PolySeSouvient Report Card:
The Carney Government's Record on Gun Control

An assessment for Canadians, May 2025 to November 2026

Commitment*	Description	Status	Grade
1) "Reinvigorate the implementation of an efficient gun-buyback program for assault-style firearms."	The buyback program for individuals was announced on January 17, 2026. It accepted declarations from January 19 to March 31. It was scheduled to wrap up in October 2026. **Half (67,000) of the 136,000 firearms the government budgeted to buy back were declared for collection and compensation**. Declarations are not surrenders, and **the number actually collected is not known.** Because of provincial legislation in Alberta and Saskatchewan, the program does not operate there, **leaving about 8,600 declared firearms uncollected**. The low participation could be a reflection of the failure to effectively counter widespread disinformation from the gun lobby, as well as provincial legal and political opposition tactics including obstructionist legislative action in Alberta and Saskatchewan.	**The buyback program has been implemented**. **However, only half of guns were declared for collection and compensation**. The government has not disclosed the actual number of firearms collected. In any case, with at most half the weapons collected, it is difficult to argue that the public safety objectives of the buyback have been met (i.e.: "support compliance with the law by individual owners" to "advance the collection of banned assault style firearms").	**D**
2) "Ensure that prohibited assault-style firearms are removed from our communities once and for all."	Last December 4th, the Public Safety Minister **referred the question of the classification of the SKS to "a comprehensive review of the firearms classification regime**… supported by an expanded advisory group, and will involve dedicated consultations with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities". **Almost a year later, the advisory group supporting the review has yet to hold its first meeting, and no timeline for the review has been released.** In June 2026, the Carney government **extended the amnesty for the fourth time, this time with no fixed end date: it now expires 90 days after the Supreme Court rules on a constitutional challenge by the gun lobby, which is expected in 2027.**	**The ban on assault weapons remains incomplete,** with **the SKS remaining legal to own or purchase**. This is the model most used in mass shootings and murders of police officers in recent years. At least half of the prohibited assault weapons in private hands were never declared to the buyback program. Extending the amnesty related to these weapons **prolongs the public safety risk posed by their continued availability**.	**F**

Commitment*	Description	Status	Grade
3) "We will automatically revoke gun licenses for individuals … subject to protection orders. ... we are committed to completing this work in a timely manner."	On December 4, 2025, the government committed to bringing forward final regulations "in Spring 2026" enabling the coming into force of this key measure in Bill C-21. That deadline has passed. The draft regulations, first published in March 2025, define a protection order as a civil order only, which excludes peace bonds and other criminal-court orders, contrary to what is required by the law. A second consultation was launched on February 3, 2026. **The draft regulations have not been strengthened or finalized, let alone implemented.**	The provision barring people subject to protection orders from holding a gun licence, **a key measure against intimate partner gun violence, is still not operational - almost three years after Bill C-21 received Royal Assent on December 15, 2023.**	**F**
4) "We will 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."	On December 4, 2025, the Public Safety Minister **referred the issue of over-capacity magazines to the open-ended classification review**, which would to "take a broad view of the legal framework for firearms, devices, **magazines** and ammunition to modernize the regime".	Unlike his predecessors, **the current Minister has *not reiterated* the long-standing Liberal commitment to address loopholes and exemptions in magazine regulations** that allow easy access to large-capacity magazines. Legally acquired modifiable magazines have been used by several mass shooters in Canada.	**F**
5) "Introduce legislation creating a pre-authorisation system that ensures that the classification of new firearm models entering the market is determined by the RCMP and not the gun industry."	The draft regulations, first published on December 28, 2024, do not fulfil the liberal promise (initially under Trudeau, reiterated by Carney himself during the 2025 election and reiterated again by the Minister on December 4, 2025) to ensure that no new models enter the Canadian market before the RCMP has determined their classification. Since then, **there has been no perceptible progress on this file.**	**New firearm models that have not been assessed by the RCMP continue to enter the market**, including potential assault weapons. Leaving the determination of the classification of new models to the gun industry **opens the door to more erroneous classifications which can be a threat to public safety**. It also causes immense frustration for businesses and gun owners when the RCMP retroactively changes an industry classification - *after* countless (and untraceable) models have been sold to Canadians.	**F**

OVERALL GRADE: **F**

PolySeSouvient's Comments to Canadians:

The Carney government began its term in office with every advantage on the gun control file: a work plan written in its own hand in the form of its campaign platform and election announcements. Most of the preparatory work for the various measures was already accomplished by the previous government. They also had the confidence of a majority of Canadians who support stronger gun control measures and were promised the job would be finished. The expectation wasn't to obtain new measures, but only to finalize those that were already promised and pending.

The buyback project, although late and only half complete, shows that the Carney government can deliver when it chooses to.

Unfortunately, most of the Carney government's commitments on gun control have not been delivered. The protection-order regulations, due in the spring, are still in a government filing cabinet. The new preauthorization process has not discernibly advanced since the tabling (by the previous Trudeau government) of defective draft regulations. The issues of the SKS and large-capacity magazines were handed to a global review that has yet to be formally launched (the expert panel has not had its first meeting, eleven months later). The deadline for turning in prohibited assault weapons has been pushed back again, this time with no date at all. When asked about outstanding work, the Carney government usually replies that the matter is "under review."

The Carney government, which has declared "keeping Canadians safe" as a core mission, must do better. There is still time to improve its record on gun control before the next reporting period. This will require strong leadership and a firm commitment to completing what was promised to Canadians. Their safety from more mass shootings and other gun violence depends on it.

***Sources for commitments:**
- 2025 Liberal platform
- April 10, 2025, Liberal campaign announcements
- Liberal Party's written answers to PolySeSouvient's election questionnaire
- More sources: PolySeSouvient compilation of 2025 Liberal commitments

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Endorsed by:

Angie's Angels; Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountabilities; Danforth Families for Safer Communities; Dawson Families for Gun Control; Doctors for Protection Against Guns; Polytechnique Student Association; Quebec Mosque; Student Movement NOT_HERE; PolySeSouvient/PolyRemembers