

PolySeSouvient / PolyRemembers

Groupe des étudiants et diplômés de Polytechnique
pour le contrôle des armes /
Students and Graduates of Polytechnique for Gun Control



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News release

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Families and survivors still waiting for the Liberals to fulfill their election promises on gun control ... call on the public to send a message to Trudeau and Goodale

Montreal, December 2nd 2016 - On the eve of the 27th anniversary of the massacre at the **École Polytechnique**, graduates, survivors and families of victims who have fought for better gun control since the 1989 tragedy are still waiting for the **Trudeau government** to implement the legislative changes promised during the 2015 election campaign.

"Over a year ago we applauded Justin Trudeau's political courage as he promised to reverse much of the damage to our gun control law inflicted by the Conservatives over ten years of kowtowing to the gun lobby," said **Heidi Rathjen**, a graduate of the **École Polytechnique** and spokesperson for **PolyRemembers**. *"Today however, in the face of more than a year of delays, we can't help but question the government's determination to stand up to the gun lobby in order to better protect the public against gun related violence."*

Last June, following the massacre at an **Orlando** night club during which 49 people were killed and 53 others were injured by a man with an assault weapon, **Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale** said he was in the process of working hard *"to implement the proposals included in our platform"*. Similarly last September, on the 10th anniversary of the shooting at **Dawson College**, **Mr. Goodale** stated that the *"process is underway in developing the specific legislative proposals. ... I want to produce during the weeks ahead the full, specific package that we're talking about."*

Campaign in favour of strengthening law

One of the main themes of the events commemorating the anniversary of the tragedy at the **École Polytechnique**, during which fourteen innocent young women were gunned down for the sole reason that they were studying in a traditionally male field, is that *our duty to remember must also lead to concrete actions to fight violence against women*. Firearms are a determining factor in the context of domestic violence — by way of intimidation, control and homicide. Although gun control alone cannot prevent conjugal violence, it can reduce its deadly consequences. In fact, domestic violence is **12 times more likely to result in death when firearms are involved**.

Nathalie Provost, a graduate of Polytechnique who survived the 1989 massacre with four gunshot wounds, adds: *"Gun control is a key issue for women's safety as well as our communities. We need to strengthen our laws right now. That is why we are asking Canadians who support gun control to take a few minutes of their time in order to send a message to the Prime Minister and to the Minister of Public Safety, to ask them to act. It is time for them to put their words into action. "*

PolyRemembers invites the public to use and share the following link to send a message in favour of stronger gun control to the federal government:

<http://polysesouvient.ca/appui-controle-des-armes/call-on-trudeau-to-keep-gun-control-election-promises/>

Advocates for tougher gun control continue to condemn the long list of gaps and weaknesses in our current law that have resulted from the previous **Conservative** rule, including the [abolition of the long guns registry](#), the [elimination of the requirement](#) for a seller to verify the validity of a prospective buyer's possession permit (for unrestricted firearms), the [elimination of the obligation](#) to keep records of sales by gun stores (for unrestricted firearms), and the fact that [assault weapons](#) not only remain legal but are more easily accessible than before. These weapons include those used in mass shootings like **Orlando** ([Sig Sauer MCX](#), a restricted weapon in Canada), **Moncton** ([M305](#), unrestricted in Canada), **Sandy Hook** (Bushmaster, [XM-15 version restricted](#), other semi-automatic versions [non restricted](#)) and **Dawson** ([Beretta CX4 Storm](#), now even more accessible [in an unrestricted version](#)).

It is not surprising that the number of restricted weapons (typically handguns and assault weapons) in Canada [has doubled since 2004](#), with most of the increase occurring during the years when the **Conservatives** had a majority government. In addition, the latest homicide statistics from **Statistics Canada** (data for 2015) show a substantial [increase in the number of firearm-related homicides](#) for a second consecutive year, which is consistent with the reported 22% increase in rate for all violent firearms offences.

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Information:

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- Nathalie Provost : 514-796-0142
- Kathleen Dixon (mother of Meaghan Hennegan who was injured at Dawson) : 514-299-5160