

# Poly Remembers

## Students and Graduates of Polytechnique for Gun Control



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### PRESS RELEASE

## New Zealand's swift action on semi-automatic assault weapons highlights appalling lack of action by Trudeau government two years after Quebec Mosque massacre involving similar weapons

**81% of Canadians agree that private ownership of semi-automatic assault weapons for recreational purposes should not be legal in Canada**

<p><b>ARMALITE M-15 Defensive Carbine</b> <u>Legal in Canada</u></p>  <p>"Restricted" = need to be a member of gun club or a gun collector to own</p>	<p><b>Sig Sauer MCX</b> <u>Legal in Canada</u></p>  <p>"Restricted" = need to be a member of gun club or a gun collector to own (Used to kill 49 and injure 28 in an Orlando, Florida night club, June 12<sup>th</sup> 2016)</p>
<p><b>Kel-Tec RDB</b> <u>Legal in Canada</u></p>  <p>"Non restricted" = not registered, no one knows who owns them (Approved for sale in Canada by the RCMP in <u>September 2017</u>)</p>	<p><b>CZ Scorpion EVO</b> <u>Legal in Canada</u></p>  <p>"Restricted" = need to be a member of gun club or a gun collector to own (Approved for sale in Canada by the RCMP in <u>March 2017</u>)</p>

**Montreal, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019** – Survivors and victims of **Canada's** worst mass shootings are pointing to the swift action by the **New Zealand government** following the massacre in **Christchurch** in order to highlight the appalling lack of political courage exhibited so far by the **Liberal government** in response to the 2017 tragedy at the **Quebec Mosque**, which was committed with the same type of **legally available assault weapons** and military accessories as those used to kill 50 innocent New Zealanders.

Barely a week after the **Christchurch** tragedy, **Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern** **announced an imminent ban** on "all military-style semi-automatic weapons", "all assault rifles", "all high capacity magazines" and "all parts with the ability to convert any firearm into a military-style semi-automatic weapon". She also **issued an order** reclassifying semi-automatic weapons to immediately prevent their sale to most licence holders.

*“The government of New Zealand has swiftly and responsibly responded to the atrocities visited upon their Muslim community, by almost immediately committing to ban the type of weapons that facilitate such extreme violence. Yet here in Canada, 29 years after Polytechnique, twelve years after Dawson, four years after the murder of three Moncton RCMP officers and two years after our own massacre at a peaceful mosque in Quebec City, the Liberal are still dithering on what to do about legal assault weapons,”* says **Nathalie Provost**, a survivor of the massacre at **Polytechnique**. *“This, despite having run and won a majority government on the basis of an election promise to ‘take action to get handguns and assault weapons off our streets’!”*

**Boufeldja Benabdallah**, vice-president of the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec adds: *“What is the Trudeau government waiting for? Are 6 dead, 5 injured and 25 traumatized witnesses including children, in less than 2 minutes with a legally acquired weapon, not enough reason to act? How many more [summits](#), [consultations](#) and [internal debates](#) does this government need in order to take action on weapons of war available to ordinary Canadians?”*

*“The government is well aware of the growing phenomenon of [militia-type organizations in Canada](#) that use legal assault-type weapons [to carry out military exercises](#) in order to prepare for some delusional ‘war’ against their perceived enemies. This should be a national emergency. Yet all we get are delays, excuses and diversions. Trudeau should follow the example of Prime Minister Ardern and swiftly announce a ban on handguns, assault weapons and magazines that exceed 5 bullets.”*



*“It took Australia two weeks and New Zealand one week to do the right thing,”* adds **Polytechnique graduate Heidi Rathjen**, a witness of the 1989 tragedy. *“Yet the Trudeau government seems paralyzed with fear before the gun lobby, [clearly dreading the possibility of losing votes](#) from a minority of gun owners while ignoring the [vast majority of Canadians who support a ban on assault weapons](#). All this government has managed to do since the Quebec Mosque tragedy which happened under its watch is to offer excessively [timid legislative measures](#) (Bill C-71) while [avoiding to even take a stand](#) on the legal availability of military-style weapons, not to mention the [loopholes](#) that make it easy for killers to use high capacity magazines.”*

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