



NOV 16 2015

Mr. Dennis R. YOUNG
1330 Ravenswood Dr. SE
Airdrie, Alberta T4A 0P8

Received
23 Nov 2015
[Signature]

Dear Mr. YOUNG:

This is in response to your request under the *Access to Information Act*, which was received by this office on September 18, 2015, for:

From January 1, 2015 to present (September 12, 2015), please provide copies of all information sent to the Office of Commissioner of the RCMP and to the Office of the Minister of Public Safety regarding problems and backlogs.

Find enclosed a copy of the requested records.

Please be advised that you have the right 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 must be made in writing 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 Céline Bourgeois at 613-843-6445 or celine.Bourgeois@rcmp-grc.gc.ca. Please quote the file number appearing on this letter.

Regards,

[Signature]
Supt. David Vautour

Access to Information and Privacy Branch
Mailstop #61
73 Leikin Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R2

Question Period Note / Note pour la Période des questions**RCMP Backlog for Updating Criminal Records Information**

ISSUE: An article was published on the CBC website criticizing the RCMP's ability to make timely updates to criminal records information, including new charge and sentencing information, in the Canadian Police Information Centre system.

BACKGROUND:

Criminal record information plays an important role in law enforcement and criminal justice sectors. This information is used at various stages in policing and criminal justice duties, such as identifying and booking criminals, making sentencing decisions, or conducting bail and parole board hearings. All criminal records in Canada are based on fingerprints.

The RCMP provides national fingerprint identification and criminal record services to law enforcement, criminal justice agencies and other public organizations and private sector entities across Canada and internationally. The RCMP's national fingerprint identification and criminal record services are based on two RCMP national programs: the Canadian Criminal Real Time Identification Services, which maintains the national repository of criminal records, and the Canadian Police Information Centre, which maintains a national police information-sharing system linking criminal justice and law enforcement partners across Canada and internationally. Police services are not legally required to provide criminal records information to the RCMP, which contributes to gaps in the system.

In 2001, the Auditor General of Canada identified that the RCMP's paper-based system for criminal records management was not sufficient to meet the needs of the criminal justice system and that the growing backlog was unacceptable.

Criminal Records Modernization

Beginning in 2004, the Government of Canada has invested over \$180M in the modernization of the criminal records system. Significant progress has been made since the Auditor General identified the public safety risks associated with the backlog. These investments will eliminate the current labour-intensive process, where police services send their criminal record updates, on paper, to RCMP headquarters in Ottawa to be entered manually into the system.

This modernization is proceeding in stages, and started with the creation of an electronic system to capture and manage fingerprints, the basis of all criminal records in Canada. The implementation of this stage was completed in 2013, and by the Spring of 2015 almost 100% of police services across Canada will be connected or have access to the system (there are over 800 electronic fingerprint capture devices connected across Canada). Police services can now submit fingerprint and criminal charge information electronically at the time of arrest, which among other benefits allows the immediate identification of individuals with existing criminal records.

The next stage, to be completed in March 2017, builds on this infrastructure to allow police to directly enter the results of Court rulings (dispositions) into the criminal records system. This paper based system will be replaced with an automated, decentralized process, where police services can directly input criminal record updates in minutes. When completed, the new criminal records system will automate criminal record updates in nearly real-time, minimizing delays and preventing future backlogs in the national repository.

In the meantime, the RCMP has implemented a number of measures to address risks associated with the backlog. Based on engagement with Federal, Provincial and Territorial police and justice officials, the RCMP prioritizes updates for high-risk and prolific offenders. Since 2013, it has offered a streamlined service for Crown attorneys and police services to expedite requests for criminal record information in support of judicial processes, such as sentencing decisions and parole board hearings. The RCMP is also leveraging its new electronic functionality to digitally scan its backlog holdings to eliminate the backlog entirely by 2018.

Civil Criminal Records Checks

Increasingly, criminal record information is used for "non-criminal justice" purposes. These purposes extend beyond law enforcement and criminal justice duties to background screening measures, such as verifying an individual's criminal history to help determine suitability for paid employment or volunteer work, adopt a child, complete a legal name change, strengthen Canada's citizenship and immigration programs, or protect Canada's vulnerable populations.

The final stage in the modernization of the criminal record system would greatly improve service to Canadians who require criminal record checks for purposes such as employment, adoption or volunteering in the vulnerable sector. Options for this stage are under consideration.

RCMP Backlog for Updating Criminal Records Information

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

- Access to accurate and up to date criminal records information is critical for law enforcement across Canada.
- The RCMP maintains Canada's most comprehensive repository of criminal record information.
- The RCMP is addressing the current backlog of criminal records information by prioritizing records related to high risk offenders, DNA and crime scene identifications and in support of sentencing and parole hearings.
- Additionally, the government has invested \$180 million to develop a new, fully automated and electronic criminal records management system at the RCMP.
- This system will be fully in place by 2018 and will allow police forces to electronically input charge and conviction information to the national system, updating criminal records in real time and preventing any future backlog.
- In no way does the criminal records backlog hamper national security investigations as police have access to a number of other investigative and intelligence database.

CONTACTS:

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ARTICLES THAT CAUSED THE RCMP TO ISSUE A QUESTION PERIOD NOTE ON THE CRIMINAL RECORDS UPDATING BACKLOG FOR THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

CBC - CRIMINAL DATABASE BACKLOG WON'T END UNTIL 2018, RCMP SAYS
Prosecutors, judges, police say stale RCMP criminal-record database hinders ability to administer justice - CBC News Last Updated: Mar 11, 2015 10:05 PM ET

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/criminal-database-backlog-won-t-end-until-2018-rcmp-says-1.2991118>

CBC - RCMP DATABASE REMAINS OUT OF DATE, POLICE AND PROSECUTORS SAY - Years after auditor general flagged issue, RCMP database still stale, hampering police and courts By Brigitte Bureau, CBC News - Last Updated: Mar 11, 2015 9:23 AM ET

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/rcmp-database-remains-out-of-date-police-and-prosecutors-say-1.2989397>

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

Access to Information Request Form

For official use only:

My File: 106

Federal Government Institution:

RCMP HQ - OTTAWA

Details regarding the information being sought:

For the period from January 1, 2015 to present, please provide copies of reports, records, documents, correspondence, statistics, presentations, issue statements, briefing notes sent to the Office of the Commissioner of the RCMP and to the Office of the Minister of Public Safety regarding problems and backlogs associated with: (1) CPIC; (2) National DNA Data Bank ; (3) National Sex Offender Registry; (4) Violent Criminal Linkage Analysis System, or ViCLAS; and, (5) Canadian Firearms Information System including the Canadian Firearm Registry Online.

Method of access preferred: ☒ Receive copies of originals ☐ Examine originals in government offices

Name of Applicant: Dennis R. Young
Address: 1330 Ravenswood Drive SE
Airdrie, Alberta T4A 0P8

Telephone Number: 587-360-1111 **E-Mail:** dennisryoung@telus.net

This request for access to information under the Access to Information Act is being made by:

☒ a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or another individual present in Canada, or
☐ a corporation present in Canada

Cheque # 411

Signature: _____
[Original signed by]
Dennis R. Young

Date: September 12, 2015

BACKGROUND INFORMATION - ATIP REQUEST 106

- (1) CPIC; (2) National DNA Data Bank ; (3) Sex Offender Registry; and
(4) Violent Criminal Linkage Analysis System, or ViCLAS backlogs

CBC - CRIMINAL DATABASE BACKLOG WON'T END UNTIL 2018, RCMP SAYS
Prosecutors, judges, police say stale RCMP criminal-record database hinders ability to administer justice

CBC News Posted: Mar 11, 2015 5:58 PM ET Last Updated: Mar 11, 2015 10:05 PM ET

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/criminal-database-backlog-won-t-end-until-2018-rcmp-says-1.2991118>

CANADIAN POLICE INFORMATION CENTRE

<http://www.cpic-cipc.ca/index-eng.htm>

National DNA Data Bank

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/nddb-bndg/index-accueil-eng.htm>

National Sex Offender Registry

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/tops-opst/bs-sc/nsor-rnds/index-eng.htm>

Violent Criminal Linkage Analysis System, or ViCLAS.

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/tops-opst/bs-sc/viclas-salvac-eng.htm>

CANADA'S SYSTEM

<http://scroll.in/article/745469/why-the-us-police-are-reluctant-to-use-a-database-built-by-the-fbi-that-can-catch-rapists>

The US need only look north for an example of how such a system can play an important role in solving crimes. Not long after ViCAP was developed in the United States, Canadian law enforcement officials used it as a model to build their own tool, known as the Violent Criminal Linkage Analysis System, or ViCLAS. Today, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police maintains a database containing more than 500,000 criminal case profiles. The agency credits it with linking together some 7,000 unsolved crimes since 1995 – though not all of those linkages resulted in an arrest. If the FBI collected information as consistently as the Mounties, its database would contain more than 4.4 million cases, based on the greater U.S. population. Instead, the FBI has about 89,000 cases on file.

Over the years, Canada has poured funding and staff into its program, resulting in a powerful analytical tool, said Sgt. Tony Lawlor, a senior ViCLAS analyst. One critical difference: in the U.S., reporting to the system is largely voluntary. In Canada, legislators have made it mandatory. Cops on the street still grumble about the system, which resembles the American version in the time and effort to complete. But "it has information which assists police officers, which is catching bad guys," Lawlor said. "When police realize there's a value associated with it, they use it."

The ViCAP program eventually emerged from the fallout shelter where it began. It set up shop in an unmarked two-story brick office building in a Virginia business park surrounded by a printer's shop, a dental practice and a Baptist church.

In a lengthy interview there, program officials offered a PowerPoint presentation with case studies of three serial killers who were captured in the past eight years with the help of the ViCAP program. They called the system "successful."

"We do as good a job as we possibly can given our resources and limitations," said Timothy Burke, a white-haired, 29-year agency veteran who is the program manager for ViCAP. "As with anything, we could always do better."

CANADIAN FIREARMS INFORMATION SYSTEM

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/reg-enr/cfis-sciraf-eng.htm>

CFIS

The Canadian Firearm Information System (CFIS) is a fully integrated, automated information system that provides administrative and enforcement support to all partners involved in licencing of firearm owners/users, registration of all restricted or prohibited firearms, and the issuance of authorizations related to restricted firearms.

CFRO

The Canadian Firearm Registry Online consists of a subset of the information on CFIS. It is designed to provide a service to the Canadian police agencies that have access to CPIC. The information is available as a read only or query only. The information may be retrieved by authorized individuals of those agencies by licence number, by registration certificate number, by authorization number, by address and/or telephone number.