

Montréal, October 11, 2023

PolyseSouvient's response to the **extension** of the **amnesty related to weapons prohibited in May 2020:**

"The lack of progress to implement the buyback program, three and a half years after the initial prohibitions were announced, is extremely disconcerting.

The total number of impacted assault-style firearms is estimated to be **about 144,000**. This figure is an estimate as only some of the targeted firearms were previously restricted and therefore registered. Industry projections are much higher. Some estimate that these include **90,000 AR-15s** - the **weapon of choice** of mass shooters in the US.

The repeated delays of the launch of the promised mandatory buyback program does nothing to make Canadians safer from the risks associated with tens of thousands of fully functional assault-style weapons that remain in circulation and that can inflict massive injury and death if used for lethal purposes.

New Zealand implemented their buyback of existing assault weapons **within in six months** of the mass-shootings at two Islamic houses of worship in March of 2019 during which **51 people were fatally shot**.

Today's extension of the amnesty for two more years is a testament to the government's overall **mishandling** of the assault weapon file, which also includes **the failure** to include in Bill C-21 a comprehensive ban on military-style weapons not reasonably used for hunting. In fact, there's been *no tangible progress* related to this government's repeated promises since 2015 to get rid of assault weapons in Canada, something that 80% of Canadians including most gun owners **support**. Indeed, ten of thousands of prohibited firearms remain in the hands of their owners, hundreds of models are **arbitrarily exempted** and remain legal, and new models **continue** to enter the market.

The government can still deliver on their promise to Canadians to ban assault weapons before the next election. To do so, it needs to:

1. roll out the buyback without delay and complete it by October 2025,
2. ban current assault weapons by eliminating the arbitrary exemptions in the 2020 Order in Council,
3. eliminate the **loopholes and exemptions** that make a mockery of the rules aimed at banning large capacity magazines, and
4. implement a robust pre-authorization process before new models hit the Canadian market in order to prevent **misclassifications**.

It should be noted that the government has generally **committed to implementing** all of these measures."

- 30 -

Due to work-related commitments, no spokesperson is available at this time