



**For immediate release**

## PolySeSouvient Responds to Launch of Pilot Project related to Phase 2 of Assault-Weapons Buyback

**MONTREAL, September 23, 2025:** Today's announcement is an important step to keep Canadians safe from gun violence.

**PolySeSouvient** is encouraged to see the **Carney**-led government move on its [election promise](#) to complete the buyback of assault-style weapons, with the launch of an initial pilot project in the **Maritimes** beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> related to **Phase Two** of the program, which is aimed at providing individual gun owners with fair compensation for their prohibited weapons. Officials say the nation-wide program will be launched "this Fall".

The full buyback program needs to be launched soon to ensure **Prime Minister Mark Carney's** promise to "[move quickly](#)" on the buyback is kept. The **Public Safety minister recently committed** to launching the program in September and twelve months is ample time to complete it. **PolySeSouvient** maintains that fair compensation should be provided to all owners of assault weapons that opt to surrender their guns for payment, as was the government's stated position for many years.

A [strong majority of Canadians](#) believe firearms designed for military use, to kill as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, have no place in our communities. They realize these weapons are most often used in mass shootings and do not want **US**-style gun culture in Canada. Most mass shooters are legal owners of the guns they used.

To ensure a true ban on assault-style weapons in Canada, the **Carney government** must also follow through on its [promise to deal with](#) the lethal **SKS**, the model most often used in recent years to [kill police officers and in mass shootings](#). This should be dealt with before financial compensation is provided to owners in order to prevent these taxpayer funds to be used to buy new assault weapons. The minister and his colleagues vowed to "reflect and work on" this controversial model. Following a prohibition of the **SKS**, thousands of models of firearms would still be legal for hunting and recreational use, in Canada.

**PolySeSouvient** calls on the government to:

- ➡ Immediately ban new sales of the **SKS**
- ➡ Include in the buyback 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 **SKS** models and grandfather those that remain in circulation (mandatory registration and prohibition on their transfer).
- ➡ Exempt Indigenous hunters who use the Soviet-designed **SKS** primarily for sustenance from these measures.
- ➡ Launch the full buyback by the end of October.
- ➡ Extend the amnesty for not more than a year.
- ➡ Fairly compensate all owners who surrender their prohibited weapons while proper incentives should be implemented to prevent attempts to sabotage the program (ex: with a critical mass of owners waiting until the last minute).

**Backgrounder: Overview of the types and risks of the SKS:**

[https://polysesouvient.ca/Documents\\_2025/DOCU\\_25\\_02\\_03\\_SKS\\_Incidents\\_Versions.pdf](https://polysesouvient.ca/Documents_2025/DOCU_25_02_03_SKS_Incidents_Versions.pdf)

-30-

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