



FIREARMS PROGRAM ERRORS GO UNREPORTED TO PARLIAMENT

Important information about the cost and effectiveness of the firearms program is missing from reports by the RCMP Commissioner of Firearms, Treasury Board Estimates and from the Auditor General's reviews.

By Dennis R. Young – April 23, 2018

On April 2, 2017, I filed an *Access to Information Act* request with the RCMP asking for records 'showing the number and types of errors reported in the firearms licencing system and the firearms registration system.' A year later I received a disappointing [117-page reply documenting one programming error involving 1,315 firearms licences](#).

I was disappointed for two reasons, one, this information was never reported to Parliament in the [2016 RCMP Firearms Commissioner's Report to Parliament](#), and two, the RCMP failed to provide the records I was requesting despite taking a year to process my request. I knew exactly the type of information I was expecting to receive because I had filed very similar Access requests when I was a Parliamentary Assistant working for Garry Breitkreuz, MP for Yorkton-Melville, Saskatchewan. [In 2002, Garry released four error reports documenting 69 different types of licencing and registration errors](#) that were being made on a regular basis by the brain trust in the Dept. of Justice who oversaw implementation of the Liberal's Bill C-68 gun control regime from 1995 until 2006. [Bill C-68 ushered in many major changes to gun control rules that eventually cost more than two billion taxpayer dollars to implement and increased the cost to taxpayers by more than \\$35 million a year](#). I can't understand why the Chretien government would release detailed error reports to a Member of Parliament's office in 2002 and the RCMP under Justin Trudeau's leadership would refuse to provide similar detailed error reports. It seems the RCMP didn't get the memo from the Prime Minister's Office about Justin Trudeau's election promises for either '[openness and transparency](#)' and '[evidence-based gun control](#)' policies and programs.

[I immediately filed a complaint about the missing records with the Information Commissioner](#). These are the kinds of questions Parliamentarians need clear answers to before they vote on [Bill C-71, An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms](#).

WILL WE HAVE TO WAIT ANOTHER YEAR FOR THE RCMP TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FIREARMS REGISTRATION SYSTEM:

- **For the year 2017, the number of enquiries received to report errors with firearms registration certificates;**
- **For the year 2017, the number of registration certificates returned by the post office noting the wrong address;**
- **As of December 31, 2017, the number of persons prohibited from owning firearms still in possession of registered firearms;**
- **As of December 31, 2017, the number of persons with an expired or revoked licence still in possession of their registered firearms;**
- **As of December 31, 2017, the number of firearms no longer in the possession of the registered owner;**
- **As of December 31, 2017, the number of firearms reported as sold by RCMP approved dealers but still listed in the dealers' inventories;**
- **As of December 31, 2017, the number of firearms registered with the same makes, models and serial numbers;**
- **As of December 31, 2017, the number of firearms registered without serial numbers;**

- As of December 31, 2017, the number of firearms registered as restricted firearms but are actually prohibited firearms;
- As of December 31, 2017, the number of firearms registered as restricted but are actually non-restricted; and
- As of December 31, 2017, the number of duplicate firearms registration certificates in the system.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FIREARMS LICENCING SYSTEM

- For the year 2017, the number of enquiries received to report errors in firearms licences;
- For the year 2017, the number of firearms licences returned by the post office with the wrong address;
- For the year 2017, the number of firearms licences issued with the wrong photograph or owner description;
- As of December 31, 2017, the number of persons prohibited from owning firearms still in possession of their firearms licence;
- As of December 31, 2017, the number of change of address notifications waiting to be entered in the system;

Members of Parliament and Senators need to realize that they have been making decisions on firearms legislation since 1991 without knowing [the full cost of implementation](#) or whether past gun control laws have been [effective at reducing violent crime, improving public and police safety, saving the most lives, and/or keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals](#). And finally it's time for Parliament, to once and for all, [decide if 40 years of gun control laws have even been aimed at the right target](#).

If any MP or Senator has any questions about any of the above information or documentation, please contact me by e-mail or phone.

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