

# Poly Remembers

Students and Graduates of  
Polytechnique for gun control



www.polysesouvient.ca ❖ info@Polysesouvient.ca ❖ @polysesouvient ❖ 514-816-7818 ❖ 4529 rue Clark, no 102, Mtl, H2T 2T3

## NEWS RELEASE

### Victims' group points to new models of non-restricted assault weapons entering the Canadian market under Liberals

Statements from industry insiders confirm manufacturers design military-style weapons specifically to circumvent restricted category



**Montreal, May 31, 2019** – As **Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction Minister Bill Blair** continues his (now 9-months-long) **examination of a full ban on handguns and assault weapons in Canada**, survivors and victims of **Canada's** worst mass shootings have documented **at least eight new military-style semi-automatic assault weapons** that have recently been allowed to enter the Canadian market as “non-restricted” firearms. The non-restricted category historically consisted of hunting rifles and shotguns, yet in recent years manufacturers have produced assault-style weapons that fall into this category. These new non-restricted assault weapons add to the numerous “restricted” models that are routinely approved by the **RCMP** for sale in **Canada**. (Since 2012, non-restricted firearms are no longer federally registered and, as with all types of firearms, there is no limit on the number a licensed individual can acquire.)

Survivors and families of victims of mass shootings point out that this goes “totally” against the spirit of the **Trudeau government's** 2015 election promise **to get assault weapons off our streets**. (While the **Liberals'**

*Polysesouvient est un groupe de citoyens bénévoles, dont de nombreux témoins, survivants et familles des victimes du massacre du 6 décembre 1989, qui oeuvrent pour un meilleur contrôle des armes et dont les objectifs sont endossés par l'Association des Étudiants de Polytechnique, l'Association des étudiants aux cycles supérieurs de Polytechnique, le CA de l'Association des diplômés de Polytechnique, l'Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec, le Réseau des ingénieurs du Québec, l'École Polytechnique, l'École de technologie supérieure et plusieurs associations étudiantes de génie du Québec.*

A/S: [polysesouvient@gmail.com](mailto:polysesouvient@gmail.com); téléphone : 514-816-7818 ; @polysesouvient ; [www.polysesouvient.ca](http://www.polysesouvient.ca)

gun control legislation [Bill C-71](#) - passed in the **Senate** on May 27th - represents a [step in the right direction](#), it changes nothing with respect to legal access to assault weapons.)

*“Is this really happening? Is this really Canada?”* asks **Meaghan Hennegan**, who was shot with an assault weapon at **Dawson College** 13 years ago. *“It’s unbelievable to me that the Trudeau government not only allows the continued sale of existing models of assault weapons, but is actually approving the new non-restricted models! This goes totally against their election promise.”* In this case as well, the manufacturer of the restricted **Beretta CX4 Storm** used in the 2006 shooting modified its design in order to put a [non-restricted version](#) on the market around 2013, this despite the [coroner’s report](#) stating that the initial restricted version should have been prohibited had the spirit of 1995 law been applied.

Last Sunday, **Minister Blair** agreed that *“there are weapons that are designed solely to kill people ... and I feel very strongly that there’s no place for those weapons in Canadian society.”* This is encouraging, says **Heidi Rathjen**, graduate of **École Polytechnique** and coordinator of **Poly Remembers**: *“If the political will is there, the government can move quickly on various fronts, including before the upcoming elections.”* While proceeding to overhaul the classification system, it could for example enact Orders in Council to update the [lists of restricted & prohibited weapons and accessories](#) with new variants ([which is what the 1995 reform intended](#)), and revise [faulty interpretations](#) of the law regarding large capacity magazines instituted under the **Harper government**. *“Poll after poll after poll show that this is what Canadians want. The Liberal party has nothing to lose and everything to gain by standing up the gun lobby and respecting the will of the vast majority of Canadians who support a ban on assault weapons,”* she says.

It’s impossible to know the number of assault weapons in **Canada**, as they span prohibited, restricted and non-restricted categories, and only the first two require registration. What we do know is that there are [183,068 prohibited weapons](#) (mostly grandfathered assault weapons) and [907,362 restricted weapons](#) (handguns and assault weapons) in the hands of Canadians, in addition to non-restricted assault weapons.

*“That’s over a million guns that are designed to kill people, not animals,”* says **Boufeldja Benabdallah**, president of the **Centre culturel islamique de Québec**, who’s been lobbying the **Trudeau government** for tougher gun control on behalf of the widows and orphans of the 2017 **Quebec Mosque** tragedy. *“We have asked Prime Minister Trudeau to take action on gun control on numerous occasions, including last March after New Zealand Prime minister Jacinda Ardern announced a ban on assault weapons just days after the Christchurch shooting. The Quebec Mosque community has been calling for a ban on assault weapons, handguns and [military accessories](#) since our first trip to Ottawa in November 2017. It is regrettable that the Prime minister has failed to give us an answer and that his government has so far taken no action with respect to legal access to the very objects that make mass killings possible, including the one that took place in our own place of prayer on January 29th 2017.”*

- 30 -

Information:

**Heidi Rathjen**: 514 816-7818

**Boufeldja Benabdallah**: 418-454-7526

**Meaghan Hennegan**: [via email](#)

**In recent years, manufacturers designed guns to escape stricter regulations**  
**Quotes from industry insiders expose the zeal with which manufacturers thrive to design military-style weapons**  
**that circumvent the more restrictive (and likely profit-hindering) “restricted” classification,**  
**as well as the enthusiasm from many gun owners for such weapons**

**BC102:** According to [Calibre Magazine](#), Canadian gun and accessories manufacturer **Northeastern Arms** “quietly pursued a goal that many thought impossible: the development of a non-restricted AR10” (one of the weapons that were used to kill 58 people and injure 500 others during a 2017 **Las Vegas** country music festival). “What if the very first, theoretically non-restricted, AR10 design became the foundation of a whole new rifle? Would it not be non-restricted? And if a non-restricted semi-automatic rifle, retaining many of the features that make the AR series so popular, could be made... the achievement would be singular. ... The news that a non-restricted entry for the NEA102 semi-automatic rifle in .308 Winchester had made it into the RCMP’s Firearm Reference Table, the legal master list of the Canadian gun universe, exploded across the internet within hours of its publication. ... The classification is rock solid. After years of work and countless setbacks, the legal war was over.” This new non-restricted weapon is the **BC102**.

Another example is the **WK180**. Its Canadian distributor **Wolverine Supplies** (based in **Virden, Manitoba**) wrote earlier this year that the company worked hand-in-hand with manufacturer **Kodiak Defence** (based in **Windsor, Ontario**) to design the non-restricted military-style weapon: “Here at Wolverine Supplies, we are proud to announce the WK180-C non-restricted rifle. ... Most people claimed that this would be impossible to achieve but by keeping that goal in mind from the beginning, we are delighted to say we have achieved it ... Here at Wolverine Supplies we took our ideas to Kodiak Defence and working with their design team the result was the WK180-C.”

**CZ SCORPION:** Another approved assault weapon that entered the market around **March 2017** is the restricted **CZ Scorpion**, advertised as a “submachine gun with extremely friendly ergonomics”. A non-restricted version was later approved by the **RCMP** in late 2018 and seems to have recently hit the market. An online ad describes the latter as follows: “The Scorpion Carbine is a whole new animal ... [built] on the lauded submachinegun platform that first hit the US civilian market in pistol form in 2015”.



Ad for non-restricted version



Ad for restricted version

**SIG SAUER MPX:** (The **MXC** model was used to kill 49 and injure 28 in an **Orlando, Florida** night club on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016). The restricted version was approved under the **Liberals** around **March of 2017**, and “a non-restricted version is possible in the future ... in the planning stages at this stage of the game,” a **Sig Sauer distributor** said. According to the [Canadian Firearms Blog](#), “Functionally... the MPX is very similar to an AR15. The design includes a fully-closed and rotating bolt, short-stroke gas piston system, and even an AR15-style charging handle. The upper and lower receivers are also similar to that of the AR15 and even utilize the same style of takedown pins for disassembly.”

