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Question No. 624--

Mr. Brad Trost:

With regard to gun control laws in effect between 1979 and 2001, the period when the Firearms Acquisition Certificate program was in effect, and between 2001 and present, the period when the Possession and Acquisition Licence and Possession Only License programs were in effect: (a) what was the average annual cost for administering federal firearms laws, regulations, policies, and programs; and (b) for each of these two periods, what are the statistics that show which period was most effective at (i) reducing violent crime, (ii) reducing homicides, and (iii) reducing the number of armed crimes involving firearms?

(Return tabled)

**RCMP & MINISTER GOODALE'S RESPONSE
TO MP BRAD TROST'S ORDER PAPER QUESTION Q-624
Tabled in Parliament by Public Safety Minister Goodale on January 30, 2017
Cost-Effectiveness of FACs vs PALs?**

Q-624² — November 23, 2016 — Mr. Trost (Saskatoon—University) — With regard to gun control laws in effect between 1979 and 2001, the period when the Firearms Acquisition Certificate Program was in effect, and between 2001 and present, the period when the Possession and Acquisition Licence and Possession Only License Programs were in effect: (a) what was the average annual cost for administering federal firearms laws, regulations, policies, and programs; and (b) for each of these two periods, what are the statistics that show which period was most effective at (i) reducing violent crime, (ii) reducing homicides, (iii) reducing the number of armed crimes involving firearms?

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

TROST'S QUESTION: (a) With regard to gun control laws in effect between 1979 and 2001, the period when the Firearms Acquisition Certificate Program was in effect, and between 2001 and present, the period when the Possession and Acquisition Licence and Possession Only License Programs were in effect: (a) what was the average annual cost for administering federal firearms laws, regulations, policies, and programs; and

RCMP's REPLY: (a) *The Canadian Firearms Program is unable to provide an annual cost to administer federal firearms laws, regulations, policies and programs from 1979-1996 because centralized federal firearms administration was not in place before 1996 following the passage of Bill C-68 Firearms Act in December 1995. The annual amounts spent presented in the table below for the RCMP was taken from historical data of the Department of Justice (fiscal years 1995-1996 to 2002-2003) and of the Department of Public Safety - Canada Firearms Centre (fiscal years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006) and the RCMP - Canadian Firearms Program (fiscal years 2006-2007 to 2015-2016) to administer the Firearms Act.*

TROST'S QUESTION: (b) for each of these two periods, what are the statistics that show which period was most effective at (i) reducing violent crime, (ii) reducing homicides, (iii) reducing the number of armed crimes involving firearms?

RCMP's REPLY: (b) *While the Canadian Firearms Program does not keep these statistics, studies on related topics conducted by Statistics Canada can be found online, including at*

FIREARMS AND VIOLENT CRIME IN CANADA, 2012

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/11925-eng.htm> and

Homicide in Canada, 2015

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2016001/article/14668-eng.htm>

<u>Year</u>	Amount spent (as reported in the relevant Departmental Performance Report)
1995-1996 ¹	\$ 12,800,000
1996-1997 ¹	\$26,100,000
1997-1998 ¹	\$ 50,300,000
1998-1999 ¹	\$130,800,000
1999-2000 ¹	\$131,200,000
2000-2001 ¹	\$ 200,300,000
2001-2002	\$136,600,000
2002-2003	\$ 78,300,000
2003-2004	\$101,600,000
2004-2005	\$92,800,000
2005-2006	\$68,500,000
2006-2007	\$ 76,600,000
2007-2008	\$62,300,000
2008-2009	\$ 65,800,000
2009-2010	\$58,100,000
2010-2011	\$ 58,000,000
2011-2012	NIA ²
2012-2013	NIA ²
2013-2014	NIA ²
2014-2015	NIA ²
2015-2016	\$51,188,002

The figures identified above fluctuate over the years to account for changing priorities like legislative amendments as well as changes in expenditure reporting methodologies. As an example, beginning in 2009-2010 the amounts identified relate specifically to direct program costs and do not include program support functions of the RCMP. In addition, the amounts above do not include supporting functions from other government departments.

¹ For fiscal years 1995-1996 to 2000-2001, costs for the firearms program were not separated out from the Department of Justice's "Law and Policy" business line in Department of Justice Departmental Performance Reports. The firearm program costs for these years were however subsequently reported on page 26 of the Canada Firearms Centre's 2004-2005 Departmental Performance Report, which provided a historical perspective on program costs.

² For these years, the RCMP's Program Alignment/Activity Architecture, as approved by the Treasury Board of Canada, did not separate out the costs of the Canadian Firearms Program from the Canadian Law Enforcement Services program as identified in the RCMP's Departmental Performance Report. As such the RCMP is not in a position to provide these costs without further analysis, which would require more time and resources

