



Mr. Dennis Young
1330 Ravenswood Drive SE
Airdrie, Alberta T4A 0P8

MAR 26 2015

Dear Mr. Young:

RE: Recommendations – Firearms Interest Police Data Bank

I am responding on behalf of Commissioner Therrien to your letter which was received in our Office on March 17, 2015 regarding the Firearms Interest Police Data Bank. In your letter, you requested an update to the recommendation that was made in 2001 that “Mechanisms should be in place to ensure that individuals have easy access to FIP records and the ability to correct or place a notation to file relating to disputed FIP entries”. You also indicated that in 2003, then Commissioner Radwanski noted that this recommendation had yet to be implemented.

A search of this file was undertaken over the past week, as well, employees who had knowledge of this file were also consulted. The records that we had on this issue were disposed of as per our record keeping practice and the employees consulted were not aware of any progress made with respect to this recommendation.

Since 2009, it has been the practice of the Audit and Review Branch of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada to follow up with institutions approximately two years after an audit report was completed to see what was done to address a recommendation. A summary of the results are then made public in our annual reports. This practice was unfortunately not in place at the time that this recommendation was made. You may wish to follow-up with the RCMP and enquire what progress has been made in this regard.

Federal departments are not required to accept or implement our recommendations as our Office does not have order-making powers. However, we have noted that in most cases they in fact are accepted and implemented.

You also mentioned the risk that there may be errors in the database or that individuals may have been entered by mistake. The *Privacy Act* allows individuals access to information held by federal institutions and the right to correct this information. If an individual has knowledge that these rights are not being respected, that person may file a complaint with our office. The process for doing so is described here https://www.priv.gc.ca/complaint-plainte/index_e.asp.

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In 2009-2010, our Office undertook a risk assessment to help determine audit priority for the next five years. We will be undertaking a significant updating of this exercise later this year and the issues raised in your letter will be sent to the team for consideration.

Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention.

Yours truly,



Steven Morgan, P.Eng.
Directeur général / Director General
Vérification et revue / Audit & Review