

*\*See English statement below, as well as Conservative Party recent positions & actions on gun control*

## **Réaction à la déclaration de Erin O'Toole du 5 septembre et du 6 septembre 2021**

[5 septembre] « Si l'on écoute attentivement ce qu'a dit O'Toole aujourd'hui, il n'est pas exactement revenu sur son engagement antérieur d'abroger les interdictions de 2020. Oui, il a dit qu'il maintiendrait ces interdictions, mais il a également promis une révision du système global de la classification des armes à feu. Il n'est pas difficile de prédire comment une telle révision se solderait, puisqu'il a déclaré à plusieurs reprises que les fermiers, les chasseurs et les tireurs sportifs 'ont été injustement ciblés' par les prohibitions de 2020. »

« Il est évident que M. O'Toole s'est rendu compte qu'il ne peut pas tromper les Canadiens avec son double discours sur les armes d'assaut, alors il propose maintenant une position plus embrouillée qui paraît bien pour le grand public, mais qui peut clairement être interprétée comme un message codé pour les tireurs sportifs et les collectionneurs d'armes d'assaut. Le fait que le lobby des armes à feu ne se soit pas opposé à sa nouvelle position et qu'il dise à ses membres de rester calmes soutient cette interprétation. »

« En fait, l'idée qu'il veuille retirer la politique du dossier du contrôle des armes à feu est singulièrement ironique étant donné l'histoire d'amour entre le Parti conservateur et tous les principaux groupes pro-armes au Canada, sans oublier le rôle que leurs membres ont joué pour faire élire monsieur O'Toole à la tête du parti. »

[6 septembre] « Aujourd'hui Erin O'Toole a encore refusé de répondre une question concernant ses intentions en lien avec le contrôle des armes, cette fois-ci à l'égard du maintien ou de l'abrogation de la loi C-71. Pourtant, ses prises de position antérieures et sa plateforme électorale l'engagent clairement à annuler cette législation. »

— PolySeSouvient / PolyRemembers

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## **Reaction to Erin O'Toole's statements from September 5<sup>th</sup> and Septembre 6th 2021 :**

*"If one listens closely to what O'Toole said today, he didn't exactly reverse his earlier commitment to repeal the 2020 prohibitions. Yes, he said he would maintain those prohibitions, but he also promised a review of all firearms classification. It is not hard to predict how such a review would play out, as he has repeatedly stated that farmers, hunters and sport shooters 'have been unfairly caught up' in the Liberals' 2020 ban."*

*"It is obvious that Mr. O'Toole has finally realized that he can't fool Canadians with his confusing doublespeak on assault weapons, so now he's offering a more convoluted stance that sounds good to the general public, but which can clearly be construed as a dog whistle to sports shooters and collectors of assault weapons. The fact that the gun lobby has not opposed his new position and is telling their members to stay calm strongly supports this interpretation."*

*"The whole idea of him wanting to take politics out of the gun control file is highly ironic, given the love affair between the Conservative Party and every major gun lobby group in Canada, in addition to the role their members played in getting O'Toole elected party leader."*

[September 6] *"Today Erin O'Toole once again refused to answer a question about his intentions regarding gun control, this time with respect to the implementation or repeal of Bill C-71. Yet his previous positions as well as his election platform clearly commit to repealing this legislation."*

## Recent Conservative Party positions and actions on gun control

- Actions and position of Erin O’Toole as he was running for leadership in 2020:
  - **He supported removing all firearms violations that don't involve violence, repealing** (and have a full review of) **virtually every law passed since 1977**, including the one that banned machine guns, **protecting the "right" to enjoy guns**, and **owning guns for protection** (NFA leadership candidate survey).
  - **He clearly vowed to repeal C-71, C-21 and the May 2020 OICs prohibiting 1,500 models of assault weapons**, **saying** he is “deeply committed” to repealing the 2020 prohibitions, in that this was the very first commitment he made as leader of the Conservative Party.
  - **He proudly earned an “A” grade from both main gun lobby groups in Canada:** the **Canadian Coalition for Firearms Rights - CCFR** and the **National Firearms Association (NFA)**
  - **The Quebec gun group « Tous contre un register québécois » took credit for O’Tooles’s victory**, saying they signed up thousands of gun owners that helped **tip the scale** in his favour, adding that “for sure, we were promised certain things”.
  - **O’Toole’s campaign manager, Fred DeLorey, has acted as a lobbyist for the NFA.**
- **Conservative MPs often act as if they are part of the gun lobby, promoting petitions, soliciting support, producing pro-gun visuals (like [this](#), [this](#) and [this](#)), participating in gun lobby political events, in addition to having their own membership.**
- **Early on, the Conservative Party bought into the gun lobby’s strategy of disassociating the term “assault weapons” from civilian versions of military weapons that are commonly referred to as such here and around the world as they are the ones used in mass shootings, including launching a petition urging the House of Commons to ban the term.** This is **the very same tactic Erin O’Toole used** in his recent attempt to fool the public into believing that he would “maintain the assault weapon ban” – referring (in his mind) to the decades-long ban on fully automatic machine guns that has never been the subject of any debate.
- **The Conservative Party adopted in its 2016 Policy Declaration “the Simplified Classification System”, a recommendation drafted and proposed by the Canadian Shooting Sports Association (CSSA) and promoted by the CCFR that would essentially render all restricted firearms other than handguns non restricted, including the AR-15 and other similar semi-automatic military style weapons.**
- **Conservative MP Bob Zimmerman circulated a petition called on the government to downgrade the classification of the AR-15 to “non restricted”.**

