magazines for restricted firearms can hold ten bullets. The Quebec Mosque killer was able to shoot 48 bullets in less than two minutes with [five 10-bullet clips for his Glock pistol](#). Magazine capacity for all guns should be reduced to five.

<sup>1</sup> **John Dixon**, Senior policy adviser to Kim Campbell, “I think it’s nuts, and I’m shocked to hear it,” said Dixon, who helped craft these laws 20-plus years ago. “What the hell is Parliament doing?”, “Packing heat: How gun law loopholes tripled Canada’s rifle magazine limits”, **Global News**, June 11, 2013.

<http://globalnews.ca/news/619165/packing-heat-how-gun-law-loopholes-tripled-canadas-rifle-magazine-limits/>; “That’s news to John Dixon, senior policy adviser on gun control in then-Justice Minister Kim Campbell’s office when the laws were being designed. “None of us dreamt of such a loophole. Period,” he says. “Nobody was thinking about anything like this.” “RCMP says magazine loophole was intended; law’s author disagrees”, **Global News**, Jan. 28, 2014. <http://globalnews.ca/news/1043355/rcmp-wrong-on-rifle-magazine-loopholes-back-story-campbell-advisor-argues/>

<sup>2</sup> “The maximum permitted capacity of a magazine is determined by the kind of firearm it is designed or manufactured for use in and not the kind of firearm it might actually be used in. As a consequence, the maximum permitted capacity remains the same regardless of which firearm it might be used in. Example: The Marlin model 45 (Camp Carbine) rifle chambered for 45 Auto caliber uses magazines designed and manufactured for the Colt 1911 handgun, therefore the seven round and eight round capacities are permitted”. **Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Maximum Permitted Magazine Capacity — Special Bulletin for Businesses No. 72**, 2011. <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/bulletins/bus-ent/20110323-72-eng.htm>

<sup>3</sup> “As for the second question, a spokesperson for the federal Justice Department confirmed to Global News that using a Beowulf magazine as a higher-capacity magazine for a lighter-calibre semi-automatic rifle is legal.”, **Global News**, June 11, 2013. <http://globalnews.ca/news/619165/packing-heat-how-gun-law-loopholes-tripled-canadas-rifle-magazine-limits/>

<sup>4</sup> **Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Feasibility and Practicality of Improvised Full Automatic Fire**, 2014. [http://polysesouvient.ca/Documents/RAPP\\_14\\_11\\_28\\_RCMP\\_AutomaticFire.pdf](http://polysesouvient.ca/Documents/RAPP_14_11_28_RCMP_AutomaticFire.pdf); **CBC, Rifles converted to automatic fire an increasing risk, RCMP internal report warns**, 2016. <http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/politics/rcmp-rifle-upgrades-semi-automatic-1.3400423>