



## Gun Control Groups Applaud Near-Complete Ban on Assault-Style Firearms and Enactment of Key Measures to Protect Women and Children

Advocates says Phase 2 of buyback needs to be launched as soon as possible, warn public all new measures could be reversed if a Conservative government is elected

*(Voir [version française ici](#))*

**MONTREAL, March 7, 2025:** Leading gun-control advocacy groups expressed their strong approval of today's announcement by the **federal government** of the near-complete ban on assault-style weapons and the enactment of a key measures in **Bill C-21** that remove guns owned by domestic abusers.

However, the groups also cautioned that the new measures could be reversed by a future government, notably the **Conservatives** whose leader, Pierre Poilievre, [has pledged](#) to repeal all new gun control measures introduced by the **Liberal government**. His pledge includes repealing the freeze on new handgun purchases as well as [the prohibitions](#) of assault-style weapons.

News of the prohibition of an additional 179 models of assault-style weapons, and the coming into force of several of the new measures in C-21 related to domestic violence was announced by the **Hon. Rachel Bhandari, Associate Minister of Public Safety** at a news conference attended by representatives of **Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns, Danforth Families for Safe Communities, the National Association of Women and the Law, the Quebec Mosque, the Polytechnique Student Association** and the **student movement NOT\_HERE**, in addition to **PolyRemembers**.

The gun control advocates highlighted that they were disappointed that the **Soviet SKS** was not included on the extended list of banned weapons. However, they were encouraged by a commitment from **Minister Bhandari** to undertake a review of the classification system so that guns designed for the battlefield and then marketed for hunting – such as the Soviet **SKS** model – can be thoroughly examined as soon as possible or, in the event of an imminent election, if and when the **Liberals** are re-elected to government.

The gun control advocates stressed the importance of launching **Phase 2** of the [buyback program](#) for prohibited assault weapons as soon as possible, that is, before a potential call for the next federal election – as this represents the final step to complete the promised ban on assault weapons.

## Quotes

*“Guns that can injure and kill many people in mere moments have no place in our society. A wide body of scientific literature confirms what we can observe from the epidemic of gun violence south of the border: strong laws restricting private access to assault weapons can protect our loved ones from harm. As physicians who have witnessed the devastating consequences of gun injury, Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns applauds the evidence-based measures announced today by the federal government.”*

- **Dr. Najma Ahmed, co-Chair, Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns**

*“Intimate partner threats and violence, suicides and mass shootings by troubled individuals are all part of the problem of gun crime and misuse. Minister Bendayan certainly seems to understand this, and her announcements today bring us one step closer to ensuring Canada has sane gun laws.”*

- **Dr Alan Drummond, Past President and spokesperson of the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians**

*“Today marks the first crucial step in the realization of the Liberal government’s promise to ban assault weapons, guns that are especially lethal and commonly used to commit mass murders. They have no useful place in our communities and that’s why [80 per cent of Canadians](#) want them prohibited. Today, almost all models of military style assault weapons are prohibited. The next crucial step is to remove them from circulation.*

Regarding the **SKS**: *“We are obviously disappointed that the Soviet SKS is not included in the expanded list. However, Minister Bendayan has given us hope by singling out this specific model and committing to addressing problematic firearms like the SKS in a future review of the classification system. We encourage all political parties to include in their respective platforms a promise to identify and implement a solution concerning the SKS that both protects public safety and respects Indigenous Peoples’ right to hunt.*



- **Nathalie Provost, Survivor of Ecole Polytechnique mass shooting and spokesperson, PolyRemembers**

*“The Quebec Mosque community has fought for years to ban weapons designed to facilitate crime and mass murder, namely handguns and assault weapons. We appreciate the compromise measure freezing handguns sales, but assault weapons pose too high a risk to be allowed to remain in circulation. Today we can applaud the near-complete prohibition of existing models of assault weapons, while we eagerly await the launch and completion of the buyback program. Indeed, we are calling on the Liberal government to act as quickly as possible in the coming weeks to remove as many as assault weapons as possible from circulation and, once an election is called, we will implore Canadians to cast their ballots for political parties that commit to finishing the buyback if it’s not completed.”*

- **Boufeldja Benabdallah, Cofounder and Spokesperson of the Quebec Islamic Cultural Centre**

*“The safety of all Canadians, including young people, should be paramount when it comes to gun laws, not the profits of gun manufacturers and retailers. Guns designed to kill humans should be completely banned and other firearms, with legitimate uses such as hunting, should be strictly controlled.”*

- **Gabriel Comby, VP External of the Polytechnique Student Association and spokesperson for the student movement NOT\_HERE**

## **Additional information:**

While the groups applaud today's announcements, the prorogation of **Parliament** has hindered the implementation of other key gun control measures, including the tabling or strengthening of regulations aimed at:

- Enacting ALL [key measures](#) contained in **Bill C-21** that protect women and children against gun-related intimate violence;
- **Banning large-capacity magazines**, as promised in the [Liberals' 2021 platform](#) and by the **former Public Safety Minister**;
- Strengthening [proposed rules](#) surrounding the introduction of new firearms on the market by ensuring that their inspection and classification is done by the **RCMP** and not the gun industry; and
- **Defining** the Olympic exemption related to the freeze on handgun purchases to prevent its exploitation in the future.

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