



Airdrie, Alberta
April 21, 2018

MY FILE: 153

Ms. Suzanne Legault
The Information Commissioner of Canada
30 Victoria Street, 7th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1H3

Dear Ms. Legault:

Re: MISSING RECORDS COMPLAINT- RCMP ATIP FILE: A-2017-03712

Please find attached a copy of my original Access to Information Act request dated April 2, 2017 and the RCMP's incomplete 117-page response dated April 10, 2018 (available at this URL).

<https://dennisryoung.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/RCMP-ATIP-Response-Firearms-Program-Errors-April-10-2018.pdf>

After waiting a full year for the RCMP to respond to my ATIP request, I wish to complain about the many, many records missing from the RCMP's response. Based on my review of the 117-page response, the RCMP would have us believe that between January 1, 2016 to April Fools' Day 2017, the RCMP only reported one real error affecting just 1,315 licences in the entire firearms licencing system – a system containing the records of more than two million firearms licence holders. The RCMP would also have us believe that over the same 15-month period there was not even one error to report in the entire the firearms registration system consisting of more than million restricted and prohibited firearms.

The reason I find the RCMP response unbelievable in the extreme is that in just the first six months of 2002, MP Garry Breitkreuz issued four reports documenting 69 errors in the firearms licencing and registration system (see 15-pages attached and at this URL).

<https://dennisryoung.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Breitkreuz-Firearms-Error-Reports-2002.pdf>

Here is just one example: 992 LICENCING AND REGISTRATION ERRORS REPORTED TO THE CANADIAN FIREARMS CENTRE (CFC) AND THE CENTRAL PROCESSING SITE (CPS) IN MIRAMICHI, SINCE JANUARY 1, 2002:

Justice Department response - May 17, 2002 (ATIP File – A-2002-0019/mb):

- TOTAL LICENCING ERRORS REPORTED = 848;
- TOTAL REGISTRATION ERRORS REPORTED = 144;
- TOTAL ERRORS REPORTED SINCE JANUARY 1, 2002 = 992.

Did the RCMP just stop keeping track of the errors since they took over the firearms file from the Department of Justice.

Please ask the RCMP to dig a little deeper when they look for the records I requested.

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed by]

Dennis R. Young
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ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

Access to Information Request Form

For official use only:

My File: 153

Federal Government Institution:

- (1) RCMP OTTAWA HQ
- (2) CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM
- (3) CANADIAN FIREARMS INFORMATION SYSTEM (CFIS)
- (4) FIREARMS REFERENCE TABLE (FRT)

Details regarding the information being sought:

For the period from January 1, 2016 to present, please provide copies of records, reports, spreadsheets, correspondence, presentations, audits, evaluations, investigations, recommendations, minutes, briefing notes, advice to the Minister, talking points, etc showing the numbers and types of errors reported in (1) the firearms licencing system and (2) the firearms registration system including the records documenting the consequences resulting from these licensing errors and registration errors in the enforcement, prosecution and conviction of persons under the Criminal Code of Canada, Firearms Act and Firearms Regulations.

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 New 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 # 480

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

Date: April 2, 2017

ERRORS, ERRORS, ERRORS – OH WHAT A MESS!

By Garry Breitkreuz, MP – Updated: July 15, 2002

<http://cssa-cila.org/garryb/publications/ohwhatamess.htm>

“There are approx 49,000 registered firearms in B.C. belonging to people who have not applied for the new firearms licence. I inform police of this statistic however also advise no police force has the manpower to deal with it.” Cst. Steve Poirier, Course Coordinator of the RCMP Pacific Region Training Centre – April 16, 2002.

NOTE #1: All errors in firearms licences and registration certificates should be reported to the Minister of Justice and the Auditor General of Canada. All errors that either violate your privacy rights or have the potential to do so should be reported to the Privacy Commissioner of Canada. Contact information is provided at the end of this document.

NOTE #2: Breitkreuz’s original error report was released on February 28, 2002:

<http://www.cssa-cila.org/garryb/breitkreuzgpress/GunControl57.htm>

NOTE #3: Breitkreuz’s second error report was released on April 10, 2002:

<http://www.cssa-cila.org/garryb/breitkreuzgpress/GunControl60.htm>

NOTE #4: Breitkreuz’s third error report was released on May 30, 2002:

<http://www.cssa-cila.org/garryb/breitkreuzgpress/GunControl65.htm>

1. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENT SHOWS 304,375 OWNERS OF REGISTERED WEAPONS DON’T HAVE A VALID FIREARMS LICENCE:

Documents obtained by Breitkreuz from the Justice Department [ATIP File: A-2002-0063] show that as of May 27, 2002:

(1) The total number of individuals in the Restricted Weapons Registration System (RWRS) that own firearms registered in the RWRS: 429,316.

(2) The number of confirmed licences in CFRS for firearms owned in the RWRS: 124,941.

(3) The total number of individuals that have re-registered their firearms: 96,237.

2. RCMP CONFIRMS 49,000 REGISTERED FIREARMS IN B.C. WITH UNLICENCED OWNERS: In response to an Access to Information Act request filed on April 3, 2002, and after filing a complaint with the Information Commissioner [RCMP File: 02ATIP-14326], on July 8, 2002, the RCMP provided a copy of an e-mail from Cst. Steve Poirier, Course Coordinator of the RCMP Pacific Region Training Centre dated April 16, 2002, that stated: *“The only thing I add to the course is information provided by the firearms centre which changes on a regular basis. I think the information alluded too [sic] is that there are approx 49,000 registered firearms in B.C. belonging to people who have not applied for the new firearms licence. I inform police of this statistic however also advise no police force has the manpower to deal with it.”*

3. RCMP REPORT 409 GUNS LOST AND STOLEN FROM DEPT. OF DEFENCE LISTED ON CPIC:

In response to an Access to Information Act request filed on January 11, 2002, and after filing a complaint with the Information Commissioner, the RCMP finally provided a response to our request on July 4, 2002 – RCMP File: 01ATIP-3631. RCMP documents show CPIC (Canadian Police Information Centre) lists 270 firearms reported lost, 137 firearms reported stolen from the Canadian Forces since 1962 and only 3 firearms recovered since 1994. The list of firearms lost or stolen include: 218 Lee Enfield Rifles, 17 Browning 9mm pistols, an FN Browning .50 calibre Heavy Machine

Gun, an AK47, an FN Browning Canadian C9 Service Light Machine Gun 5.56mm, a Colt AR15A2 .223 calibre and many more.

4. 222,911 FIREARMS REGISTERED WITH THE SAME MAKE AND SERIAL NUMBER: In response to an Access to Information Act requested filed on March 7, 2002 [Justice ATIP File: A-2001-0323], the Department of Justice said: *“The number of firearms that have the same make and serial number in the Canadian Firearms Registration System (CFRS) is: 59,600 different combinations for a total of 151,000 firearms. In the Restricted Weapon Registration System (RWRS) there are 24,244 different combinations for a total of 71,991. It should be pointed out that the request addresses make and serial number only. Up until approx. 1968 many manufacturers utilized the same serial number configurations on different “models”. Therefore, without utilizing “model”, the requested figures are disproportionate to the firearms that are truly the same. Totals: 83,844 = 222,911 firearms.”*

5. RCMP REPORT 718,414 FIREARMS REGISTERED WITHOUT SERIAL NUMBERS: In response to an Access to Information Act requested filed on May 14, 2002 [RCMP File: 02ATIP-19490], the RCMP provided a copy of an e-mail that said: *“As of May 27, 2002. In the RWRS [Restricted Weapons Registration System] we have 14,996 firearms registered with a NIL serial number. In the CFRS [Canadian Firearms Registration System] we have 703,418 firearms that were registered without a serial number, even though they had been assigned a FIN [Firearm Identification Number] & sticker in place of the serial number.”*

YA BUT - NOT ALL GUNS WITHOUT SERIAL NUMBERS GOT STICKERS: On July 11, 2002, Garry Breitkreuz received the following e-mail message from an Ontario firearms owner: *“I've obeyed the laws of the land, registering my .22's and getting an F.A.C. Anyway, last month, a STICKER (you may have seen them) arrived for my .22 Hornet, but no stickers for my rim-fires. First, for consistency, why just 1 sticker? Second, upon its loss or illegibility, you are supposed to request a new sticker. When you think of how long these will last (gun-oil makes life difficult for adhesives, and guns that are used must be cleaned), these people belong at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party.”*

6. “GHOST GUNS” WILL BE AN EVEN BIGGER PROBLEM IN THE NEW CANADIAN FIREARMS REGISTRY: In a recent Legal Corner Column titled *“What Good Are These Expensive Records”* Dave Tomlinson wrote: *“A firearms dealer ran a check on this at my suggestion. He asked Ottawa for a list of all registered firearms that Ottawa thought were in his store. The list, when it arrived, included over 200 firearms that were not in his store – ghost guns. He learned that ghost guns were accumulating in his store at an average of 26 firearms a year. All the ghost guns had been legally sold and correctly transferred – but the government's sloppy firearms control system often failed to delete the record that the firearm was owned by the dealer and located in his store. He “had” over 200 guns, shown in Ottawa's records as being in his store that were not actually there. He laboriously proved to Ottawa that every one of them was gone, and settled back, satisfied that he had solved the problem. He hadn't. He ran the same exercise again, a few years later. This time there were even more ghost guns registered to his store. The dealer gave up. He keeps his own records, and has no faith in Ottawa's records.”* Mr. Tomlinson's full column was published in Canadian Firearms Journal.

7. RCMP RE-REGISTER RUGER HANDGUN AS “NON-RESTRICTED” FIREARM: On June 7, 2002, Garry Breitkreuz's office received a call from a serving Ontario police officer who complained that it had taken almost two years for the Canadian Firearm Registry to complete the re-registration of his Ruger handgun that has been accurately registered with the RCMP since June 28, 1988. He was outraged when he received his new Firearm Registration Certificate dated May 31, 2002 and found

that it showed “*Make – Unknown*”, the Serial Number was left blank, and that his restricted handgun had been reclassified as “*Non-Restricted*” – which of course it is not! The Auditor General was provided with a copy of the supporting documentation.

8. CANADIAN FIREARMS CENTRE RE-REGISTERS A HANDGUN WITH THE WRONG SERIAL NUMBER DESPITE BEING ADVISED IN ADVANCE: This e-mail was sent to the Department of Justice on May 29, 2002: “*This re-registration was done on January 30, 2002. Despite being advised, the Canadian Firearms Centre still has issued a certificate with the wrong serial number on it. I provided the correct serial number since I do not wish to be in contravention of the Criminal Code. Please correct the problem and issue a Registration Certificate for this handgun with the correct serial number on the certificate.*”

9. RCMP TRANSFER PROHIBITED HANDGUNS INTO DEALER’S INVENTORY EVEN THOUGH HIS DEALER’S LICENCE DOESN’T PERMIT IT: On May 30, 2002, a firearms dealer called to advise that the RCMP had just transferred six prohibited handguns into his inventory even though his dealers licence doesn’t allow it. Odd isn’t it, considering that the RCMP are the ones that issued his dealers licence.

10. RCMP SENT ONTARIO GUN OWNER’S PRIVATE AND PERSONAL DOCUMENTS TO A GUN OWNER IN WINNIPEG: On May 22, 2002 Garry Breitkreuz received the following letter: “*Today I received an acknowledgement from the RCMP. I am sending the original copy and the envelope. Both will be of interest to you. Upon reading this letter, I realized that it was not intended for me but for someone in Ontario.*”

11. ONTARIO HUNTER LISTS REGISTRATION ERRORS AND WRITES, “IT’S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IN AN \$800 MILLION SYSTEM THERE CAN BE SO MUCH STUPIDITY”: On June 7, 2002, an Ontario man wrote the following to Mr. Paul Macklin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice: “*I am a 74 year old lifelong hunter who doesn’t give a damn any more what the government is doing in regards to the gun control agenda. So, in order to avoid the rush at the end of this year, I registered my hunting arms early last year. I am still waiting for registration certificates and ones which have to be corrected.*

The following goofs have been committed by the CFC:

- 1.) *The same serial number applied to two different guns.*
- 2.) *A new certificate issued for a perfectly good one but completely wrong now.*
- 3.) *Still waiting for a certificate for a hunting gun which the CFC can not find on their CD.*
- 4.) *Numerous phone calls made without any positive results, etc, etc.*
- 5.) *The make of firearm not entered on the certificates.*

(By the way, I think that these registration certificates are absolutely useless to identify any firearm)

All the CFC had to do is go to my applications and copy what is on there, it does not have to take almost a full year now and the matter is still not in order yet. This is such a mess and it is hard to believe that in an \$800 million system there can be so much stupidity.

12. AFTER 157 PHONE CALLS AND 21 MONTHS THE DEPT. OF JUSTICE SAYS THEY ARE STILL PROCESSING HIS FIREARMS LICENCE: On June 24, 2002, Garry Breitkreuz’s office received the following e-mail message from the President of the Agassiz-Harrison Rod & Gun Club: “*I would like to bring to your attention about one of our club members who applied for a firearms POL (Possession Only) licence about 21½ months ago, and still not received his POL licence. This member has not even received a temp licence either. In addition, this member has*

made 157 phone calls to the Canadian Firearms Centre, who can only keep telling him that they are still processing his licence.”

13. WRITING A LETTER TO THE EDITOR SPEEDS UP PROCESSING OF FIREARMS

LICENCES: On June 6, 2002, the Moncton Times and Transcript provided the following editorial comment: *Larry Petersen of Campbellton, who had a letter about its slow movement published in the Times & Transcript on May 29, received a call from Ottawa saying they had read his letter in the newspaper. The Gun Registry spokesman said his possession permit would arrive in a matter of days. It did. It was printed May 30, and he received it June 3. "I was quite surprised to hear from the gentleman from Ottawa and asked if all applicants received a personal call to say when their permit is processed. He was quick to say no. Anyway, I can't remember his name because I was too shocked to hear it was on its way." Mr. Petersen thanked James Foster and Norbert Cunningham of the Times & Transcript who had been writing about the issue. Interestingly enough, a member of Mr. Foster's family who had been awaiting a permit for months, also got a call and her permit.*

14. THE JUSTICE DEPT. HAS ISSUED HUNDREDS OF FIREARMS LICENCES WITH THE WRONG PHOTO – NOW THEY ISSUE ONE WITHOUT A PHOTO:

On June 11, 2002, Garry Breitkreuz received the following e-mail: *"A buddy of mine applied for a new PAL because his old one was expiring. He got the replacement one in eight days. Strangely however, it did not have his photo on it. In place of the photo were the words, "Photo exception granted". He called the CFC and they said that this was a feature available for "Security personnel" They also told him to send it back right away so they could replace it. He has kept some copies of it. What is up with this? How could a PAL without a photo protect anybody?"*

15. HOW MANY GUNS ARE REGISTERED? IT DEPENDS ON WHETHER YOU ASK THE RCMP OR THE DEPT. OF JUSTICE:

On June 8, 2002, Garry Breitkreuz received the following letter from a Saskatchewan gun owner. *"I would like to share with you my recent experience of filing two access to information requests. The requests were mailed May 5th to the RCMP and the Department of Justice. The RCMP response was received May 13th with 17 restricted/prohibited firearms under my name. The Department of Justice response came in May 21st with only 12 restricted/prohibited firearms under my name. Missing were the first two I had acquired in 1985 & 1986, and the last three purchased in 1995 (2) and 1999 (1)."*

16. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CLAIMS THEY HAVEN'T REGISTERED THEIR FIREARMS BUT GUN OWNERS BEG TO DIFFER:

In the last month, Garry Breitkreuz's office has received many complaints similar to this one published in the London Free Press on June 26, 2002. Mr. C.H. Vanderwolf wrote the Editor: *"During the last year I made use of my firearms possession and acquisition licence to buy two rifles. Both were duly registered and I received plastic tags which must be kept with the guns at all times. A few days ago, I received a letter from the Registrar of Firearms informing me that according to records, no guns are registered in my name and reminding me I must register all my guns by January 2003 or face the possibility of criminal charges. The cost of the gun registration scheme is now said to be approaching \$1 billion, the error rate is said to be approaching 50 per cent and there is no good reason to think the entire exercise will reduce the criminal use of guns. Is there a problem here? It may appear that my lost registration is a trivial matter, but it is symptomatic of a larger problem: the incompetent, corrupt, and autocratic nature of the federal government. Perhaps the time has arrived for our 10 provinces to renegotiate Confederation. It is clear the current system is not working."*

GUN REGISTRY GARBAGE PILE GETTING HIGHER & HIGHER

By Garry Breitkreuz, MP – Updated: May 30, 2002

“What use is a gun registry to police when it’s riddled with errors?”

<http://www.cssa-cila.org/garryb/breitkreuzgpress/GunControl65.htm>

NOTE #1: All errors in firearms licences and registration certificates should be reported to the Minister of Justice and the Auditor General of Canada. All errors that either violate your privacy rights or have the potential to do so should be reported to the Privacy Commissioner of Canada. Contact information is provided at the end of this document.

1. JUSTICE DEPT. ADMITS 90% + 42% ERROR RATE IN FIREARMS REGISTRATION

APPLICATIONS: Justice Department letter dated May 22, 2002 (ATIP File – A01-051/ok): *“The error rate for applications received up to July 18, 2001, was 90% of a total of 362,375. In addition to errors detailed in Appendix A, 42% of firearms registration applications contain errors in the firearms description, in comparison to the Firearms Reference Table. The sum of the errors exceeds the number of applications received because the application is only counted once even though it may contain multiple errors.”*

2. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ADMITS TO ISSUING 259 FIREARMS LICENCES WITH THE WRONG PHOTOGRAPH:

Department of Justice letter dated April 10, 2002: *“Access to Information Request A01-0324 – Please provide copies of reports that show the number of firearm licences that have been issued with the wrong photograph for each year since December 1, 1998. December 1, 1998 to December 31, 1999 = 0; Year 2000 = 99; Year 2001 = 157; January 1, 2002 to March 18, 2002 = 3; Total 259”*

3. 992 LICENCING AND REGISTRATION ERRORS REPORTED TO THE CANADIAN FIREARMS CENTRE (CFC) AND THE CENTRAL PROCESSING SITE (CPS) IN MIRAMICHI, SINCE

JANUARY 1, 2002: Justice Department letter dated May 17, 2002 (ATIP File – A-2002-0019/mb):

- Licencing Errors reported to the CFC = 49;
- Registration Errors reported to the CFC = 144;
- Licencing Errors reported to the CPS in Miramichi, NB = 799;
- TOTAL LICENCING ERRORS REPORTED = 848;
- TOTAL REGISTRATION ERRORS REPORTED = 144;
- TOTAL ERRORS REPORTED SINCE JANUARY 1, 2002 = 992.

4. A LEGALLY ACQUIRED 9 mm HANDGUN AND THREE SHOTGUNS CONFISCATED FROM

THE HOME OF HELL’S ANGEL LEADER MAURICE “MOM” BOUCHER: On May 15, 2002 the Montreal Gazette published the following clarification: *“A story in The Gazette of May 3, based on testimony at the trial of 17 Hells Angels charged with gangsterism, drug-trafficking and conspiracy to commit murder, reported that guns confiscated by the police in the house of Maurice (Mom) Boucher were acquired by Boucher legally by going through the application process. However, later court testimony showed that the firearms-acquisition certificate with which one handgun and three pump-action shotguns had been purchased belonged to Boucher’s girlfriend, not to Boucher.”* [Page 2]

5. RCMP RE-REGISTER A HANDGUN AS A “MACHINE GUN”: On May 1, 2002, an Alberta firearms owner faxed copies of his 1987 Restricted Weapon Registration Certificate and his 2002 Firearms Registration Certificate for the same firearm. The man wrote: *“This is a copy of my original*

green registration that the people in Miramichi got their information for my new registration from. It definitely states 'HG' for handgun. They fouled up and listed on the new one as a 'machine gun'.

6. SASKATCHEWAN MAN RECEIVED A FIREARM REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE FOR A 12-GAUGE SHOTGUN HE NEVER OWNED: This Lloydminster man wrote his Member of Parliament: *"I have in my possession a copy of a Firearm Registration Certificate # ----- . This certificate is for a 12-gauge shotgun. I have never owned this gun, nor have I registered any firearms. I took it to the RCMP who told me they had nothing to do with this hated legislation. Thought you might be interested in receiving another log for the fire of contempt towards our Ottawa Police State."*

7. RCMP ISSUES NINE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES FOR THE RE-REGISTRATION OF SIX HANDGUNS: On May 27, 2002, a Yukon firearms owner sent copies of nine registration certificates for handguns he had re-registered. Three of them were duplicates even though the description of each firearm was exactly the same in all respects.

8. B.C. GUN OWNER RECEIVES FIREARMS IDENTIFICATION CARD FOR A PERSON LIVING IN SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO: The National Firearms Association issued a new release reporting: *"Nanaimo area resident John Heggie applied to register his firearm; however, the results were not what he expected. On Monday April 8, 2002, Mr. Heggie opened an envelope from the Canadian Firearms Centre in Miramichi. Inside the envelope, were (a) A Firearm Identification Number Card issued to Mr. Heggie, (b) A Firearm Identification Number Card issued to a person from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Mr. Heggie states he does not know the person in Ontario. He and other firearm owners are very concerned about the careless disregard for personal privacy that this sort of incident reveals."* Mr. Heggie can be reached in Nanaimo at (250) 756-1466. BC NFA President Sheldon Clare can be reached at (250) 652-2131.

9. ONTARIO FIREARMS OWNER RECEIVED 24 REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES FOR HIS EIGHT RIFLES: On April 22, 2002, a Mississauga firearms owner reported: *"I own 8 rifles and according to the computerized [registration system] I think they have me down for either 16 or 24 firearms. I now have two sets of numbers and three sets of registration certificates dated December 12 and 14, 2001."*

10. ONTARIO GUN OWNER RECEIVES REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE FOR A WINCHESTER RIFLE HE HAS NEVER OWNED: In a letter dated April 16, 2002, a firearms owner from Bracebridge, Ontario wrote: *"Attached is a photocopy of a gun registration received in the mail which is not mine. I do not now or have I ever owned this gun. I notified by phone the Firearm Registration Centre today, but they were not interested in checking into the error they made and advised me that it is my responsibility to have the registration taken out of my name, even though I never requested it in the first place. I am concerned, however, that if this gun is involved in any crime, the RCMP will be at my door looking for the gun which I do not have."*

11. SASKATCHEWAN GUN OWNER RECEIVES THREE POSSESSION AND ACQUISITION LICENCES IN THREE DAYS: On April 29, 2002, a firearms owner from Kindersley, SK, wrote his Member of Parliament: *"On November 28, 2001, I received my Possession and Acquisition Licence - number ----- .0004 and then on November 30, 2001, I received two more licences - numbers ----- .0002 and ----- .0003. All licences seem to be in sequence. I find this both amusing and also very disgusting to see how our Government is handling an issue, they assure us the people of Canada want, in such an inefficient way."*

12. N.B. MAN STILL WAITING FOR HIS FIREARMS LICENCE SINCE APPLYING OVER 20

MONTHS AGO: On May 29, 2002, Larry Petersen's letter was printed in The Moncton Times and Transcript: *"Again I write because I read the letter from David Austin of Communications and Public Affairs, Canadian Firearms Centre, Ottawa, Ont. in the Times & Transcript about the prompt service to the public regarding the gun registration. While I have never had the benefit of owning a possession licence, I have paid for mine on Oct. 4, 2000 and I still have not received it. Why is that, I ask? I have called and here are the dates: January 4, 2001, July 13, 2001, Feb 5, 2002, Feb 19, 2002, March 10, 2002, March 11, 2002, May 8, 2002 and May 16, 2002. Now I know how all of us can get caught up on a good thing, but I think this has gone on long enough. This only tells me that the system is not working that great. The officials can feel free to contact me. I'm still waiting to go hunting. My family would starve if I had to feed them by hunting game."*

13. JUSTICE DEPT. AND RCMP HAVE NO CONTROL OVER FIREARMS WITHOUT SERIAL

NUMBERS: On May 7, 2002, a firearms owner from Alberta wrote his MP: *"When submitting an application for a firearms certificate, it states that if a firearm doesn't have a serial number one will be generated for it and a sticker provided. Two of my firearms fall under this rule. I received certificates with blank serial numbers. Thus I could have as many of these as I want with no control, or no control over the specific firearm as it could be traded or sold in the place of another one of the same make."*

14. FIREARMS OFFICER REFUSES TO CORRECT SERIAL NUMBER ERROR: On April 24, 2002, a British Columbia firearms owner wrote to the Canadian Firearms Centre: *"I am attempting to correct the information in your data base. I am an approved verifier. The initial information you have was entered incorrectly. I asked my local firearms officer to correct it, but she refused. As a five-year jail sentence is the outcome for making a false statement, I want to give you the correct information. The firearm has a serial number of 84-42929 engraved on it. My attitude is if I have to obey this legislation, so do you."*

15. MANITOBA MAN GAVE UP TRYING TO GET THE WRONG PHOTO ON HIS LICENCE

CORRECTED: When he found out that the Canadian Firearms Centre admitted to issuing 259 firearms licences with the wrong photo, Brian Buckley, proud owner of the first registered Black and Decker soldering gun in Canada wrote: *"I know of one person that still has the wrong photo on his. He gave up trying to get it changed."*

ERRORS KEEP PILING UP IN THE GUN REGISTRY

By Garry Breitkreuz, MP – Updated: April 9, 2002

“The old gun registry was riddled with errors and so is the new one.”

<http://www.cssa-cila.org/garryb/breitkreuzgpress/GunControl60.htm>

NOTE #1: All errors in firearms licences and registration certificates should be reported to the Minister of Justice and the Auditor General of Canada. All errors that either violate your privacy rights or have the potential to do so should be reported to the Privacy Commissioner of Canada. Contact information is provided at the end of this document.

- 1. RCMP ADMIT THERE ARE 49,000 UNLICENCED OWNERS OF REGISTERED WEAPONS IN BC:** Sources inside the RCMP advise that during "Violence and Relationships" courses delivered recently in British Columbia, the RCMP instructor told police officers that there are 49,000 individuals from BC in the Restricted Weapons Registration System (RWRS) that do not hold a valid Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC) and that they had also failed to apply for Possession and Acquisition Licences (PAL) as required by the Criminal Code of Canada. Despite being in unlawful possession of restricted and/or prohibited firearms, the RCMP officers were also told it was at the discretion of each officer whether or not to proceed with charges against these individuals. If they encounter one of these 49,000 owners of these registered, restricted and/or prohibited weapons, they have been instructed that the preferred course of action is: (1) Seize the firearm(s), (2) Advise the person to obtain a PAL at which time their firearm would be returned to them.
- 2. JUSTICE DEPT. DOCUMENTS SHOW ERROR RATES OF 71% TO 91% IN GUN REGISTRY:** On March 19, 2002, the Department of Justice sent documents to Garry Breitkreuz, MP, in response to an Access to Information Act request (DoJ File: A-2000-0209). In *“Background material to assist the Canadian Firearms Program Advisory Committee to advise Minister McLellan for the purpose of Submissions to Treasury Board or Social Union Committee”* dated April 28, 2000 (page 3) titled, **STATISTICS – LICENCES: 71% ERROR RATE – REGISTRATIONS 91% ERROR RATE.**

Click here to see a copy of this document: <http://www.cssa-cila.org/garryb/publications/ErrorRatesLicencingRegistration.pdf>
- 3. RCMP ADMIT THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE BUT ARE NOT IN CONTROL OF GUN REGISTRATION PROCESSING:** On March 15, 2002, in response to an Access to Information Act request, the RCMP advised they don't have information on error rates in the gun registry and provided this explanation: *“While final approval of an application rests with the Canadian Firearms Registry (CFR), much of the work associated with clarifying information is done prior to the data input, a task which falls outside of the RCMP and is under the control of the Canadian Firearms Centre.”* This is a surprising development considering the RCMP has had 68-years of experience running the gun registry. How can the RCMP be responsible for issuing registration certificates that they don't process?

Click here to see a copy of the RCMP letter: <http://www.cssa-cila.org/garryb/publications/RCMPATIResponse2002-03-15.pdf>
- 4. ALBERTA MP'S FIREARMS LICENCE SAYS HE'S A MORON FROM OKATOKS, ONTARIO:** On April 4, 2002, Winnipeg Sun columnist Tom Brodbeck wrote: *Canadian Alliance*

MP Grant Hill is no moron -- unless you listen to the pointy-headed bureaucrats at Ottawa's beleaguered firearm registry office. Hill, an Alberta MP, is a firearm owner. And he got the shock of his life recently when the gun registration people issued him a firearm licence. Hill's full name is Norman Grant Hill. But his newly issued gun licence read "Moron Grant Hill."

But Hill's troubles didn't end there. Not only was he a moron in the eyes of firearms officials, he also found out that, much to his surprise, he no longer lives in Alberta. Apparently he moved to Ontario and didn't even know it. Hill lives in Okotoks, Alta. But the bozos in Ottawa issued him a licence with an address in Okotoks, Ont. So the next time some moron holds up a bank, accidentally drops his firearm in the commission of the crime and leaves it behind, they can go looking for him in Okotoks, Ont.

5. **AFTER 3 TRIES THE FIREARMS CENTRE STILL CAN'T GET HIS NAME RIGHT:** On April 4, 2002, *The Winnipeg Sun* (Page 5) reported: *Canada's new gun registration centre can't seem to get it right. Wolfram Fuhr, a 59-year-old retired electrician from Birds Hill, owns a .22-calibre rifle that he has tried to properly register three times -- each time unsuccessfully. "I've done everything I can to rectify the problem, but they don't seem interested or to care," said Fuhr. The problem for Fuhr is a spelling mistake in his name on the gun licence. "This registration system was a makeshift program for people who can't pass kindergarten," said Fuhr. "Can't these people read?" Fuhr said he spelled his name correctly on the registration form, which was compared for accuracy with his driver's licence, but was sent a gun licence with the last name "Fuhr." When told of Fuhr's situation Canadian Firearms Centre spokesman David Austin said he would forward Fuhr's problem on to a customer service representative personally. "It should be right on his licence and right in our computer," said Austin. "We have customer service people here who can sort this out for him just like they did for the last guy." The last guy Austin is referring to is Paul Krawchuk. Last week, *The Sun* reported Krawchuk was having problems removing guns registered to his name that he didn't own. Like Fuhr, Krawchuk called the Canadian Firearms Centre two times before contacting *The Sun*. Both problems were looked into, after Austin was informed. Minutes after *The Sun* notified Austin yesterday of Fuhr's problem, Fuhr received a phone call from the centre offering to correct the problem at his convenience. "I've never seen anyone bend over backwards so fast. I can't believe it," said Fuhr. "For 1 1/2 years I've been arguing with them. It's crazy."*
6. **RCMP REGISTER FIVE GUNS TO A MAN WHO DOESN'T OWN THEM:** On March 30, 2002, *The Winnipeg Sun* (Page 5) reported: *The people in charge of registering Canada's firearms are under fire once again this month -- this time for registering guns that don't exist. "What kind of dummies are looking after gun registration?" asked Garden Grove resident Paul Krawchuk. "First they register a heating gun, then they register guns that I don't even own." Krawchuk received a letter from the federal government this week confirming the registration of four rifles and a .22-calibre handgun. The 34-year-old city recycling employee owns four black powder hunting rifles, but none is registered and they aren't the same kind as the ones that Ottawa has registered for him. "Why can't they get it right?" asked Krawchuk. "How many other guys out there are having messes like this?" Last week, Oak Lake resident Bill Buckley registered his soldering iron as a firearm to highlight glitches in the registration system.*
7. **RCMP REGISTER A BLACK & DECKER SOLDERING GUN:** On March 1, 2002, Brian Buckley of Manitoba was issued with a Registration Certificate for his Black & Decker/Weller, 110 Volt AC soldering gun. The gurus in the gun registry identified it as a "Non-Restricted" firearm and gave it a "Firearm Identification Number". This proves beyond any doubt that the

government has completely abandoned any hope of keeping the Justice Minister's promise to the Canadian Police Association that they would "verify" the accuracy of the information in the gun registration system.

Click here to see a copy of the Registration Certificate: <http://www.cssa-cila.org/garryb/publications/SolderingGunRegistrationCertificate.pdf>

8. **BC MAN DISCOVERS RCMP REGISTERED SOMEONE ELSE'S GUNS TO HIM:** On February 29, 2002, he wrote to the gurus in the gun registry, *"Please be advised that the gun shown on the attached forms are NOT the ones I have or ever have had in my possession, and certainly not those I attempted to register some time ago. My original application form listed the following two rifles: 1. Lee-Enfield .303 calibre, Serial No. Dxxxxxx and 2. Cooley Model 39, Single Shot, .22 calibre, Serial No. unknown. Would you please correct your records and forward the proper registration certificates."*
9. **GUN REGISTRY SYSTEM CAN'T IDENTIFY FIREARMS:** On March 8, 2002, in a letter to the editor of the Alliston Herald, Peter E. Stickle of Thornton, Ontario, wrote describing his call to the Canadian Firearms Centre to find out if he had to register one of his firearms: *"On the first call, I waited for 20 minutes and then gave up. Later in the morning, I called again. After another 20 minutes, I hang up. On my third call of the day and after a 25-minute wait a person who identified herself as firearms officer took my call. When I described my firearm as a CO2 gas powered .380 shotgun, she didn't have a clue what I was talking about. When I told her that it was a Model 1100 that was manufactured by Crosman (the famous pellet gun maker), she insisted that I was talking about a Remington Model 1100, Wingmaster 12-gauge shotgun. While the criminal misuse of firearms runs rampant in Canada's major cities, law abiding gun owners either can't get a call through to Ottawa, or at least find someone who knows what they are talking about, when it comes to something as simple as an air gun."*
10. **RCMP REGISTER PROHIBITED AK47 AS A RESTRICTED FIREARM:** On March 15, 2002, an Ontario firearms owner wrote: *What happened to me was exactly the same than Mr. Charles Schafer i.e. I received a registration for my prohibited AK47 incorrectly (according to the CFC) classified as restricted. I am sure that this happened to hundreds of AK owners in Canada.*
11. **FIREARMS CENTRE HAS NO RECORD OF OVER HALF OF THE HANDGUNS IN NB MANS POSSESSION:** On March 20, 2002, in the Moncton Times and Transcript, Columnist Everett Mosher wrote: *Federal law requires all handgun owners to re-register their handgun or handguns by Dec. 31 of this year. If they do not, they will be considered a criminal and could face up to five years in prison. This, despite the fact that handgun owners have previously registered their firearms at the time of purchase, and have the registration certificate to prove it. So why is the federal government requiring that all handguns be re-registered? The truth is that the federal system of handgun registration that has been in place since 1934 is a mess, to the point that the government has decided to start all over again, from square one. Hence the requirement that current handgun owners are required to re-register their handguns. **One owner of over 20 handguns, all legally registered at the time of purchase, found that the Canadian Firearm Centre had no record at all of over half of the handguns in his possession. Of those that the CFC had records of, and were listed in his name, several of these had never been in his possession, while others on the list had been sold some years previous. This is not an isolated case.***

- 12. BC HANDGUN OWNER RECEIVED REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES WITHOUT EVEN APPLYING:** On March 20, 2002, a respected firearm owner from British Columbia wrote: *One fellow in our local club received new registrations for his pistols without even applying for them. I wonder how prevalent that is and the point being is that since the purpose of re-registration is to clean up the mess in the old registration, if they go sending out new forms based on the old forms they are perpetuating the old problems.*
- 13. OTTAWA GUN OWNER EXPOSES CFC MISTAKES ON ALL SEVEN OF HIS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES:** On March 18, 2002, an Ottawa gun owner wrote: *Between my wife and I, the firearms registry has data on seven firearms, including one since 1978. Every single registration certificate has at least one major error. Wrong type, wrong model, wrong maker, strange cartridge names, variable dimensions, spelling mistakes and so on. How the barrel of one gun "grew" from one certificate to another is a miracle indeed. All certificates have entries that cannot be found on the firearm itself. How will a false or fictitious record serve any purpose?*
- 14. GUN WITH NO SERIAL NUMBER CAN'T BE IDENTIFIED BY \$700 MILLION GUN REGISTRY:** On April 8, 2002 a Calgary gun owner wrote: *"You may be interested to know that I recently registered an unserialized Hiawatha .22 rimfire bolt rifle passed down by my grandfather. It was his farm pest gun, and was purchased some time in the 1950s or 60s. The CFC issued a certificate with the serial number designated as "unknown", but at the same time failed to issue an FIN sticker or any other identifying designation of any sort. Aside from its sentimental value, the gun is rather unremarkable "utility grade" piece, and I understand that up to several thousand of them were produced over the years, including numerous variants. My registration certificate can apply to any one of these firearms. As you have said, what a mess."*

ERRORS, ERRORS AND MORE ERRORS

By Garry Breitkreuz, MP – February 26, 2002

“The old gun registry was riddled with errors and so is the new one.”

<http://www.cssa-cila.org/garryb/breitkreuzgpress/GunControl57.htm>

NOTE: All errors in firearms licences and registration certificates should be reported to the Minister of Justice and the Auditor General of Canada. All errors that either violate your privacy rights or have the potential to do so should be reported to the Privacy Commissioner of Canada. Contact information is provided at the end of this document.

ERRORS IN FIREARMS REGISTRATION SYSTEM

1. 300,000 “UNCLAIMED” GUNS IN OLD HANDGUN REGISTRY: An internal Department of Justice document, dated January 9, 2001, revealed that only 600,000 of the 900,000 guns registered in the old RCMP Restricted Weapon Registration System would be re-registered by the end of 2002. This would leave 300,000 previously registered firearms that would be declared as “unclaimed” by the Department. Remember, on March 10, 2001, the RCMP and the Canadian Firearms Centre were still claiming (on their website) that there were 1, 150,000 registered firearms in the old handgun registration system. It looks like half of these guns were now the victims of registration errors.

2. 57 REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES FOR 16 GUNS: On February 5, 2002, Chuck Cadman, MP for Surrey (BC) told the Standing Committee on Justice about one of his constituents who had received 57 registration certificates for the 16 guns he has been trying to register.

3. RE-REGISTRATION OF 10 HANDGUNS RESULTS IN 50% ERROR RATE: On January 28, 2002, I wrote the Auditor General of Canada to provide her with documentation of a firearm owner in BC who re-registered 10 handguns (that were perfectly identified in the old registry) and 5 of the new certificates came back with errors. A prohibited handgun was re-registered as restricted. Three handguns were re-registered with the wrong barrel length and one handgun was re-registered with no “make”. The Auditor General replied: *“As you know, we are currently examining the costs of this system, consistent with our audit priorities and resource levels. Consequently, it is not possible, at this time, to expand the examination to include other issues.”*

4. WHO IS RIGHT – THE JUSTICE MINISTER, THE CFC OR THE RCMP? When it comes to documenting the number of guns registered, it all depends on whom you ask.

On September 22, 2000, Justice Minister Anne McLellan wrote to the Saskatchewan Minister of Justice and told him “More than **1.6 million** guns are registered.”

On March 10, 2001 the Department of Justice posted on the Canadian Firearms Centre website that under the registration system there were 1,800,000 firearms registered, another 216,000 in processing for a total of **2,016,000** “Firearms Known to Police.”

On December 17, 2001 the RCMP reported: *“As of November 22, 2001 there were a total of **1,431,731** distinct firearms registered since December 1998.”*

5. 80% OF ERRORS ARE REGARDING DESCRIPTION OF FIREARMS: On October 29, 1999, Andersen Consulting prepared a paper on the Canadian Firearms Program titled: *Analysis of Options to Consolidate Select Functions at the Central Processing Site and the Canadian Firearms Registry*. Under the *General Assumptions* section on Page 7 the consultants stated:

- *80% of errors are due to applicant error vs. data entry –*
- *80% of errors are regarding description of firearms – client is not describing the firearm as is described*

6. MUZZLELOADER REGISTERED AS A SINGLE-SHOT MACHINE GUN: In a Letter to Editor of published in the January 9, 2002 edition of the Gananoque Reporter, Mac Donnelly wrote: *“I DO NOT HAVE A MACHINE GUN, but when complying to the federal gun registry demand my circa 1860 cap and ball relic has been deemed a restricted weapon. It is, no less classified as, a 'single shot machine gun' according to The Centre for Firearms Control.”*

7. THREE RIFLES REGISTERED TWICE: A man in Surrey, BC received three registration certificates for his three rifles in December of 2001. In February 2002, he received three more registration certificates for his three rifles with different firearms identification numbers.

8. THREE RIFLES REGISTERED TO THE WRONG MAN: In February 2002, an Ontario man received three firearm registration certificates for three guns that he didn't own all assigned to a firearms licence number that was not his.

9. REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES SENT TO WRONG MAN: The February 2002 issue of the Canadian Firearms Journal (Page 3) reported: *“The security of the CFC paperwork system is a joke. I have been given a copy of a firearms registration confirmation for an individual in Northern Ontario that was included with several registration slips sent to a different individual in Southern Ontario. Had this piece of paper gotten into a criminal's hands, he would know just what firearms were at the specific house in Northern Ontario. The funny part about this particular registration is that it includes a Winchester .32 calibre lever action carbine, with a twenty-inch barrel. Someone having spotted the .32 calibre designation has classed the firearm as prohibited. But they tell us everything is working well.”*

10. HANDGUN REGISTERED TO THE WRONG MAN: In January a man from Lethbridge, Alberta complained to his Member of Parliament that he had received a Firearm Registration Certificate for a handgun that he does not own. The firearms owner wrote: *“Never registered this gun. Never owned this gun. Never even seen this gun.”*

11. 28 DUPLICATE FIREARMS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES ISSUED: A response to request made pursuant to the Access to Information Act dated January 24, 2002 (DoJ File: A-1-0245), the Department of Justice advised: *“There are 28 people that have duplicate registration certificates issued to them, resulting in 34 registration certificates.”*

12. DUPLICATE SETS OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES RECEIVED: In December of 2000 the wife of Ottawa area firearms owner complained: *“My husband registered all his guns in March of this year. We heard nothing for months. In September he received 2 of 17 registrations. We heard nothing else until two weeks ago when he received 14 registrations (2 of these he had already received in September). To put the final candle on the cake, two days ago he received a second set of registrations. How much more incompetent can the whole system be?”*

13. TWO RIFLES REGISTERED AS SHOTGUNS: In a Letter to the Editor to the Toronto Sun published on December 28, 2001 (Page 15) James Hull wrote: *“Last week, 15 months after applying, I received a summary of my firearms along with a request to check the information for errors. Having meticulously filled out the original forms (of which I retained a photocopy), I was amazed to discover the people recording the information had somehow managed to change the designation of two units from rifles to shotguns. This in spite of the fact they were identified as rifles on the registration forms and described as .22 calibre (a bore column to rifles, not shotguns).”*

14. COMMON HUNTING RIFLE REGISTERED AS “RESTRICTED WEAPON”: Another firearms owner complained when he received the registration certificate for his Model 94 Winchester, lever action, 30-30 rifle and found that the Canadian Firearms Centre had registered his hunting rifle as a *“restricted weapon”* which obviously it is not.

15. SIX IDENTICAL REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES ISSUED FOR ONE GUN: In January 2001, a Toronto firearm owner sent us copies of six registration certificates he had received for his one handgun. Each certificate had a different number but the description of the firearm was identical on each and every certificate including the serial number and the Firearm Identification Number assigned by the Canadian Firearms Centre.

16. GUN REGISTRATION RECEIVED FOR A GUN HE DOESN'T OWN: In October 2001, an Ontario firearm owner complained that he had received a registration certificate for a 12-gauge shotgun he didn't own and never owned. He complained, *“I do not want to be responsible for a firearm that I do not possess.”*

ERRORS IN FIREARMS OWNER LICENCING SYSTEM

1. GUN REGISTRY HAS ALREADY LOST TRACK OF 38,000+ LICENCED GUN OWNERS: The \$700 million gun registry has failed its first big test. As of February 21, 2002 they had mailed out 1,625,915 envelopes to licenced firearm owners as part of their “Free” Registration Program. So far 38,629 envelopes have been “Returned to Sender” by the Canada Post. So only a year after the licencing deadline the Department of Justice has already lost track of more than 38,000 or 2.4% of licenced gun owners. This despite the maximum two years in jail if licenced gun owners fail to report their change of address. This was the same problem that plagued the old handgun registration system. People move, people die and they don't report the change to the authorities or as you will see later, the bureaucrats fail to update their records when told. The Department of Justice estimates there are 300,000 “unclaimed” guns in the old Restricted Weapon Registration System.

2. 832 DUPLICATE FIREARMS LICENCES ISSUED: A response to request made pursuant to the Access to Information Act dated January 24, 2002 (DoJ File: A01-0245), the Department of Justice advised: *“There are 832 valid licence holders currently in possession of more than one valid firearms licence.”*

- 304 held two or more Firearms Acquisition Certificates
- 301 held a Possession and Acquisition Licence and a Possession Only Licence
- 134 held two Possession Only Licences
- 49 held a Possession Only Licence and a Firearms Acquisition Certificate
- 30 held a Possession and Acquisition Licence and a Firearms Acquisition Certificate

- 14 held two Possession Only Licences

3. RCMP TRY TO SEIZE FIREARMS FROM LICENCED FIREARMS OWNER: One night in January 2002, three RCMP officers showed up at a home in Langley, B.C. at 10 o'clock at night and advised the owner that they were there to seize his firearms because he did not have a firearms licence. The homeowner took his valid firearms licence out of his wallet and showed it to the three officers. The RCMP officers said that there must have been a mistake in their records and left. Maybe the solicitor general would like to explain why harassing law-abiding gun owners is a higher priority for the RCMP than tracking down suspected terrorists. Maybe the justice minister can explain why his super-duper, \$700 million gun registry cannot even let RCMP officers identify gun owners with a valid firearms licence. Was not the whole point of setting up the registry in the first place to save police time and resources? Two ministers have fumbled the firearms file. Will this new minister be the third, or will he do the right thing and put an end to this firearms fiasco?

4. REGISTRATION FORMS SENT TO WRONG ADDRESS: In January 2002 a Manitoba woman complained: *"I find the federal government gun registry very unsafe for the law abiding citizen. They say it is working so good – they are so full of it! Here is a good example of what has happened to us. I am sending you a letter they have sent to us. The gentleman has the same last name but doesn't live in this household. His first envelope of registration forms we received we put back in the mailbox marked wrong address but they kept putting his letter back in our mailbox. I then took it to the main post office and had to tell them that it was not our mail and to my amazement the postal clerk said this is not the first ones. We don't need all our information about our guns and personal information being delivered to the wrong households."*

5. CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOT UPDATED BY CANADIAN FIREARMS CENTRE: At the end of January, a BC firearms owner complained that she had used an on-line service on the Canadian Firearms Centre website to advise them of her change of address in November of 2001 within 30 days, as is required by Firearms Act Regulations. Failing to do so a firearms owner faces a penalty of a maximum of two years in jail. More than two months later, the firearms owner received firearms registration forms that had been sent to her previous address. The firearms owner complied with the law but the Canadian Firearms Centre did not.

6. WOMAN'S PHOTO ON MAN'S FIREARMS LICENCE: In September of 2001, an Alberta firearms owner complained that all the information on his new firearms licence was correct except for one key item – the picture was of a woman. He wondered whose licence his picture ended up on.

7. MAN'S PHOTO ON WOMAN'S FIREARMS LICENCE: In May of 2001, a firearm owner from Prince George, BC complained about her new firearms licence: *"The only problem is, the licence is made out in my name, my birth date, my height, my licence number, my husband's picture, and my husband's gender. I called the 800 number to report the error, and the woman who answered acted like this problem happened all the time."*

8. THREE WINNIPEGERS GET THE WRONG PHOTO ON THEIR FIREARM LICENCES: On May 14, 2001, the Winnipeg Free Press (Page A4) reported: *"It seems Les Doherty isn't alone. Les is the former Free Press photographer who found a photo of someone who looks 50 years younger on his federal firearms licence. Well, there are at least two other Winnipeggers with the same problem. Raymond Dwarnick found a face that didn't fit on his firearms licence and so did Val Johnston's husband."*