

Media statement

100 days after Tumbler Ridge: RCMP has a duty to disclose what guns were used in Canada's deadliest school shooting in a generation

MONTREAL, TORONTO, May 21, 2026 - One hundred days ago, an 18-year-old walked into **Tumbler Ridge Secondary School** with a long gun and a modified rifle and carried out the deadliest school shooting in a generation. Six children and a teacher were killed in the school library; the shooter's mother and 11-year-old half-brother were killed at home. Twenty-seven others were injured. Yet Canadians still cannot answer the most basic question a democracy is owed after a mass killing: what guns were used, and how did this young person come to hold them?

The following is a statement from PolySeSouvient and Danforth Families for Safe Communities:

"BC Premier David Eby [said last month](#) that the RCMP investigation has entered its 'final stages.' However, police have set no timeline for releasing their findings. Three months on, fundamental questions about the firearms remain unanswered.

Withholding this information prevents informed debate about Canada's gun control laws and how they are enforced. Canadians have a right to information that directly affects public safety — and to receive it without undue delay.

In response to questions from journalists, advocates and elected officials, the RCMP [has said](#) only that 'the information you are seeking is subject to an active investigation.' It has offered no explanation as to how disclosing the models and legal status of the firearms would compromise that investigation.

Canadians and their elected representatives remain in the dark about the weapons used to devastate a quiet BC community — information that could help prevent the next massacre and reveal urgent lessons about how Canada's gun laws are being applied on the ground.

Governments and investigators can act quickly — and have

- **Nova Scotia, 2020:** Less than two weeks after a gunman killed 22 people, the federal government prohibited more than 1,500 models and variants of assault-style firearms.
- **Bondi Beach, Australia, 2025:** Parliament was recalled after the December 14 mass shooting; five weeks later, new national gun reforms [passed](#), including a buyback program and stricter background checks.
- **LaGuardia, 2026:** Just two days after an Air Canada flight from Montreal collided with a fire truck — killing both pilots — the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board [publicly disclosed](#) that the fire truck lacked a transponder, allowing airports to act immediately. The NTSB did not wait for the publication of its full report, which can take up to two years.

'Investigation independence' is not unlimited

Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree has [confirmed](#) Canadians will not be briefed on the firearms until the RCMP investigation concludes. The principle of police independence from political interference is essential — but it is not absolute. The RCMP still has a duty to conduct investigations consistent with the government's overarching responsibility to keep Canadians safe.

The March 2023 [Mass Casualty Commission](#) report on the Nova Scotia shooting warned against precisely this kind of institutional posture, citing a mindset that 'undervalues community relationships' and a 'senior leadership's initial refusal to admit mistakes.'

The RCMP should immediately disclose the types of guns used at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School, along with basic facts about how the shooter obtained them. With public safety at stake, Canadians cannot be asked to wait indefinitely for information they need to hold their institutions — and their gun laws — to account.”

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