



**PolySeSouvient**  
**PolyRemembers**



**Quebec**  
**Mosque**



**Student Movement**  
**for Gun Control /**  
**Mouvement étudiant**  
**pour le contrôle des**  
**armes**

**NEWS RELEASE** ([Voir la version en français ici](#))

## New Poll: **7 out of 10 Canadians support Quebec Mosque's plea to limit gun magazines to five bullets**

**Quebec - Montreal, June 4th, 2020** – A [new survey](#) by **Environics Research** for **PolyRemembers** shows that a majority of Canadians (71%) support limiting the number of bullets in magazines to five rather than maintaining the current limits of five for hunting rifles and shotguns and 10 for handguns<sup>1</sup> (notwithstanding [an array of exceptions and exemptions](#)). Less than three in ten (29%) prefer maintaining the current limits.

Capping magazine capacity to five bullets has been a longstanding request of the **Quebec Mosque** community, the **student movement NOT\_HERE** and **PolyRemembers**. In the wake of the May 1st announcement during which the **Liberal government** banned some 1,500 models of assault weapons, **Public Safety Minister Bill Blair** said he also intends to bring forward [new controls on large-capacity magazines](#).

See the results of the poll here:

[http://polysesouvient.ca/Documents/POLL\\_20\\_05\\_11\\_to\\_14\\_Environics\\_Limit5\\_Magazines.pdf](http://polysesouvient.ca/Documents/POLL_20_05_11_to_14_Environics_Limit5_Magazines.pdf)

See an overview of the gaps and loopholes related to magazines here:

[http://polysesouvient.ca/Documents/DOCU\\_20\\_06\\_04\\_Flaws\\_Loopoles\\_LargeCapacityMags.pdf](http://polysesouvient.ca/Documents/DOCU_20_06_04_Flaws_Loopoles_LargeCapacityMags.pdf)

There is majority support for limiting magazine capacity to five bullets in both urban (72%) and rural (68%) areas, as well as in all provinces across the country, with support highest in **Quebec** (80%) and lowest in **Alberta** (57%). Almost half (48%) of those living in households with one or more firearms also want to see the number of bullets in magazines limited to five. (Polls [consistently show](#) that the majority of **Canadians** support stronger gun control, including a ban on assault weapons as well as handguns).

**Boufeldja Benabdallah, president and co-founder of the Grand Mosque of Quebec City** says, "*The author of the massacre in our place of prayer used [five 10-bullet magazines](#) to kill and injure all of*

<sup>1</sup> **Environics Research**, for PolyRemembers/PolySeSouvient. Online survey conducted May 11<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup> 2020 among a representative sample of 1511 Canadians aged 18 years and over. Results:

[http://polysesouvient.ca/Documents/POLL\\_20\\_05\\_11\\_to\\_14\\_Environics\\_Limit5\\_Magazines.pdf](http://polysesouvient.ca/Documents/POLL_20_05_11_to_14_Environics_Limit5_Magazines.pdf); Question: "A magazine is an ammunition storage and feeding device within or attached to a semi-automatic firearm. It functions by automatically moving a new cartridge into a firing position after each pull of the trigger, without the need to reload each time. Currently in Canada, magazine capacity is in general limited to five (5) bullets for hunting rifles and shotguns and ten (10) bullets for handguns. (Randomize) [ ] Some people / While others feel that the federal government should limit magazine capacity to a maximum of five (5) bullets for all privately owned firearms. [ ] Some people / While others feel that the federal government should continue to allow a maximum magazine capacity of five (5) bullets for privately owned hunting rifles and shotguns, and ten (10) bullets for privately owned handguns. Which view is closer to your own? 'The Federal government should limit magazine capacity to a maximum of five (5) bullets for all privately owned firearms'; 'The Federal government should continue to allow a maximum magazine capacity of five (5) bullets for privately owned hunting rifles and shotguns, and ten (10) bullets for privately owned handguns.'"

*the victims in less than two minutes. He also had in his possession two magazines that he had illegally modified to accept 29 bullets for the assault weapon he was also carrying. What would have been the death toll if his VZ58 had not jammed? My brother Aymen Derbali, who took seven bullets and who looked into the killer's eyes, believes that the shooter was determined to kill us all and that it was only because of a stroke of luck that even worse carnage was prevented, as he had 108 bullets on him."*

The shooters in the case of the 2014 **Moncton** murders of three **RCMP** officers as well as the 2012 **PQ** election night shooting also modified their "pinned" magazines to reach their maximum illegal limit.

*"That is why, in addition to banning military-style semi-automatic assault weapons, which are weapons of war, it is also important to ban military accessories like large-capacity magazines, which can be used in guns that are not considered assault weapons and are therefore legal. Limiting magazine capacity to five is a request that we have communicated to parliament [since our first visit to Ottawa](#) calling for stricter gun control, following the massacre at our mosque."*

**Heidi Rathjen, graduate of Polytechnique and coordinator of PolyRemembers** adds: *"The current regulations governing large-capacity magazines are riddled with exemptions and loopholes that render the measure laughable. It is all well and good to claim that magazines are limited to 5 or 10 bullets (depending on the type of weapon), but the reality is that gun dealers continue to sell magazines that exceed these limits or that can be modified to do so, and hundreds of thousands of illegal magazines remain in circulation, including some that hold more than 100 bullets."* (See [this overview for details](#)).

**Alice Perié, Vice-president for Public Affairs of the Quebec Confederation of Engineering Student Outreach and spokesperson for the student movement NOT\_HERE** adds: *"One of our major concerns has always been the availability of large-capacity magazines such as those that are 'pinned' at five but can be converted to their full capacity. We voiced our concern on this issue almost two years ago, emphasizing that magazine capacity is a crucial component of the destructive power of a gun during a mass shooting. This is why we believe all magazines should be limited to a maximum capacity of five bullets, without any possible alteration. Today we know that the majority of Canadians agree with us and we therefore hope this measure will be part of the upcoming legislation."*

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