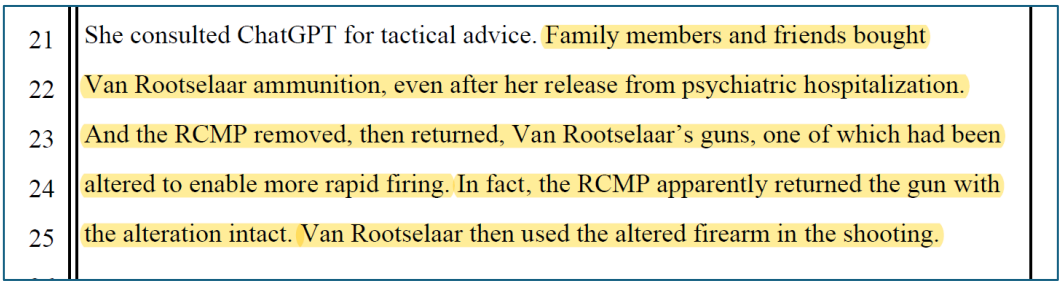
News release

Manufacturers openly selling adaptors and conversion-kits specifically designed to increase the SKS's magazine capacity

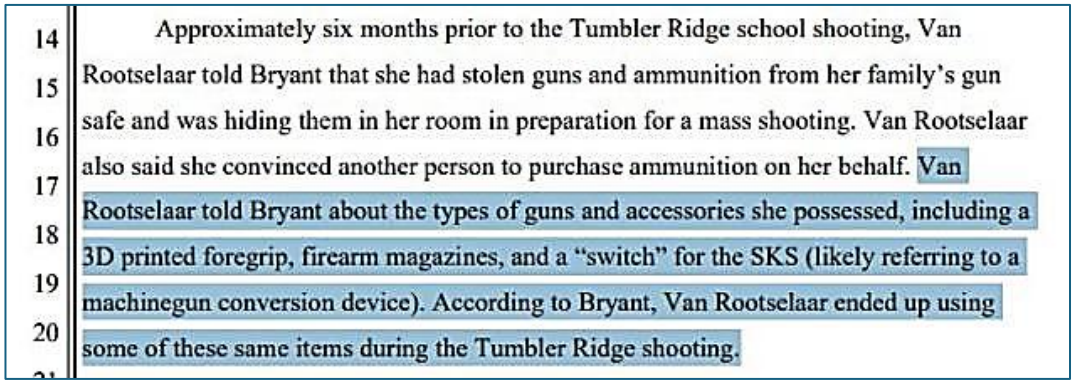
US court filing suggests RCMP returned gun that had been modified to enable more rapid firing with the alteration intact

Montreal, November 27, 2026 – New **US Court** filings suggest the **Tumbler Ridge** shooter altered one of her guns to "enable more rapid firing". According to the filing, "the RCMP apparently returned the gun with the alteration intact" and "Van Rootselaar then used the altered firearm in the shooting."



She consulted ChatGPT for tactical advice. Family members and friends bought Van Rootselaar ammunition, even after her release from psychiatric hospitalization. And the RCMP removed, then returned, Van Rootselaar's guns, one of which had been altered to enable more rapid firing. In fact, the RCMP apparently returned the gun with the alteration intact. Van Rootselaar then used the altered firearm in the shooting.

Initial details revealed that the shooter had access to an **SKS** – by all indications her favourite gun. An earlier **US Court** filing, released last month, refers to a conversation where she discussed a "switch" for the **SKS.** The **District Court said** this was "likely referring to a machine gun conversion device," and the alleged co-conspirator said it was potentially used at the school.



Approximately six months prior to the Tumbler Ridge school shooting, Van Rootselaar told Bryant that she had stolen guns and ammunition from her family's gun safe and was hiding them in her room in preparation for a mass shooting. Van Rootselaar also said she convinced another person to purchase ammunition on her behalf. Van Rootselaar told Bryant about the types of guns and accessories she possessed, including a 3D printed foregrip, firearm magazines, and a "switch" for the SKS (likely referring to a machinegun conversion device). According to Bryant, Van Rootselaar ended up using some of these same items during the Tumbler Ridge shooting.

It's important to note that the **RCMP** has only disclosed that "long gun and a rifle that had been modified" were seized at the school and that "the main firearm believed to be used in the mass shooting at the school has never been seized by the RCMP and its origin is unknown." This information contradicts the claims in the US filings, which have not been addressed nor validated by the **RCMP**.

Meanwhile, gun manufacturers and gun owners continue to circumvent the spirit and the letter of current magazine restrictions. A gamut of loopholes and exemptions in the magazine regulations that have been known for years allow easy access to large-capacity magazines. Moreover, the **SKS** remains legal and mostly non-restricted, despite it being the model most used in mass shootings and shootings of police officers in recent years, and despite the January 2025 expert recommendation to ban modern versions. That recommendation came from the expert advisory panel struck by the **Trudeau**

government to review the "gap list" of assault weapons not yet been prohibited, which specifically included the **SKS**.

SKS Adapters and Conversion Kits

Today, manufacturers are openly selling adapters designed to replace the **SKS**'s original fixed magazine system. These let the rifle accept detachable 10-round magazines instead of being limited to five rounds. The adapters exploit one of the loopholes that need closing. However, since their installation requires the modification of the rifle - and for some, the magazines - the loophole likely does not even apply, rendering the magazines illegal for the **SKS**.

Furthermore, "conversion kits," designed in 2024 and sold since 2025, adapt the **SKS** to accept **AR-15** accessories, including magazines. These devices replace the original **SKS** stock with a "replacement chassis", enabling the **SKS** to use **AR-15** style stocks, grips, and magazines. **PolySeSouvient** has been raising the alarm on these devices since at least February 2025.

See this this factsheet describing the SKS adapters and conversion kits, as well as other loopholes that increase SKS's magazine capacity.

Also see this general factsheet on the SKS, which highlight legal versions equipped with grenade launchers.

Other loopholes

The **Tumbler Ridge** perpetrator knew how magazines can make guns more deadly. The October **US Court** filings show her claiming "it'd be pretty hard to escape me with extended magazines on my vector." (The **Kriss Vector** – seen in her mother's gun cabinet – was prohibited in 2024. It will remain in circulation for at least another year as the government extended the amnesty for prohibited weapons for a fourth time last June.)

She also refers to "dual magazine pouches for more Glock mags." 'Dual magazines' consist of two magazines taped or clamped together so a shooter can swap them faster. They remain legal in Canada, another obvious flaw in the regulations. See this online ad for two combined 10-round magazines, resulting in quick access to 20 rounds.

Another loophole is "modifiable" magazines, which include a pin that blocks the insertion of more than five rounds in magazine designed for 20, 30, 50, even 100 rounds. Several Canadian mass shooters have removed the pin to enable the full illegal capacity of their semi-automatic weapons before committing their crimes.

Accessories that enable mass causalities

Large-capacity magazines allow a shooter to fire more bullets in less time, maximizing casualties. They are forbidden for hunting and are theoretically banned in Canada. However, Canadian regulations are riddled with loopholes and exemptions, and gun manufacturers work to circumvent even those.

Magazine capability has real-world impacts:

- During the 2011 Tucson shooting in the US, the attacker fired 30 bullets in 15 seconds thanks to a large-capacity magazine.

- In 2006, a loophole allowed the **Dawson College** mass shooter to use 10-round magazines with his **Beretta CX4 Storm**, even though magazines for semi-automatic centerfire long guns are theoretically limited to five rounds. In his 2008 report on the school shooting, **Coroner Dr. Jacques Ramsay** identified the magazine loophole that allows pistol magazines that fit into long guns as a factor in the scale of the tragedy. He wrote that, had the gunman been limited to five rounds, there would have been fewer victims. That finding should have led to swift action. Instead, two decades later, these loopholes remain open. Ramsay is currently the **Liberal MP** for La Prairie-Atateken and **Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety**.

Government inaction

The government has known for decades that flaws in the magazine restrictions are costing lives. The **Trudeau government** promised to ban modifiable magazines as early as 2021 and **Public Safety Minister Dominic Leblanc** promised to close all the other loopholes. The **Carney government** reiterated the commitment to ban modifiable magazines in the last election. However, eight months later, on December 4, 2025, **Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree** refrained from reiterating that commitment. He relegated the issue of magazines to "a comprehensive review" of the firearm classification system. Yet ten months later, on Octobre 21st, the "expanded advisory group" tasked with supporting the review had yet to hold its first meeting.

Unacceptable delay that is costing lives

Survivors of gun violence, families of victims of mass shootings and the many Canadians who support banning assault weapons and large capacity magazines shouldn't have to keep waiting for promises made repeatedly in elections, including by **Prime Minister Carney**. These new conversion kits and adapters for the **SKS**, in addition to all the other loopholes and exemptions, represent an urgent threat to public safety and demand action now.

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