

**HOW RCMP RESPOND TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CALLS  
AT THE HOMES OF LICENSED GUN OWNERS WITH A REGISTERED FIREARM**

RCMP FILE #: GA-3951-3-05584-11

**WORDING OF ORIGINAL ATI REQUEST SUBMITTED TO RCMP (October 16, 2011)**

In an article published Monday, October 5, 2009 by Northern News Services entitled, "Unregistered guns part of life in NWT", Chief Supt. Marty Cheliak, Director General of the RCMP Canadian Firearms Centre was reported as follows: *Cheliak says officers use this information when they're responding to calls, particularly domestic violence situations. He says if police find there is a gun registered to a home, they take special precautions. "Their response will be altered significantly," he said. "They may take steps to evacuate the neighbours in residences on both sides ... they'll take steps to ensure their own safety."* This is just one example where it appears police overtly treat federally-licensed gun owners as more dangerous than prohibited gun owners, unlicensed gun owners and non-gun owners.

**Please provide the most recent copies available of documents, reports, analyses, audits, briefing notes, statistics, etc. that show that federally-licensed gun owners are more dangerous than prohibited gun owners, unlicensed gun owners and non-gun owners. We are looking for documents that show a comparison of homicide rates and violent crime rates between licensed gun owners, prohibited gun owners, unlicensed gun owners and non-gun owners.**

**'NO RECORDS' REPLY FROM RCMP (Undated - Received Dec 9, 2011)**

*Based on the information provided, a search for records was conducted at the Canadian Firearms Centre and RCMP National Headquarters. Please be advised that we were unable to locate any information related to your request.*

**COMPLAINT TO INFORMATION COMMISSIONER – January 2, 2012**

Please find attached a copy of my original request dated July 22, 2011 and a copy of the RCMP's "No Records" response dated December 19, 2011. I wish to file a complaint about this non-response.

Chief Supt. Marty Cheliak, then the Director General of the RCMP Canadian Firearms Centre, publicly extolled the virtues of the RCMP's policies and procedures when officers are responding to domestic violence calls where the location is known to be the home of a licensed owner of a registered firearm. It makes no sense for the RCMP not to have the reports requested that would justify these stated policies and procedures. This especially true because Chief Superintendent Cheliak's policies actually put officers at greater risk because, if followed, the front-line officers are being more cautious about approaching the home of a law-abiding gun owner than they would the home of a person who has not registered their firearms or in fact may be prohibited from owning firearms.

Statistically, licensed gun owners are between three and five times less likely to commit murder than the average citizen who does not have a firearms license. **[Note: See updated statistics below]** This statistic would indicate the officers should be more cautious about entering the home of a person who doesn't have a registered firearm.

Logically, police officers should approach ALL domestic violence situations with an equal amount of caution and not place priority on whether a computer tells them there is a registered gun at that location or not.

It seems highly unlikely that the Commissioner of the RCMP did not demand reports with “evidence” justifying Chief Supt. Cheliak’s determination that law-abiding gun owners are a greater risk to officers and the public than the average citizen, known criminals and the more than 300,000 persons prohibited from owning firearms.

**UPDATED STATISTICS:** *To understand why this criminalization of the law-abiding was an exercise in futility we can look at Statistics Canada data. This data reveals licensed gun owners have a homicide rate of 0.6 per 100,000, a third the average homicide rates of 1.85 per 100,000. Official statistics also demonstrate that licenced owners were accused of homicide in only 4.5 % of firearms homicides (Mauser). Public safety is not served when the vast majority of your effort falls on the law-abiding.* Excerpt from: The Price of Posturing by Bruce Gold, Politics and Guns Canadian Firearms Journal – July/August 2016

<http://dennisryoung.ca/2016/07/12/canadian-firearms-journal-the-price-of-posturing-by-bruce-gold/>

### **INFO COMMISSIONER RULED COMPLAINT “NOT WELL FOUNDED” (July 24, 2012)**

*Our office also asked the RCMP to task other OPIs which may have the records you seek. All reported that they did not have any records responsive to your request. We have concluded that no records responsive to your request exist and will record your complaint as not well founded.*

### **HOW OTHER POLICE FORCES ARE RESPONDING (July 14, 2016)**

*Police Chief Troy Cooper says his officers are acting with greater caution during traffic stops and while making arrests, not just in cases where they suspect guns are present.*

Saskatchewan Police Note Huge Increase In Gun Seizures

CP By The Canadian Press - Updated: 07/14/2016 3:59 pm EDT

[http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2016/07/14/saskatchewan-gun-seizures\\_n\\_10997720.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2016/07/14/saskatchewan-gun-seizures_n_10997720.html)

### **ATIP REQUESTS: TRYING TO UNLOCK THE SECRETS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF CPIC**

<http://dennisryoung.ca/2016/06/25/rcmp-atip-requests-trying-to-unlock-the-secrets-in-cpic/>

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NOTE: Anyone wanting more information about this or other *Access to Information Act* requests please contact:

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