

Airdrie, Alberta
January 2, 2017

Michael Ferguson, Auditor General
Office of the Auditor General of Canada
240 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G6

Happy New Year Mr. Ferguson and Staff:

Re: Cost-Effectiveness of Gun Control Regimes?

Please find attached a copy of the *Access to Information Act* request I submitted to the RCMP on October 10, 2016 and the RCMP's response dated December 7, 2016 in which they state: "*Unfortunately, we were unable to locate any records which respond to your request.*"

I and many of the subscribers to my website were alarmed by the fact that the RCMP did not have these evaluations prepared over the last year for the new Ministers of Public Safety and Justice. Based on the Liberal Government's commitment to evidence-based policy and program development the Ministers would have needed them to justify implementation of their election campaign promises and mandate letters.

As stated in your November 29, 2016 news release, "*It is critical for government departments to understand that their services need to be built around citizens, not process.*" Based on their non-response to the cost-effectiveness information I requested, the RCMP seems satisfied to continue publishing statistics justifying their 'processes' they have in place rather than comprehensive evaluations about how effective their firearms programs are at improving public and police safety, reducing violent crime and keeping firearms out of the hands of known gangsters and convicted criminals.

Your predecessor, Sheila Fraser, gave a good example of this bean-counting approach on May 31, 2006 when she was asked by the Standing Committee on Public Safety about claims that police were accessing the Canadian Firearms Information System (CFIS) 5,000 times a day. She responded: "*I believe that the indicator of the 5,000 hits a day is more of what we call an activity indicator than an indicator of effectiveness.*"

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=e&Mode=1&Parl=39&Ses=1&DocId=2236517>

The ineffectiveness of this 'activity indicator' was confirmed a week later when RCMP Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli told the same Committee his findings concerning the 5,000 CFIS hits a day: "*They're automatic CPIC checks that they automatically go over. I don't have the number of how many are direct checks.*"

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=e&Mode=1&Parl=39&Ses=1&DocId=2261340>

In 1993, Auditor General Denis Desautel's report found many weaknesses in the evaluation of previous gun control legislation. Many of these same weaknesses in the government's evaluation of gun control legislation, policy and programs still exist today.

http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2015/bvg-oag/FA1-1-1993-eng.pdf

Other researchers have been well aware of these weaknesses in the government's evaluation of previous and current gun control legislation, policy and programs. Dr. Caillin Langmann, Resident Physician, McMaster University, testified before the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

on March 28, 2012: *"This study is significant as it is the only peer reviewed study examining 1974-2008 and as three methods were used to confirm the results. A search for a gradual effect was also conducted as some of this legislation was enacted over a period of years. To summarize these results, no statistically significant beneficial associations between firearms legislation in Canada and homicide by firearms — by subcategory long gun — spousal homicide, or the criminal charge of discharge of firearm with intent were found."* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mha9JsHwwwA>

Dr. Gary Mauser, Professor Emeritus, Simon Fraser University published research in 2014 that revealed: *"Murders involving firearms, law-abiding gun owners (e.g., those with valid licences) are not a threat to public safety. Canadians who have a firearms licence are less than one-third as likely to commit murder as other Canadians. Statistics Canada data show that licensed gun owners have a homicide rate of 0.60 per 100,000 licensed gun owners between 1997 and 2010.9 Over the same period, the national homicide rate averaged 1.85 per 100,000. Virtually all murders committed with firearms involve illegal firearms in the hands of people who do not have a firearms licence. During the sixteen years from 1997 to 2012, there were 9,315 homicides; 2,835 of those involved firearms. Statistics Canada reports that in only 128 cases—that is only 4.5 percent of all firearm homicides—did the accused have lawful possession of the firearm used in the crime."*

http://canadafreepress.com/print_friendly/maintaining-information-on-law-abiding-citizens-on-cpic-serves-no-legitimat

It's time to correct the weaknesses identified by your predecessors with a thorough evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of Canada's gun control regimes over the past forty years. Based on the resulting scientific evidence, Parliament must determine what firearms programs have worked best to improve public and police safety, reduce violent crime, and keep firearms out of the hands of criminals. Based on the Liberal Government's election promises and public statements before, during and since the election (see links below), I think you will find huge support for this purely evidence-based, science-based approach to gun control.

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed by]

Dennis R. Young
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AIRDRIE AB T4A 0P8
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E-Mail: dennisryoung@telus.net
Website: www.dennisryoung.ca

cc Jean-Denis Fréchette, Parliamentary Budget Officer

MINISTER GOODALE REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO 'EVIDENCE-BASED' GUN CONTROL POLICIES
<http://dennisryoung.ca/2016/02/13/minister-goodale-reaffirms-commitment-to-evidence-based-gun-control-policies/>

TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT MAKES MORE COMMITMENTS TO "EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY MAKING"
<http://dennisryoung.ca/2015/11/06/trudeau-government-makes-more-commitments-to-evidence-based-policy-making/>

JUSTIN TRUDEAU'S SUPPORT FOR 'EVIDENCE-BASED' GUN CONTROL LAWS
<http://dennisryoung.ca/2015/10/31/justin-trudeaus-support-for-evidence-based-gun-control-laws/>

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

Access to Information Request Form

For official use only:

My File: 134

Federal Government Institution:

RCMP and CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM

Details regarding the information being sought:

Reference is being made to the RCMP's partial response to RCMP ATIP Files: **A-2013-03285** and **GA-1516-03285/13** dated April 14, 2014 which showed the CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM for fiscal year 2013/14 cost taxpayers **\$56.9 million** and had the equivalent of **501** full time employees.

<http://new.nfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/RCMP-ATI-Response-Firearms-Program-Costs-and-Staffing-2013-14-Apr-30-2014.pdf>

Reference is also being made to the federal cost of all firearms programs in 1993/94 before the Liberal Government's Bill C-68 was passed into law in 1995. The House of Commons Hansard record for June 13, 1995 which shows Total Federal Cost of **\$15.5 million** and **57** employees for fiscal year 1993/94.

<http://dennisryoung.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Hansard-June-13-1995-Firearms-Program-Costs.pdf>

Reference also to Parliamentary Research Branch – Gun Control Law in Canada – April 1994

<http://new.nfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Gun-Control-Laws-in-Canada-1994.pdf>

1. Please provide copies of the most recent cost/benefit analyses, value-for-money audits, effectiveness evaluations for the current gun control laws and programs in Canada.
2. Please provide copies of reports, studies, evaluations comparing the effectiveness of Canada's current gun control laws and programs with the effectiveness of the gun control programs in effect in Canada in 1994; thereby, justifying the expenditure of \$40 million tax dollars a year more and employing 440 more public servants annually than the government did twenty years ago.
3. Please provide copies of reports showing what the Auditor General of Canada described as unreported "major additional costs" for the firearms program: including economic costs, enforcement costs, compliance costs for law-abiding firearms owners; and costs to all federal government departments and agencies owing and using firearms and the costs to provincial, regional, and municipal governments that own and use firearms.

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 # 514

[Original signed by]

Signature: _____
Dennis R. Young

Date: October 10, 2016



DEC 07 2016

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

Received
19 DEC 2016
[Signature]

Dear Mr. YOUNG:

This is in response to your request under the *Access to Information Act*, which was received by this office on October 17, 2016, to obtain:

Reference is being made to the RCMP's partial to RCMP ATIP Files: A-2013-03285 and GA-1516-03285/13 dated April 14, 2014 which showed the Canadian Firearms Program for fiscal year 2013/14 cost taxpayers \$56.9 million and had the equivalent of 501 full time employees.

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Based on the information provided, a search for records was conducted with Canadian Firearms Program. Unfortunately, we were unable to locate records which respond to your request.

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 Ms. Sharon Peister at 613-843-6658 or Sharon.Peister@rcmp-grc.gc.ca. Please quote the file number appearing on this letter.

Regards,



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

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