

Montreal, April 16, 2024

PolySeSouvient Reacts to Federal Budget re Buyback Program for Assault Weapons Prohibited in May 2020:

PolySeSouvient is pleased to see that the federal government [has reiterated its commitment](#) to implement the long-awaited buyback program for firearm models prohibited in 2020, specifying that it is *“moving forward with a plan to buy back these assault weapons from retailers and Canadians to ensure they never fall into the hands of criminals.”*

(The budget also seeks to provide more funding to the **RCMP** to *“modernize the Canadian Firearms Program’s telephone and case management systems.”*)

“This tells us that the government remains determined to deliver on its promise to Canadians to remove these dangerous guns from circulation, like New Zealand and Australia did after they passed their own ban on assault-style weapons,” according to **PolySeSouvient**.

“Given the lack of tangible progress so far with respect to the buyback’s implementation – that is, four years after the initial prohibitions – such news is welcome and reassuring. It shows us that the Trudeau government, though late, is actively moving ahead with the program. This should reassure the majority of Canadians that support a total ban on military-style weapons.”

According to the government’s [webpage](#) dedicated to the program, the buyback will be rolled out in two phases: “Buyback for Businesses and Industry” and “Buyback for Individual Firearm Owners.” A year ago, the government [estimated](#) that there were roughly 11,000 assault-style firearms, including parts and components, withing the existing inventory of store owners.

The total number of impacted firearms is evaluated at [between 125 000 and 200 000](#) (in addition to 10 000 to 15 000 in commercial inventories), although this remains an estimate since many of the targeted firearms were previously non-restricted and therefore not registered at the time they were prohibited. Industry projections are much higher. Some pro-gun groups estimate that there are at least [90,000 AR-15s](#) in circulation.

To deliver on its promise to **Canadians** to [ban assault weapons](#) as well as [large-capacity magazines](#) before the next election, the **Liberal government**, needs to:

1. ban current assault weapons by eliminating the arbitrary exemptions in the 2020 Order in Council,
2. roll out the buyback and complete it by October 2025,
3. eliminate the [loopholes and exemptions](#) that make a mockery of the rules aimed prohibiting large capacity magazines, and
4. implement a robust pre-authorization process before new models hit the Canadian market in order to prevent [misclassifications](#).