



Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

Supporting police professionals through innovative and inclusive police leadership to advance the safety and security of all Canadians.

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Canada's voluntary assault-style firearms compensation program

Canada's police leaders are committed to public safety and to reducing firearm-related harm in communities across the country. When the federal government first proposed a national buy-back program and amnesty period for assault-style firearms, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) emphasized the need for a clear, consistent, and appropriately funded framework for the collection, deactivation, and disposal of these prohibited firearms.

While some police services have prior experience administering amnesty programs, the voluntary Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program (ASFCP) was widely viewed as primarily an administrative rather than a core policing function. While police officers possess the expertise to safely collect and handle firearms, some police leaders expressed concerns about the significant operational burden the program could place on police services, particularly in jurisdictions with a high concentration of assault-style firearms, at a time when police resources are already stretched by increasing calls for service and complex public safety demands.

Policing is a provincial/territorial responsibility, funded by provincial, territorial and municipal governments. Not all provinces and territories have expressed support for the ASFCP or for the involvement of police services in its delivery, further underscoring the lack of consensus and limited support for police participation. As a result, there has been no national consensus among provinces/territories or police services regarding the role of police personnel in supporting the program.

In September 2025, Public Safety Canada indicated that federal funding is being made available through contribution agreements to support firearm collection activities, including the use of retired or off-duty officers, civilian staff, and alternative operational resources. To the CACP's knowledge, these arrangements are being implemented with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and local police services of jurisdiction, as required. Additionally, to reduce the overall burden on the police, mobile collection units are being planned across the country that will perform the collection and destruction functions.

Police leaders continue to emphasize that while the ASFCP may help reduce the availability of domestically sourced prohibited firearms, the program may not align with current policing priorities, including the illegal importation, trafficking, smuggling, and criminal use of firearms. For this reason, police services remain focused on disrupting criminal networks and preventing crime by deploying limited resources where they will have the greatest and most immediate impact on public safety.

As the federal government has clearly stated, “participation to obtain compensation through the ASFCP is voluntary, compliance with the law is not. All owners who do not participate in the program must dispose of or permanently deactivate their prohibited firearms and devices before the amnesty period ends on October 30, 2026.” As Canada’s law enforcement leaders, the CACP reminds Canadians in the unlawful possession of what is defined as a prohibited firearm in the *Criminal Code*, that they may be investigated and be held criminally liable for being in the illegal possession of assault-style firearms.

The ASFCP provides an opportunity for individuals to receive compensation for their prohibited assault-style firearms while taking steps to come into compliance with the law. On January 19, 2026, the Public Safety Canada portal opened for individuals who wish to declare their firearms for possible compensation. To determine the approach being undertaken in their respective community, Canadians are invited to consult the [Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program web page](#) and to direct any questions they may have via the Public Safety Canada Help Centre at 1-833-759-4551.