

**For immediate release**

## **PolyRemembers Welcomes Liberal Leader Mark Carney's Commitment to Complete Assault Weapon Buyback Program**

*MONTREAL, April 10, 2025: PolyRemembers / PolySeSouvient* issued the following statement in response to the [release today](#) of the **Liberal Party's** public safety election package by **Mr. Carney**, which includes the completion of the ongoing buyback program to remove prohibited assault weapons from circulation:

"Mark Carney's commitment to complete the buyback program for prohibited assault weapons, if the Liberal Party forms a new government, is great news for public safety.

Removing tens of thousands of fully functional prohibited assault weapons like the AR-15 will reduce the risk of mass shootings in cities, towns and rural communities. Most of the guns used in such tragedies are legally owned by the perpetrator. This was the case in the femicides at Ecole Polytechnique, as well as the mass shootings at the Quebec Mosque, Dawson College and [many other such tragedies](#) in Canada.

Opponents of gun control like gun manufacturers, gun importers, gun-rights groups and pro-gun politicians promote disinformation to protect the billion-dollar firearms market in Canada. They assert the ban on assault-style weapons and the buyback program are "[a gun grab](#)" aimed at "[banning hunting firearms](#)". In truth, hunters in Canada still have close to [20,000 legal models](#) of non-restricted rifles and shotguns to hunt with for food and recreation.

The prohibited models are those with "[tactical or military design with large capacity magazine ... unsuitable for civilian use and a serious threat to public safety](#)". Banning military-style assault weapons like these is one of the recommendations of the Nova Scotia Mass Casualty Commission, which [told](#) the federal government to "prohibit all semi-automatic handguns and all semi-automatic rifles and shotguns that discharge centre-fire ammunition and that are designed to accept detachable magazines with capacities of more than five rounds".

The buyback was a key election promise by the Liberal Party in both the [2019](#) and [2021](#) elections. It aims to remove from circulation thousands of prohibited weapons in exchange for fair compensation to businesses and individual owners. Phase 1 aimed at recovering commercial inventories was launched on December 5<sup>th</sup>, while Phase 2 aimed

at recovering prohibited weapons from individual owners had not been launched by the time the federal election was called.

In our election 2025 [questionnaire to all parties](#), we asked them to commit to completing the buyback within 12 months after election day. After today, we can say we have high expectations that this will finally be accomplished under a re-elected Liberal government, given the enormous delays the former government oversaw with respect to its eventual implementation – a process that began in May of 2020. In comparison, New Zealand took just six months to collect 56,000 assault weapons as part of its 2019 buyback program following the Christchurch mass shooting that left 51 dead.

The real winner today is public safety. Canadians now have at least one option in terms of voting for a party that will make sure they will be less at risk of becoming victim to extreme gun violence. A [majority](#) of Canadians want reasonable gun laws that will keep them safe from US gun culture and mass shootings. We hope other parties also commit to completing the buyback program as well.

The deadline for submitting the answers to PolyRemember's election questionnaire is tomorrow, Friday April 11<sup>th</sup>. We are still waiting to receive completed surveys from the Liberal Party, the NDP and the Conservative Party.”

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