



For immediate release

Gun Control Advocates Warn Lack of Action by Carney Government to Prohibit Sale of SKS Military-Style Assault-Weapons Will Render Federal Buyback Program a Waste of Taxpayers' Money

Modern versions of this [powerful assault weapon](#) - used in fatal shootings of police officers and mass shootings - will flood the market to replace banned models, creating a taxpayer-funded bonanza for gun manufacturers



MONTREAL, September 23, 2025 – PolyRemembers / PolySeSouvient is warning that the federal government's buyback program for assault-style weapons is at risk of being a waste of taxpayers' money without a concrete and imminent plan to prohibit the sale and proliferation of the **Soviet-designed SKS**, a firearm designed for military use.

To ensure assault-style weapons are truly banned in Canada, the advocacy group composed of survivors, witnesses and families of victims of mass shootings is calling on the federal government to:

- ➡ Immediately ban new sales of the **SKS**
- ➡ Remove from circulation modern versions of the **SKS** that have the same firing power characteristics as banned assault weapons (for example, the **SK-X** is deemed by gun experts and enthusiasts as "[quasi-AR-15](#)").
- ➡ Implement a voluntary buyback of older models and grandfather those that remain in circulation (i.e.: make their registration mandatory and prohibit their transfer).
- ➡ Provide an exemption to Indigenous hunters who use the **SKS** firearm primarily for sustenance.

The warning and call for urgent action comes as the federal government is [set to launch Phase 2](#) of the buyback program aimed at recuperating and providing financial compensation for banned assault weapons in private hands, and as recent [poll findings](#) show crime and public safety is one of the top and fastest-rising issues for Canadians.

See this overview of the types and risks of the SKS:

https://polysesouvient.ca/Documents_2025/DOCU_25_02_03_SKS_Incidents_Versions.pdf

Quotes:

“As long as the SKS is not prohibited, Canada does not have a ban on assault weapons. New SKS models will flood the market and replace models that have been banned. Nothing will change in the long run, other than a waste of hundreds-of-millions of taxpayers’ dollars. Much of the buyback money will be injected into the gun industry, making manufacturers richer and the gun lobby stronger.

“The SKS is the weapon most often used in recent mass shootings and the killing of police officers in Canada. The Carney-led government’s failure to ban the SKS and remove it from circulation concurrently with the rollout of the buyback program would be a public safety failure.

“The continued sale of the SKS in Canada undermines the Prime Minister’s [core mission](#) to ‘keep Canadians safe’. As soon as the buyback is launched, gun owners can simply take the money they received from turning in a prohibited firearm and use it to purchase an SKS, which could have the same firepower characteristics as the weapon they just surrendered.

“The SKS is not just a model, it is a platform on which other versions are built. There are already many different versions, including some that are very similar to assault weapons that have been banned. A converter is currently being sold to convert an SKS into an AR-15: [“Your SKS now uses AR15 stocks, grips, sights/optics, and even 7.62x39 AR15 magazines. And now you have a semi-automatic quasi-AR15 that legally is still an SKS”](#).

“If the SKS is not banned, it will become the starting point for an array of new versions of assault weapons. Manufacturers and the Canadian market will adapt to this huge loophole to offer all kinds of new models of assault weapon to gun enthusiasts. We will find ourselves in the same situation as in the aftermath of the 1995 ‘bans’: eventually, new models will replace those that are prohibited and we will be back at square one.”

- **PolySeSouvient / PolyRemembers**

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