



News Release

Statement on Federal Election: Election of Carney Liberal government is good news for safe gun laws in Canada

MONTREAL, April 30, 2025 – Statement of PolyRemembers:

“The election of a Liberal government is very good news for public safety and the [majority of Canadian](#) who support responsible and safe gun laws, including the existing bans on assault-style weapons and the sale of new handguns – measures that Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre had vowed to reverse if his party formed the new federal government.

The Liberal [election campaign platform](#) as well as its [answers to PolyRemembers’ election survey](#) contain clear and important commitments to implement measures aimed at reducing the risk of mass shootings, intimate partner gun violence (including femicides) and suicides, including pledges to:

- ➔ **complete the buyback program** to ensure that prohibited assault-style firearms are removed from our communities once and for all;
- ➔ **automatically revoke gun licences for individuals convicted of violent offences**, particularly those convicted of intimate partner violence offences, **and those subject to protection orders**;
- ➔ require the **RCMP to classify new firearm models entering the market** instead of the gun industry;
- ➔ **ensure that firearms policies uphold both public safety** and the constitutionally protected rights of Indigenous Peoples [[namely with respect to the SKS](#), the firearm [most often used](#) in mass shootings in Canada];
- ➔ **require the permanent alteration of large capacity magazines to ensure that they can never hold more than five rounds** again and **prohibit the sale and transfer of magazines capable of holding more** than the legally permitted number of rounds;
- ➔ **close potential loopholes if the Olympic handgun exemption** is being abused with respect to the freeze on new handgun purchases;
- ➔ **toughen oversight of firearms licensing** by bolstering the capacity of Provincial Chief Firearms Officers to fulfill their obligations;
- ➔ **increase capacity to track down guns** used in crimes.

We expect the process to fulfill these commitments will be expeditious, as most of these measures can be adopted and implemented through programs or regulations (as opposed to legislation, which required debate and votes in both parliamentary chambers) and as most of these commitments were

made several times over the last few years by previous Liberal Public Safety Ministers: Marco Mendicino (2023), Dominic LeBlanc (2023 and 2024) and Rachel Bendayan (2025).

PolyRemembers now calls on the new Carney government to deliver on these Liberal promises with a sense of urgency, as doing so will reduce gun violence and save lives. The wait for these measures has been long enough.

The most [recent data from Statistics Canada](#) shows shootings across the country more than doubled between 2018 and 2023, rising from 1,151 incidents to 2,323. While the problem of smuggled guns from the US is often cited by the gun lobby as the main gun problem in Canada, evidence shows [most guns](#) seized by police across Canada and [up to half of firearms](#) used in homicides were legally obtained in this country.

We were at a pivotal moment for safe gun control laws in Canada during this election. PolyRemembers is confident that all the critical measures in Bill C-21 will now be fully enacted and that the assault-weapon buyback program will be completed in a timely way. These measures will lower the risk of gun violence in homes, schools and communities across Canada.”

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