

# PolySeSouvient / PolyRemembers

Étudiants et diplômés de Polytechnique pour le contrôle des armes  
Students and Graduates of Polytechnique for gun control

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## CCFR's INTEGRITY MARCH ➔ KEY POINTS ➔



- The CCFR's official position is that “no firearm should be prohibited” and all restrictions on magazine capacity should be eliminated. CCFR believes that self-defence is a legitimate purpose for owning a gun, including the concealed carrying of guns, and its leader recently promoted arming to protect property akin to the armed militia-types that are openly carrying assault weapons in the US.
- CCFR promotional material says the purpose of the Integrity March is to “to draw attention to our cause, motivate and unite gun owners and provoke a conversation about the injustice and ineffectiveness of gun bans” and to “demand integrity from our politicians and in the decisions they make” and “credible work on crime and violence”. Yet while they decry the Liberal's “mass gun ban and confiscation plan”, there is never any reference to the very specific type of gun that is been banned: semi-automatic civilian versions of military weapons commonly referred to as “assault weapons”.
- Professional polls consistently show 8 out of 10 Canadians support banning assault weapons: Ipsos (2020): 82%; Angus Reid (2020): 78%; Angus Reid (2019): 78%; H+K Strategies (2018): 83%; Environics (2018): 81%.
- Canadians elected a clear majority (216 out of 338 seats, or 64%) of members of parliament from parties in favour of tougher gun control, including banning assault weapons. The Liberal Party, the New Democratic Party, the Bloc Québécois and the Green Party all ran in the last election on the promise to ban assault weapons, and the Liberals' gun control promises were widely publicized.

- CCFR has presented the assault weapons ban as a “[hunting gun ban](#)” (adding that “[the current government wants to completely disarm Canadians](#)”). Many have [debunked](#) this misinformation including [minister Bill Blair](#) himself. The purpose of associating the assault weapon ban with hunting guns is likely aimed at scaring hunters into opposing the ban, as most gun owners are hunters and actually [support a ban on assault weapons](#). CCFR repeated this claim in response to [the latest reclassified models](#), which include the “[S5 Caliber 5.56 NATO Rifle](#)”, the “[BA-712](#)” and the “[C20 Semi-auto sniper rifle](#)”, arguing that “[military-style assault rifles don’t exist in Canada](#)” and that [the AR-15](#) is the “[exact same as my hunting rifles](#)”. Just because a specific model has been used for hunting does not make it a hunting rifle (by that logic, a bazooka that kills a deer can be called a hunting bazooka).
- The CCFR’s [talking points for participants](#) include “our political leaders should be focusing on crime ... I need the government to crack down on criminals,” reflecting [recent petition](#) which claims that “the majority of firearms used in violent crimes are obtained illegally and/or are smuggled into Canada”. This may be true in some places, [like Toronto](#), but many jurisdictions found that most crime guns are long guns (ex: [80% in Quebec](#) ; [75% in Edmonton](#)) and more and more crime guns are sourced within Canada (ex: [60% in BC](#)), with theft and straw purchases increasing.
- In any case, banning assault weapons [is about preventing mass shootings](#), given their [particular lethality](#) and military features that facilitate mass killings. Most mass shooters in Canada and the US were legal owners of legal assault weapons. The Rideau Hall gunman carried a [Chinese semi-auto version of M-14](#), a weapon that can pierce standard bullet-proof vests and was used to kill three RCMP officers in 2014, also by its legal owner. It is one of the recently prohibited weapons, though can remain in private hands at least until the end of the 2-year amnesty.
- The gun lobby refers to [Michelle Rempel’s petition](#) as “[the largest parliamentary petition in Canadian history](#)”, yet many petition have surpassed this one by far. A 1975 anti-abortion petition contained [more than one million signatures](#). The students of Polytechnique collected over half a million signatures on paper a petition (signed by hand and gathered through regular mail) over five months, starting days after the December 6th 1989 massacre up until April 9th 1990 [when they were presented to Justice Minister Kim Campbell](#) during a public event at the engineering school. This petition was [officially tabled in the House of Commons](#) by various MPs in March of 1991 (then with a total of 556,710 signatures). Rempel’s may be the largest \*electronic\* petition in Canadian history, but these were only started [five years ago, in 2015](#).
- The authority to prohibit or restrict firearms through Orders in Council has existed for decades (via article 117.15 of the Criminal Code). The gun lobby did not seem to mind — [indeed they applauded](#) — when Conservative Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney used Orders in Council to legalize the prohibited Swiss Arms and CZ-858 models via an initial amnesty followed by their permanent declassification on the eve of the 2015 election (making them restricted or non restricted), despite the fact that the RCMP feared these weapons could be converted to automatic mode [making them prohibited by law](#) as well as [a serious risk to public safety](#).
- The CCFR has warned participants to “save clothing with harsh messaging or questionable images for another time” and to “not to bring their own signs. ... We are trying to avoid people marching with signs with foul language and inappropriate messaging, to preserve the image of gun owners ... we are your friends, your colleagues and your neighbors. We are no different than anyone else.” This may be true for most gun owners, but one could argue, based on [their constant attacks](#) and smear campaigns against [victims of gun violence](#) and [emergency doctors](#), that CCFR leaders and many of their followers are not like most Canadians.