Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence A-2016-04659

JUN 0 5 2017

Mr. Dennis R. YOUNG 1330 Ravenswood Drive South East Airdrie, Alberta T4A 0P8

Dear Mr. YOUNG:

This is in response to your request under the *Access to Information Act*, which was received by this office on May 31, 2016, to obtain:

Reference is being made to the following news story:
Over 500 firearms and 3000 rounds of ammunition turned over to Surrey RCMP RCMP in Safe City project
Inspector Chris McBryan, officer in charge of NWEST in Western Canada.
For the period from January 1, 2015 to present provide records, studies, reports, statistics, analyses, evaluations presentations, communications, etcetera proving the validity of the RCMP statement. It is a fact that the majority of gun related crimes in our communities are committed with guns that are domestically sourced.

Based on the information provided, a search for records was conducted in Ottawa, ON. Enclosed is a copy of all the information to which you are entitled. Please note that some of the information has been exempted pursuant to subsection 16(2), paragraphs 13(1)(a), 13(1)(c), 13(1)(d), 20(1)(b), 16(1)(b), 16(1)(c), 16(2)(a), 16(2)(b), and subparagraph(s) 16(1)(a)(i), 16(1)(a

Please be advised that you are entitled to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner concerning the processing of your request within 60 days after the day that you become aware that grounds for a complaint exist. In the event you decide to avail yourself of this right, your notice of complaint should be addressed to:

Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada 30 Victoria Street, 7th Floor Gatineau, Quebec K1A 1H3



Should you wish to discuss this matter further, you may contact Cpl. Sandra Weppler at 613-843-6901 or sandra.weppler@rcmp-grc.gc.ca. Please quote the file number appearing on this letter.

Regards,

Insp. Richard Haye

Access to Information and Privacy Branch

Mailstop #61 73 Leikin Drive

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R2



CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM PROGRAMME CANADIEN DES ARMES À FEU

Law Enforcement Only/Protected "A"

Firearms Investigative & Enforcement Services Directorate (FIESD)

FIREARMS OPERATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT UNIT (FOES)

2014 Annual Report Western Region





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The FIESD Western Region consists of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and all three territories. The purpose of the FOES Annual Report is to familiarize the reader with firearm seizure statistics and the apparent trends in the Western Region for the 2014 calendar year.

Police seized 2,215 firearms in 2014, 108 fewer than the 2,323 guns seized in 2013, and 394 fewer than in 2012. Despite this year-over-year reduction, however, the troubling fact remains that more than half remain crime guns – 51% in 2014, compared to 59% in 2013 and 49% the year before. Although British Columbia once again seized by far the greatest number of firearms (totalling 39% of all seizures for the region), it was Manitoba that saw the greatest meaningful percentage of seizures deemed crime guns, at 78%. Although the Territories Despite seizing the greatest number of firearms, Alberta and BC had the lowest crime gun percentages, at 43% and 46%, respectively. In 2013, Saskatchewan had been the only province in which non-crime guns outnumbered crime guns; in 2014, 52% of their seizures were deemed crime guns.

Despite the relatively low number of seizures in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan, both provinces outstripped Alberta and BC in terms of crime gun seizures per capita. Although Yukon Territory seized the greatest number of crime guns per capita, this amounted to just 17 firearms, and is likely too small a number to be considered significant.

Once again, the majority of seized firearms were classified as non-restricted. Although the overall percentage of non-restricted seizures and their use as crime guns remained relatively static over 2013, these figures do not account for the many sawed-off rifles and shotguns that were seized, and which are classified as prohibited for the purposes of this report. Prohibited seizures increased to 19% in 2014, from 17% in 2013. Where crime guns are concerned, the percentage of prohibited firearms rose from 23% to 25%, while the percentage of restricted firearms decreased from 20% to 19%.

As seen in previous years, crime gun seizures occurred predominantly in major cities, with Greater Vancouver, Calgary, Saskatoon, and Winnipeg figuring prominently. Although there were numerous circumstances for seizure, crime guns were most often seized as the result of CDSA or S.487 search warrants. Contrary to popular perception, the majority of crime guns – restricted, non-restricted and otherwise – were domestically sourced rather than smuggled.

Although FIESD continues to encourage full reporting of all firearm seizures, and stresses the timeliness and accuracy of the data provided, there are an unknown number of incidents and seizures that go unreported and these seizures are necessarily absent from the figures cited in this report.

¹ Although the Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory deemed 100% and 85% of seizures crime guns, the actual number of seized firearms is too small for these figures to be meaningful.

INTRODUCTION

Firearms issues were front-and-centre in the Canadian psyche in 2014, as the tragic murder of 5 RCMP officers in Moncton and a soldier in Ottawa highlighted in a very public way the ease with which dangerous or mentally unstable individuals may acquire and use non-restricted firearms. At the same time, the various partners in FIESD were faced with a number of challenges as they tried to balance their investigative roles with myriad regulatory and legislative changes. Issues ranging from trafficking, to public safety seizures, to reclassification of certain firearms came to the fore and earned the RCMP intense media scrutiny. The lawful seizure of unattended firearms from flooded homes in High River, Alberta in 2013 led to harsh criticism from media outlets and gun advocacy groups, and has since prompted a public inquiry and recommendations for the creation of "guidelines" to be followed in future disaster situations.

It was in recent memory that the picture of gun crime and firearm ownership in Western Canada differed considerably by region.

Although the greatest percentage of crime guns in all provinces continued to be non-restricted rifles and shotguns, Manitoba in particular has seen significant reductions in the use of restricted firearms relative to long guns, representing just 7% of all crime guns, while non-restricted and prohibited seizures represent 65% and 25%, respectively. This phenomenon may be the result of the ubiquity of long guns in rural areas,

In BC and Alberta,		resulted in the arrest
of traffickers on both sides of the Canad	la-US border.	resulted in the arrest
-		
	recent statistical reports indicate the	hat the perceived extent
of cross-border trafficking may be exagg	gerated.	
In BC, NWEST investig	gators continued to have success	
	C	lata haya haya
as the responsible individua	als have been arrested and charged,	late have been

most Canadians are familiar with the risk of identity theft and take
precautions with their financial information,
Despite a challenging regulatory environment, firearms Western Region firearms seizures declined
markedly in 2014.
More importantly, the prediction in the 2012 FOES report that investigators would begin to
see an increase in non-restricted crime guns appears to have been realized, despite the overall decline in
seizures. That 47% (59% in 2013) of all seized firearms and 52% (47% in 2013) of crime guns were non-
restricted, and 79% were unregistered
it is apparent that Canadian firearms laws are
regulating a rapidly changing environment,

Seizures by Population and Year

BC, Saskatchewan and Nunavut saw reductions in firearms seizures in 2014, while seizures in Alberta and Yukon rose dramatically. Seizures in the Territories are difficult to interpret, however, owing to the small sample size.

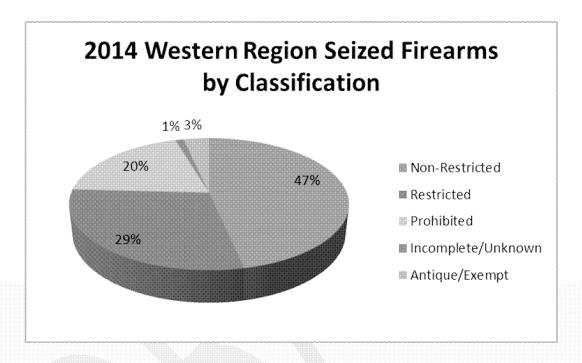
Western Region Seized Firearms by Province and by Year						
	2013	2014	Increase/Decrease			
Alberta	506	696	38%			
British Columbia	1,018	860	-16%			
Saskatchewan	464	295	-36%			
Manitoba	328	330	1%			
Nunavut	3	0	-100%			
Northwest Territory	.0	14	N/A			
Yukon	4	20	400%			
Total	2,323	2,215	-5%			

Population data from the 2014 Statistics Canada census provides added value to the numbers cited above, indicating that although Saskatchewan and Manitoba again seized considerably fewer firearms than Alberta or BC, they actually seized far more firearms per resident. The Yukon unexpectedly seized the greatest number of firearms per resident, although this is primarily because of the territory's extremely small population – just 20 firearms were seized and reported, and are believed to mostly be CBSA seizures from Americans coming through the border from Alaska. Overall, the Western Region seized 28% of the country's firearms – down from 33% in 2012 – making the Western Region's seizures proportionately low compared to its percentage of the national population.

Western Region Seized Firearms by Province and Population, 2014						
	Firearms Seized	2014 Population	Persons per Firearm			
Yukon	20	36,758	1,838			
Saskatchewan	295	1,129,899	3,830			
Manitoba	330	1,286,323	3,898			
British Columbia	860	4,657,947	5,416			
Alberta	696	4,145,992	5 <i>,</i> 957			
Total	2,215	11,256,919	5,082			

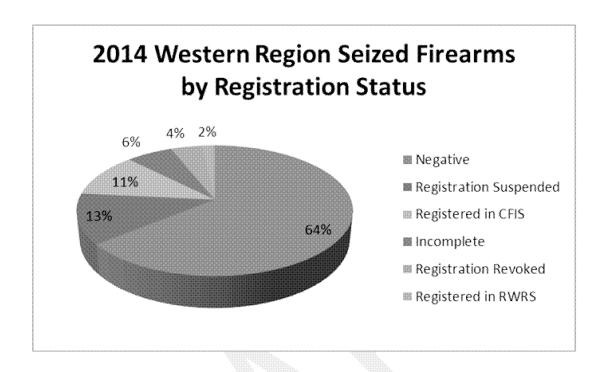
Classification and Registration Status

The Canadian Firearms Information System (CFIS) is the current database containing all registered firearms in Canada, and is the primary tool used to verify the legal status of a firearm in Canada. The Restricted Weapon Registration System (RWRS) is a defunct registration database, which was used in Canada prior to 1998 to register restricted firearms. Although firearms previously registered in RWRS should also now be registered in CFIS,



The greatest percentage of firearms seized in 2014 (47%) were non-restricted at the time of seizure, although this represents a decrease from 57% in 2013. The percentage of prohibited firearms rose slightly to 20%, while the percentage of restricted seizures increased from 20% to 29%.

2014 Western Region Seized Firearms by Classification					
	Number Seized	Percent of Total			
Non-Restricted	1,032	62%			
Restricted	647	39%			
Prohibited	434	26%			
Incomplete/Unknown	25	2%			
Antique/Exempt	77	5%			
Total	2,215	100%			



The number of seized firearms found in the Canadian Firearms Information System (CFIS) continued to decline in 2014, to just 11%, from 13% the year before. The number of firearms found in the obsolete Restricted Weapons Registration System (RWRS) also declined sharply to 2%, from 4% in 2013 and 13% in 2012. This figure should continue to decline, as firearms registered in RWRS continue to be seized but not replaced by new registrations.

2014 Western Region Seized Firearms by Registration Status					
	Number Seized	Percent of Total			
Negative	1,420	64%			
Registration Suspended	275	12%			
Registered in CFIS	244	11%			
Incomplete	141	6%			
Registration Revoked	96	4%			
Registered in RWRS	39	2%			
Total	2,215	100%			

CRIME GUNS

Definitions and Metrics

FIESD considers a firearm to be a crime gun if it meets any one of the following criteria:

- Illegally acquired
- Suspected to have been used in a crime (Includes found firearms)
- Obliterated serial number
- Illegally modified (e.g. barrel significantly shortened)

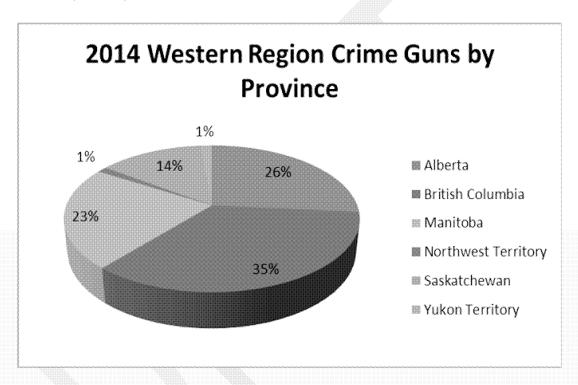
Crime Gun Seizures by Province

2014 Western Region Firearms Seized by Province: Crime Gun Status							
	Crime Guns	Non-Crime Guns	Crime Gun %				
Alberta	301	395	43%				
British Columbia	397	463	46%				
Manitoba	257	73	78%				
Northwest Territory	14	0	100%				
Saskatchewan	154	141	52%				
Yukon Territory	17	3	85%				
Total	1,140	1,075	51%				

Crime gun percentages declined to 51% in 2014, from 59% in 2013. However, this total is slightly higher than the 50% of seizures that were deemed crime guns in 2012. BC again seized the greatest percentage of crime guns reported to FIESD in 2014, at 35% of the regional total, although this represents a significant decline from 2013, when 46% of the region's crime guns were seized in BC. Manitoba had the greatest percentage of firearms deemed crime guns, comprising 78% of all firearms seized in that province. The decline in BC's figures is largely due to the 2013 seizure of 187 rifles and shot guns in

Western Region Crime Guns by Province and Population, 2014						
	Crime Guns Seized	2014 Population	Persons per Crime Gun			
Yukon	17	36,758	2,162			
NWT	14	43,641	3,117			
Manitoba	257	1,286,323	5,005			
Saskatchewan	154	1,129,899	7,337			
British Columbia	397	4,657,947	11,733			
Alberta	301	4,145,992	13,774			
Total	1,140	11,256,919	9,874			

The increase in Yukon seizures is likely because of a BC initiative that has strengthened the relationship between CBSA and the RCMP in the Pacific region. As the Yukon shares a border with Alaska, CBSA regularly seizes undeclared firearms from American travellers; these firearms have not necessarily been used in a crime, but are deemed crime guns on account of having been smuggled. Per Statistics Canada 2014 census records, the 17 Yukon seizures and 14 seizures in the Northwest Territories give the territories the highest number of crime guns per capita, owing to their very small population. Figures for Manitoba and Saskatchewan are less anomalous, at 5,005 and 7,337 persons per crime gun, respectively. These figures represent a decline for both provinces, as Manitoba seized one crime gun per 4,703 persons in 2013 and 4,354 persons in 2012. Saskatchewan declined to 7,337 persons per crime gun from 5,777 persons per firearm in 2013 and 3,051 in 2012.

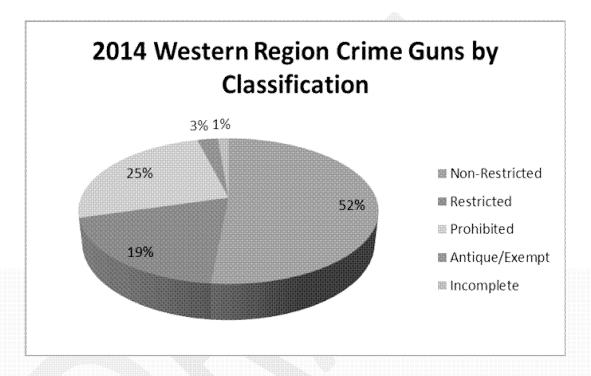


Crime Guns: Classification and Registration Status

2014 Western Region Crime Guns by Registration Status and Classification							
	Non- Restricted	Restricted	Prohibited	Antique/ Exempt	Incomplete	Total	
Negative	555	90	215	31	13	904	
Incomplete	24	50	63	1	1	139	
Registered in CFIS	3	56	8	0	0	67	
Registered in RWRS	0	18	12	0	0	30	
Total	582	214	298	32	14	1,140	

When the figures for crime gun classification are compared against those for registration status,

when 2012 numbers are taken into consideration. In 2012, only 30% of seized crime guns were unregistered, non-restricted firearms, while a further 21% were unregistered and prohibited; in 2014, 51% of crime guns were unregistered and non-restricted. In 2011, 167 unregistered, non-restricted crime guns were reported to FIESD, representing just 17% of all crime guns seized. To put this figure into perspective, in 2014 Manitoba alone seized exactly the same number of unregistered, non-restricted crime guns than did the entire Western Region in 2011.



Contrary to what is frequently reported by the media and certain special-interest groups, non-restricted firearms continue to comprise the greatest percentage of crime guns, accounting for 52% of all crime guns seized in 2014. At the same time, the percentage of prohibited firearms – many of them sawed-off long guns – increased from 23% of the total to 25%, while the percentage of restricted firearms dropped by 1 percentage point to 19%. Alberta seized the highest number of non-restricted firearms in the region, accounting for 30% of the total; the second-most prolific province for this type of seizure was Manitoba, at 29%. BC seized the highest number of prohibited firearms in the region at 56%, with Alberta and Manitoba seizing a further 18% and 21%, respectively. Most of these appear to have been sawed-off, non-restricted firearms.

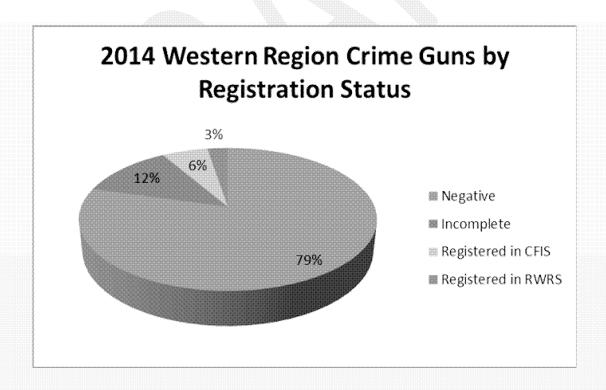
201	2014 Western Region Crime Guns by Classification and by Province							
	Non- Restricted	Restricted	Prohibited*	Antique/ Exempt	Incomplete or U/K	Total		
Alberta	175	48	55	22	1	301		
British Columbia	131	120	135	1	10	397		
Manitoba	169	18	63	5	2	257		
NWT	10	1	3	0	0	14		
Saskatchewan	91	19	39	4	1	154		
Yukon Territory	6	8	3	0	0	17		
Total	582	214	298	31	14	1,140		

^{*}Some of the firearms in question (sawed-off rifles or sawed-off shotguns) are non-restricted in their original configuration. The prohibited classification was assigned due to the illegally modified barrel length.

Of the 1,140 crime guns seized in 2014, 79% were not registered. As the entire region seized only 109 firearms in 2014 that were confirmed smuggled,

Properly registered

guns comprised just 6% of the total, slightly more than a third of the 17% of crime guns that were lawfully registered in 2012. A further 3% were registered in RWRS, a number that is expected to decline in the coming years as more of these old guns are seized or relinquished.



In all western provinces, the overwhelming majority of crime guns were unregistered. The highest percentages were in the prairie provinces, at 92% in Saskatchewan, 91% in Manitoba, and 89% in Alberta. In BC, just 62% of seized firearms were unregistered.

2014 Western Region Crime Guns by Province and Registration Status							
	Alberta	ВС	Manitoba	NWT	Sask.	Yukon	Total
Negative	267	247	233	13	142	2	904
Registered in CFIS	27	29	3	0	8	0	67
Registered in RWRS	6	14	5	1	4	0	30
Incomplete	1	107	16	0	0	15	139
Total	301	397	257	14	154	17	1,140

Crime Guns: Type and Make

Rifles were again the most commonly seized type of crime gun in the region, followed by pistols and shotguns. Handguns were primarily seized in urban areas. 2014 saw another significant increase in the percentage of rifles and shotguns that were deemed crime guns, increasing to 54% for rifles from 46%, and 60% up from 50% for shotguns. In 2012, just 39% of both rifles and shotguns were deemed crime guns.

long guns were also relatively common, almost all of which were crime guns,

Pistols and revolvers were also

frequently seized, both being disproportionately deemed crime guns.

2014 Western Reg	ion Crime Gun Percentage by Firearm	туре			
	Crime Guns: Number and	Crime Guns: Number and percent of total			
Rifle	403	35%			
Pistol	261	23%			
Shotgun	190	17%			
Revolver	117	10%			
Sawed-Off Shotgun	57	5%			
Sawed-Off Rifle	43	4%			
Pellet/Air Gun	43	4%			
Submachine Gun	10	1%			
Starters Pistol	7	1%			
Other	2	0%			
Derringer	2	0%			
RECEIVER/FRAME	2	0%			
Incomplete	1	0%			
Machine Gun	1	0%			
Combination Gun	1	0%			
Total	1,140	100%			

		Crime Guns: Top 5 I	Long
Shotguns		Rifles	
Mossberg	34	Savage	36
Remington	31	Winchester	36
Winchester	23	3 Remington	
Maverick	14	Ruger	29
Browning	11	Cooey	24

2014 Western	Regio Hand	n Crime Guns: Top !	5	
Pistols		Revolvers		
Glock	34	Smith & Wesson 3		
Ruger	32	Ruger		
Smith & Wesson	25	Taurus		
Colt	11	Colt	7	
Sig Sauer	10	Harrington	5	

Savage and Winchester were the most-commonly seized rifles, while Mossberg and Remington were the most common shotguns. Pistol seizures were once again dominated by Glocks, while Smith & Wesson produced the third most-common pistol make and the most common revolver.

Crime Guns: Circumstance of Seizure

Crime guns were most likely to be recovered through the execution of search warrants, with S.487, CDSA, and Public Safety warrants together comprising 43% of seizures. A further 14% were recovered during the course of criminal investigations, and a further 12% were abandoned or found.

20	2014 Western Region Crime Guns by Circumstance of Seizure							
	Alberta	ВС	Manitoba	NWT	Sask.	Yukon	Total	
Search Warrant (S.487)	60	73	48	0	63	0	244	
Investigation	30	50	31	0	43	0	154	
Abandoned / Found	30	54	49	0	3	2	138	
Incomplete	1	106	16	0	0	15	138	
Search Warrant (CDSA)	52	25	25	14	12	0	128	
Traffic Stop	48	14	13	0	20	0	95	
Search Warrant (S.117)	22	13	32	0	0	0	67	
Uttering Threats	13	21	6	0	2	0	42	
Family Violence	11	3	14	0	2	0	30	
Shooting	9	5	11	0	1	0	26	
Mental Health Act	2	6	7	0	6	0	21	
Attempt Homicide	5	9	1	0	1	0	16	
Homicide	3	10	0	0	0	0	13	
Disturbance	5	3	2	0	0	0	11	
Break and Enter	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	
Suicide	2	1	1	0	0	0	4	
Home Invasion		3	0	0	0	0	3	
Robbery	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	
Armed Robbery	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	
Careless use of Firearm	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Total	301	397	257	14	154	17	1,140	

Examination of the circumstances of firearms seizures can improve law enforcement agencies' understanding of the ways in which crime guns are being used, and the circumstances under which a law enforcement officer might be faced with carrying out a seizure. As seen in 2012 and 2013, the most common circumstance under which firearms were seized in 2014 was in the execution of a search warrant pursuant to Section 487 of the Criminal Code, although this figure dropped to 22% from 29% in 2013. That traffic stops were the sixth most-common circumstance of seizure (8%) and significantly outnumbered firearms seized as a public safety measure demonstrates how quickly a routine situation may turn volatile,

Encouragingly, attempted homicide and homicide each amounted to just 1% of seizures.

Firearms Tracing and Crime Gun Source

As part of its firearms enforcement mandate, the National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST) undertakes tracing of seized firearms in order to determine the origins of crime guns seized in Canada. Firearms with identifiable serial numbers are often not submitted for tracing, as the data can be queried by the lead agency in CFIS or RWRS upon seizure. If the firearm in question is found to be registered, there is no need to submit a further trace request to the Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre (CNFTC).

If a firearm's registration status cannot be determined through CFIS, the CNFTC can conduct further checks with dealers and manufacturers - often with the assistance of the ATF - to determine a last known purchaser and location. Regardless of the circumstances of the trace request, the resulting trace reports can provide useful

Trace results fall into the following categories:

Successful: the origin of the firearm was determined (i.e. the last known purchaser, dealer, or place of manufacture).

Unsuccessful: the origin of the firearm could not be determined.

Too Old to Trace: If the firearm

is considered too old to trace.

Not Traced: Firearms that cannot be traced

2014 Western Region Crime Guns Submitted for Tracing by Province						
	Trace Requests	% of Provincial Total	% of Regional Total			
Alberta	172	57%	15%			
British Columbia	277	70%	24%			
Manitoba	222	86%	19%			
NWT	14	100%	1%			
Saskatchewan	81	53%	7%			
Yukon	17	100%	1%			
Total	783	N/A	69%			

There was no need for the CNFTC to conduct a trace for the 9% of recovered crime guns that had current, expired or revoked registration in CFIS or RWRS. However, the number of crime guns with negative CFIS registration (904) exceeds the entire number of trace requests submitted by 16%. Trace requests were submitted for 783 (69%) of the 1,440 crime guns reported to FIESD. British Columbia requested the greatest number of traces, while the territories were the only jurisdictions to request traces for all seized crime guns, although there were few.

	2014 Western Region Crime Gun Trace Results by Province								
	Successful	Unsuccessful – No record or no stamp	Too Old to Trace	Not Traced or Incomplete	Total				
Alberta	60	68	12	32	172				
British Columbia	75	58	15	129	277				
Manitoba	68	98	23	33	222				
NWT	6	7	1	0	14				
Saskatchewan	18	44	10	9	81				
Yukon Territory	2	0	0	15	17				
Total	229	275	61	218	783				

Of the 783 trace requests submitted in 2014, just 229 (29%) were successfully traced, a major reduction from 2013, when 42% of firearms were successfully traced. More than a third of firearms submitted could not be traced

Domestically-sourced firearms accounted for 50% of those that were traced successfully, while 48% were deemed smuggled. The majority of successful traces were carried out on firearms seized in BC.

	n Successfully-traced s by Source
Domestically-Sourced	114
Smuggled	109
NUL/Unable to Trace	6
Total	229

Crime gun source was not always determined through the formal tracing process. When all methods of analyzing crime gun source are included, the number of sourced guns is considerably higher. The majority of this disparity can be accounted for by non-restricted firearms. When a trace request is submitted for long guns, a negative result is typically an indication that the firearm originated in Canada.

2014 Western Region Crime Gun Source by Province – Traced and Not-Traced						
	Domestic	Smuggled	Unable to Trace	Total		
Alberta	96	45	160	301		
British Columbia	80	157	160	397		
Manitoba	135	29	93	257		
NWT	12	1	1	14		
Saskatchewan	53	9	92	154		
Yukon Territory	1	14	2	17		
Total	377	255	508	1,140		

the

percentage of domestically-sourced crime guns can be assumed to be considerably higher than the 10% that were confirmed through tracing. In many cases, guns were deemed smuggled through means other than a formal trace request –

2014 Western Region Successful Traces by Crime Gun Source and by Province							
	Domestic	Confirmed Smuggled	Unable to Trace /NUL	Total			
Alberta	23	36	1	60			
British Columbia	21	53	1	75			
Manitoba	54	11	3	68			
NWT	5	1	0	6			
Saskatchewan	10	7	1	18			
Yukon	1	1	0	2			
Total	114	109	6	229			

Domestically-Sourced Firearms

Domestically-sourced firearms are those which have been legally manufactured in or imported into Canada. These guns are often not submitted for tracing, as the most recent possessor is often either known, or can easily be discovered with a simple CFIS query. When a recovered firearm's registration status cannot be determined via CFIS, the CNFTC will rule out registration in the defunct RWRS system as part of the trace process, before enquiring with the manufacturer and/or dealer.

2	2014 Western Region Domestically-sourced Crime Guns by Type							
	Alberta	ВС	Manitoba	NWT	Sask.	Yukon	Total	
Rifle	40	20	71	8	19	0	158	
Shotgun	21	15	34	0	9	1	80	
Pistol	18	29	3	1	8	0	59	
Sawed-Off Shotgun	8	1	15	1	6	0	31	
Revolver	8	12	6	0	3	0	29	
Sawed-Off Rifle	1	1	5	1	8	0	16	
Submachine Gun	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	
Combination Gun	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Total	96	80	135	12	53	1	377	

In 2014, only 377 crime guns of any type were positively identified as domestically-sourced, either through tracing or other means. The majority of those (238, or 63%) were rifles and shotguns, in keeping with the trend observed in previous years. When the numbers for sawed-off rifles and shotguns are included, long guns represent 76% of all domestically-sources crime guns.

2014 Circumstances of Seizure for Domesti	cally-Sourced Crime Guns
Search Warrant (S.487)	87
Investigation	57
Search Warrant (CDSA)	51
Abandoned / Found	51
Search Warrant (S.117)	34
Traffic Stop	27
Family Violence	17
Shooting	13
Uttering Threats	10
Mental Health Act	9
Attempt Homicide	8
Disturbance	6
Homicide	2
Break and Enter	2
Suicide	1
Robbery	1
Home Invasion	1
Total	377

Smuggled Firearms

	2014 Crime Guns:	Provincial	Comparison		
	Recovered Crime Guns	Submit for Tra		Confirmed Smuggled	
Alberta	301	172	57%	36	12%
British Columbia	397	277	70%	53	13%
Manitoba	257	222	86%	11	4%
NWT	14	14	100%	1	7%
Saskatchewan	154	81	53%	7	5%
Yukon	17	17	100%	1	6%
Total	1,140	783	69%	109	10%

Of the 1,140 crime guns seized in the Western Region and reported to NWEST, 229 were successfully traced. Just 109 (10%) were confirmed smuggled, in contrast to the common belief that a majority of Canada's illicit firearms are illegally imported from the United States. Despite the fact that non-restricted firearms were the most commonly-used crime guns in 2014, the most commonly smuggled crime guns were prohibited or restricted pistols. This trend illustrates the relative difficulty in obtaining this type of firearm through domestic sources.

2014 Western Region Traced Smuggled Firearms		
Pistol	74	
Revolver	25	
Shotgun	4	
Rifle	3	
Derringer	1	
Sawed-Off Rifle	1	
Submachine Gun	1	
Total	109	

2014 Western Region Smuggled Firearms (All)	
Pistol	152
Revolver	58
Rifle	22
Shotgun	15
Derringer	2
Receiver/Frame	2
Incomplete	1
Machine Gun	1
Sawed-Off Rifle	1
Submachine Gun	1
Total	255

The figure is even more significant when one considers that the criteria for crime guns differ slightly between smuggled firearms versus domestically-sourced firearms. Smuggled firearms qualify as crime guns simply by virtue of being illegally imported, regardless of whether they are actually used in the commission of another offence. In contrast, a domestically-sourced firearm actually has to be associated to another Criminal Code offence to be reported as a crime gun. As such, the statistics are skewed in favour of domestically-sourced firearms, and the percentage of "smuggled" guns used in crime is actually lower than it at first appears. This is also the reason why a significant number of crime guns can be deemed "smuggled" in absence of a trace – many firearms are seized from their owners at the border, and are thus deemed "smuggled", even in cases where there was no intent to divert these firearms to the criminal market. Oftentimes, Americans entering Canada simply forget that they have a

gun in the vehicle, or do not realize that it is illegal to bring their legally-owned firearm into Canada without completing the appropriate paperwork.

Smuggled firearms can enter into the criminal market through a variety of means, i

Links to U.S.-Based Dealers

Every smuggled crime gun with a confirmed source that was recovered in 2014 was found to have originated in the United States. Because the US has strict marking regulations, any American firearm seized in Canada can be easily identified as potentially smuggled.

2014 Western Region Smuggled Firearms by U.S. Source State (Top 10)		
Washington		56
California		22
Alaska		16
Arizona		16
Incomplete		14
Oregon		14
Texas		13
Florida		8
Utah		7
Montana		7

Washington was the most common state of origin for the Western Region's crime guns, followed by California and Arizona.

PROVINCIAL OVERVIEW

To get a more detailed understanding of firearms trends in the Western Region, it is beneficial to take a look at each province individually. Cultural, criminal and legal practices pertaining to firearms vary widely between the coastal, prairie and northern areas, leading to often-vast disparities between the type and classification of seized firearms, their origins, and their designation as crime guns or non-crime guns.

British Columbia

The past year saw a 36% reduction in firearms seizures, from 1,018 in 2013 down to 647. This does not necessarily indicate a reduction in gun crime,

The difference between these figures is primarily attributable to the lower number of seized crime guns, which had been inflated in 2013 by a single large seizure of non-restricted firearms from a domestic trafficker. While the number of crime gun seizures dropped 42% in 2014, non-crime gun seizures dropped considerably less, although the 27% reduction is certainly not insignificant. Seizures were primarily concentrated in the Lower Mainland, with Nanaimo being the only outside city in the top 5 seizure locations.

The majority of

crime gun seizures were the result of search warrants, although a significant number were found or abandoned outside of a criminal investigation.

The primary trends for B.C. crime guns are as follows:

• Firearm classification: Non-restricted

Firearm type: Pistol

Recovery location: Surrey

• Crime gun source: Unable to Trace

British Columbia Crime Guns by Year Seized: Crime Guns Vs. Non-Crime Guns			
2013 2014 % Chan			
Crime Guns	631	397	-37%
Non-Crime Guns	387	463	-20%
Total	1,018	860	-16%

2014 British Columbia Crime Guns by Classification			
	Number Seized % of Tota		
Prohibited	135	34%	
Non-Restricted	131	33%	
Restricted	120	30%	
Incomplete/Antique	11	3%	
Total	397	100%	

Almost the same numbers of prohibited and non-restricted firearms were seized in 2014, accounting for 34% and 33% of total seizures, respectively. Pistols comprised the single largest firearm type, although several of the seized rifles and shotguns fell into either the "restricted" or "prohibited" categories owing to such factors as illegal barrel modifications.

2014 British Columbia Crime Guns by Firearm Type and Year Seized			
	2013	2014	
Pistol	166	164	
Rifle	268	90	
Shotgun	90	58	
Revolver	66	58	
Submachine Gun	2	9	
Starters Pistol	0	7	
Sawed-Off Shotgun	26	2	
Receiver/Frame	0	2	
Derringer	0	2	
Sawed-Off Rifle	3	2	
Machine Gun	0	1	
Pellet/Air/Toy Gun	3	1	
Incomplete	1	1	
Combination Gun	2	0	
Other	4	0	
Total	631	365	

Municipalities in the Greater Vancouver area seized the most firearms in 2014, seeing a return to this trend after a year in which several notable seizures took place on Vancouver Island and in the BC interior.

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2014 British Columbia Crime Guns by Recovery Location (Top 5)		
	Number Seized	% of Total
Surrey	98	25%
Maple Ridge	32	8%
Vancouver	23	5%
Burnaby	18	4%
Pitt Meadows	15	4%

Surrey seized by far the greatest number of crime guns, nearly triple the number seized in Maple Ridge, and almost five times as many as Vancouver. Half of BC's reported crime guns were seized by RCMP detachments and units,

27% of the province's seizures being reported

CFSEU seizures dropped significantly, with just 29 seizures being reported to FIESD.

2014 British Columbia Crime Gun Seizures by Lead Agency (Top 5)		
	Number Seized	% of Total
RCMP	198	50%
CBSA	109	27%
Vancouver Police Department	32	8%
CFSEU	29	7%
Victoria Police Department	11	3%

In keeping with the overall trend for the Western Region, BC crime guns were primarily seized as a result of search warrants, or were abandoned or found.

2014 British Columbia Crime Guns by Circumstance of Seizure (Top 5)		
	Number Seized	% of Total
Search Warrant (S.487)	73	18%
Abandoned / Found	54	14%
Investigation	50	13%
Search Warrant (CDSA)	25	6%
Uttering Threats	21	5%

BRITISH COLUMBIA: CRIME GUN SOURCE

British Columbia showed a 42% decrease in the number of crime guns seized, although that province reported the highest number of guns that were believed smuggled.

British Columbia Crime Guns by Crime Gun Source and by Year Seized			
	2013	2014	% Change
Domestically-Sourced	132	160	21%
Believed Smuggled	143	157	10%
NUL/Unable to Trace/Incompl.	356	80	-78%
Total	631	397	-37%

In contrast to previous years, BC joined the rest of the Western Region in primarily seizing firearms that were proven or believed to be domestically-sourced guns, with these firearms increasing by 21% despite an overall 37% decline in firearms seizures.

Despite the fact that trace requests are not submitted for all seized firearms, 157 of BC's crime guns were deemed smuggled through either the tracing process or other means. Washington remained the most common dealer-state.

U.S. Dealer States for BC Smuggled Crime Guns (Top 5)			
	Number Seized	% of Total	
WASHINGTON	47	30%	
CALIFORNIA	14	9%	
OREGON	13	8%	
ARIZONA	12	8%	
IDAHO (tied)	5	3%	
MONTANA (tied)	5	3%	

Alberta

In 2014 Alberta police agencies seized and reported 696 firearms to FIESD, a 38% increase over the previous year. Despite this, the 301 seizures that were deemed crime guns represented just a 5% decrease. The greatest percentage of crime guns (20%) were seized pursuant to S.487 Search Warrants. Calgary reported the highest number of seizures, while Edmonton was, unusually, not in the Top 5 seizure locations. The following points summarize the primary trends for Alberta crime guns:

Firearm classification: Non-restricted

• Firearm type: Rifle

Recovery location: Calgary

• Crime gun source: Unable to trace

The following charts provide more detailed breakdowns for Alberta crime guns and in most instances, comparable statistics for the previous year.

Alberta Crime Guns by Year Seized: Non-Crime Guns Vs. Crime Guns			
	% Change		
Crime Guns	286	301	5%
Non-Crime Guns	220	395	80%
Total	506	696	38%

2014 Alberta Crime Guns by Classification			
	Number Seized	% of Total	
Non-Restricted	175	58%	
Prohibited	55	18%	
Restricted	48	16%	
Exempt	22	7%	
Incomplete	1	0%	
Total	301	100%	

The majority (58%) of seized crime guns were non-restricted, with rifles once again the most frequently-seized firearm type. Shotguns were a distant second, with pistols comprising 15%.

Alberta Crime Guns by Firearm Type and Year Seized		
	2013	2014
Rifle	85	112
Shotgun	36	58
Pistol	78	49
Pellet/Air/Toy Gun	18	29
Revolver	43	27
Sawed-Off Shotgun	19	18
Sawed-Off Rifle	3	8
Submachine Gun	2	0
Other	2	0
Total	286	301

More than a quarter of all Alberta crime gun seizures were in Calgary, with Lethbridge providing 14%. The third most prolific location of seizure (10% of the provincial total) was Coutts border crossing, which yielded 30 guns.

2014 Alberta Crime Guns by Recovery Location (Top 5)		
	Number Seized % of T	
Calgary	79	26%
Lethbridge	43	14%
Coutts	30	10%
Red Deer	23	8%
Medicine Hat	11	4%

Although Calgary was the most common seizure location with 79 crime guns, the greatest percentage of firearms were seized by RCMP detachments and specialty units. Lethbridge Regional Police seized the third-highest percentage of firearms, at 14%.

2014 Alberta Crime Gun Seizures by Lead Agency (Top 5)			
	Number Seized	% of Total	
RCMP	109	36%	
Calgary Police Service	83	28%	
Lethbridge Regional Police	43	14%	
CBSA	34	11%	
Medicine Hat Police Service	22	7%	

2014 Alberta Crime Guns by Circumstance of Seizure (Top 5)			
	Number Seized	% of Total	
Search Warrant (S.487)	60	20%	
Search Warrant (CDSA)	52	17%	
Traffic Stop	48	16%	
Abandoned / Found	30	10%	
Investigation	30	10%	

ALBERTA: CRIME GUN SOURCE

The majority of crime guns seized in Alberta were non-restricted rifles and shotguns, and as such a source could not be determined for them. As just 45 firearms (12%) were believed smuggled, the majority of the unsuccessfully-traced firearms can be assumed to be domestically-sourced, while 53% were confirmed to have originated in Canada.

Alberta Crime Guns by Crime Gun Source and Year Seized			
	2013	2014	% Change
Domestic	117	160	37%
Believed Smuggled	51	45	-12%
Unable to Trace/Incompl.	118	96	-19%
Total	286	301	5%

Although Utah provided 21% of Albertan smuggled crime guns, the overall number of smuggled firearms is too small to be of any significance.

U.S. Dealer States for Alberta Smuggled Crime Guns (Top 5)		
	Number Seized	
UTAH	7	21%
ARIZONA	4	12%
WASHINGTON	4	12%
NORTH CAROLINA (tied)	2	6%
CALIFORNIA (tied)	2	6%
MICHIGAN (tied)	2	6%

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan saw a marked decrease (-18%) in the number of seized crime guns in 2014, although this was not as significant as the 49% reduction in non-crime gun seizures. In contrast with the previous year, when 40% of firearms seized in Saskatchewan were crime guns, in 2014 crime guns accounted for 52% of seizures. S.487 search warrants were the primary circumstance of seizure, as opposed to the CDSA warrants that yielded the greatest number of firearms in 2013. Saskatoon again seized the greatest percentage of crime guns at 30%, reflecting that city's "boom town" status, while Prince Alberta and Regina each seized a further 19%. The following points summarize the primary trends for Saskatchewan crime guns:

Firearm classification: Non-restricted

• Firearm type: Rifle

Recovery location: SaskatoonTrace results: UnsuccessfulCrime gun source: Unknown

• Circumstance of seizure: S.487 Search Warrant

The following charts provide more detailed breakdowns for Saskatchewan crime guns and in most instances, comparable statistics for the previous year.

Saskatchewan Crime Guns by Year Seized: Non-Crime Guns Vs. Crime Guns			
	2013	2014	% Change
Crime Guns	187	154	-18%
Non-Crime Guns	277	141	-49%
Total	464	295	-36%

2014 Saskatchewan Crime Guns by Classification		
	Number Seized	% of Total
Non-Restricted	91	59%
Prohibited	39	25%
Restricted	19	12%
Exempt	4	3%
Incomplete	1	1%
Total	154	100%

Mirroring the trend seen in other provinces, non-restricted weapons comprised the majority of crime guns seized in 2014. Most of these were rifles, followed by shotguns. Together, long guns and sawed-off long guns comprised 78% of seized crime guns.

Saskatchewan Crime Guns by Firearm Type and by Year Seized			
	2013	2014	
Rifle	69	64	
Shotgun	26	23	
Pistol	26	19	
Sawed-Off Rifle	18	19	
Sawed-Off Shotgun	12	14	
Revolver	9	8	
Pellet/Air/Toy Gun	20	7	
Other	4	0	
Starter Pistol	2	0	
Combination Gun	1	0	
Total	187	154	

Overall firearms seizures decreased by 36% in 2014, although crime guns decreased by only 18%. The overwhelming majority of seized crime guns were non-restricted rifles and shotguns – 56% of the total, not including sawed-off long guns. Pistol seizures declined by 27% in 2014, from 26 to 19.

2014 Saskatchewan Crime Guns by Recovery Location (Top 5)			
	Number Seized	% of Total	
Saskatoon	46	30%	
Prince Albert	30	19%	
Regina	26	17%	
Southend	9	6%	
Whitecap Dakota FN	8	5%	

Saskatoon was the primary location for crime gun seizures, seizing 30% of all crime guns. Of note, while seizures decreased significantly in both Saskatoon and Regina, Prince Alberta witnessed a 329% increase in seizures.

2014 Saskatchewan Crime Gun Seizures by Lead Agency (Top 5)		
	Number Seized	% of Total
RCMP	69	45%
Saskatoon Police Service	46	30%
Regina Police Service	26	17%
CBSA	6	4%
Moose Jaw Police Service	4	3%

Saskatchewan crime guns were primarily seized during the execution of S.487 search warrants, with investigations being the next most-common circumstance of seizure.

Saskatchewan Crime Guns by Circumstance of Seizure (Top 5)			
	% of Total		
Search Warrant (S.487)	63	41%	
Investigation	43	28%	
Traffic Stop	20	13%	
Search Warrant (CDSA)	12	8%	
Mental Health Act	6	4%	

SASKATCHEWAN: CRIME GUN SOURCE

Saskatchewan Crime Guns by Crime Gun Source and Year Seized				
	% Change			
Domestic	79	92	16%	
Smuggled	10	9	-10%	
NUL/Unable to Trace/Incompl.	98	53	-46%	
Total	187	154	-18%	

Of the 154 crime guns recovered in Saskatchewan in 2014, a crime gun source was determined for 101 (66%). Just 9 crime guns (6%) were deemed smuggled, while 60% were domestically-sourced. The smuggled guns were successfully traced to a variety of US source states.

U.S. Dealer States for Saskatchewan Smuggled Crime Guns				
	Number Seized	Percent of Total		
TEXAS	2	22%		
INCOMPLETE	2	22%		
ARKANSAS	1	11%		
NORTH CAROLINA	1	11%		
ALABAMA	1	11%		
MINNESOTA	1	11%		
NEVADA	1	11%		

Manitoba

Manitoba showed a 1% increase in firearms seizures in 2014, although the percentage of seized firearms deemed crime guns decreased by 4%. The greatest percentage of crime guns were abandoned or found (19%), although only one fewer (19%) was seized as a result of a S.487 search warrant. It is notable that 39% of all sawed-off shotguns and 30% of sawed-off rifles were seized in Manitoba. The primary trends for Manitoba crime guns can summarized as follows:

Firearm classification: Non-restricted

Firearm type: Rifles

Recovery location: WinnipegCrime gun source: Domestic

The following charts provide more detailed breakdowns for Manitoba crime guns and in most instances, comparable statistics for the previous year.

Manitoba Crime	Guns by Year Seized: Non-C	rime Guns Vs. Crim	e Guns	
2013 2014				
Crime Guns	269	257	-4%	
Non-Crime Guns	59	73	24%	
Total	328	330	1%	

Manitoba Crime Guns by Classification				
	Number Seized	% of Total		
Non-Restricted	169	66%		
Restricted	63	25%		
Prohibited	18	7%		
Exempt	5	2%		
Incomplete	2	1%		
Total	257	100%		

Consistent with the overall trend for the prairie provinces, the majority of seized crime guns in Manitoba were non-restricted rifles and shotguns – 66% of the total. When sawed-off long guns are included in this tally, the figure rises to 81%, safely refuting the notion that long guns are not typically used in crime. This trend further hints at the nature of crime in Manitoba. That just 16% of seized crime guns were handguns (whether trafficked or domestically-sourced),

Manitoba Crime Guns by Firearm Type and by Year Seized			
	2013	2014	
Rifle	126	125	
Shotgun	52	47	
Sawed-Off Shotgun	35	22	
Revolver	10	21	
Pistol	23	20	
Sawed-Off Rifle	14	13	
Pellet/ Air/Toy Gun	7	6	
Other	1	2	
Submachine Gun	0	1	
Combination Gun	1	0	
Total	269	257	

2014 Ma	anitoba Crime Guns	by Recovery Location	n (Top 5)
Number Seized % o			% of Total
Winnipeg		135	53%
Springfield		10	4%
Emerson		10	4%
Amaranth		9	4%
Brandon		7	3%

More than half of Manitoba's crime guns were seized in Winnipeg. The rest were distributed around the province, and primarily seized by RCMP units and detachments. Some firearms recovered in Winnipeg were seized by RCMP units, explaining the disparity in the number of guns seized in Winnipeg and those seized by Winnipeg Police Service.

2014 Manitoba Crime Gun Seizures by Lead Agency (Top 5)			
	Number Seized	% of Total	
RCMP	116	45%	
Winnipeg Police Service	113	44%	
CBSA	16	6%	
Brandon Police Service	4	2%	
Altona Police Service	3	1%	

Circumstance of seizure varied, with 49 crime guns being abandoned or found, while S.487 search warrants yielded a further 48.

			of Seizure		

	Number Seized	% of Total
Abandoned / Found	49	19%
Search Warrant (S.487)	48	19%
Search Warrant (S.117)	32	12%
Investigation	31	12%
Search Warrant (CDSA)	25	10%

MANITOBA: CRIME GUN SOURCE

Manitoba Crime Guns by Crime Gun Source and Year Seized				
	2013	2014	% Change	
Domestically-sourced	151	93	-38%	
Smuggled	17	29	71%	
NUL/Unable to Trace/Incompl.	101	135	34%	
Total	269	257	-4%	

A crime gun source was determined for 122 of the 257 crime guns reported to FIESD. While the majority were domestically-sourced or unable to trace, the number of smuggled guns increased by 71%. Although a source could not be determined for 135 firearms, the prevalence of non-restricted guns suggests that the most untraceable guns were unregistered domestic firearms.

U.S. Dealer States for Manitoba Smuggled Crime Guns			
	Number Seized	% of Total	
TEXAS	6	21%	
FLORIDA	4	14%	
CALIFORNIA	4	14%	
NORTH CAROLINA	2	7%	
WASHINGTON	2	7%	
NORTH DAKOTA	2	7%	
MONTANA	2	7%	

The

majority came from Texas, Florida, and California, although the number of successful traces was too small for any significance to be attached to these numbers.

Yukon Territory

There are few reported firearm seizures for the Territories in general, although 2014 saw a significant increase. Yukon seized 17 crime guns in 2014, while the Northwest Territories seized 14. The increase in Yukon seizures may be attributable to increased communication between NWEST and BC/Yukon CBSA

Territories Crime Guns by Year Seized: Non-Crime Guns Vs. Crime Guns				
Territory	Crime Guns		Non-Crime Guns	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
Nunavut	3	0	0	0
Northwest Territory	0	14	0	0
Yukon	3	17	1	0
Total	6	31	1	0

Cases of Note

Beausejour RCMP Domestic Assault, Firearms Trafficking

Home Invasion, Attempt Murder

Sale of Prohibited Items

Drive-by Shooting and Seizure

Traffic Stop and Seizure

Please contact FOES for further questions or inquiries.

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