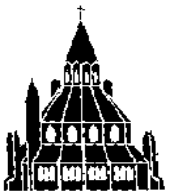


**THE BENEFITS OF FIREARMS OWNERSHIP**

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## THE BENEFITS OF FIREARMS OWNERSHIP

### INTRODUCTION

There is common agreement in the available literature that firearms, like many other products, have both legitimate and illegitimate uses, with both desirable and undesirable consequences.

The literature is less clear, however, with regard to any potential or perceived benefits of firearms ownership. For some, the benefits of gun ownership are limited strictly to recreational activities, such as hunting and target shooting. Others believe that the private and public ownership of firearms can benefit individuals as well as society in many different ways such as:

- contributing to the economy and wildlife management;
- creating a sense of security;
- allowing people to defend themselves, another person or their property from human or animal attacks; and
- deterring criminal activity.

This document provides an inventory of the perceived individual, societal and economic benefits of gun ownership for Canadians, as discussed in the relevant literature on gun ownership.<sup>(1)</sup> Each perceived benefit is analyzed briefly on the basis of the available data and documentation.

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(1) This paper does not attempt to determine the “net benefits” of gun ownership, as that would require an evaluation of the costs as well as the benefits of gun ownership to both individuals and society.

## INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS

There is little doubt that a great number of Canadians see benefits to owning firearms. Depending on the source used, estimates suggest that there are between 3 and 7 million civilian gun owners in Canada, who own somewhere between 7 and 21 million firearms.<sup>(2)</sup> Public surveys conducted over the past two decades also reveal that between one-fifth and one-third of all Canadian households possess at least one firearm, and that 3-7% of all households own at least one handgun.<sup>(3)</sup>

According to McClurg, Kopel and Denning,<sup>(4)</sup> the immediate benefits of gun ownership to individuals fall into two basic categories: recreational uses and personal defence. These categories are discussed below.

### A. Recreational Uses

Every year, millions of Canadian gun owners use their firearms “to pursue their recreational shooting lifestyle and their cultural hunting heritage.”<sup>(5)</sup> In public surveys, however, close to three-quarters of Canadian gun owners have consistently identified hunting as the main reason for owning a gun. These results were confirmed recently by a survey undertaken by GPC Research for the Canadian Firearms Centre.<sup>(6)</sup> According to this survey, the vast majority of

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(2) Estimates of the number of gun owners and the number of firearms owned by private individuals in Canada vary enormously. For example, according to GPC Research, *Fall 2001 Estimate of Firearms in Canada*, Research for the Canadian Firearms Centre, 2002, and Thomas Gabor, *The Impact of the Availability of Firearms on Violent Crime, Suicide and Accidental Death: A Review of the Literature With Special Reference to the Canadian Situation*, Working Document, Ottawa, 1997, Canadians own between 7 and 7.5 million firearms; but according to the Canadian Shooting Sports Association, they own between 15 and 20 million firearms (see its Web site at: [www.cdnshootingsports.org](http://www.cdnshootingsports.org)).

(3) Sources: Canadian Firearms Centre, *Focus on Firearms*, Ottawa, 1999; Angus Reid Group, *Firearm Ownership in Canada*, Technical Report TR1991-8a, Department of Justice Canada, Ottawa, 1991; G. A. Mauser, *Armed Self-Defense: the Canadian Case*, Discussion Paper from the Faculty of Business administration, Simon Fraser University, 1996 (a revised version of this paper was subsequently published in the *Journal of Criminal Justice*; see “Selected References” at the end of this document); G. A. Mauser, *Is There a Need for Armed Self-Defence in Canada?* Presentation at the annual meeting of the Canadian Law and Society Association, Calgary, Alberta, April 1994; Insight Canada Research polls, 1992, 1993 and 1994; GPC Research, *Fall 2000 Estimate of Firearms Ownership*, Research for the Canadian Firearms Centre, January 2001.

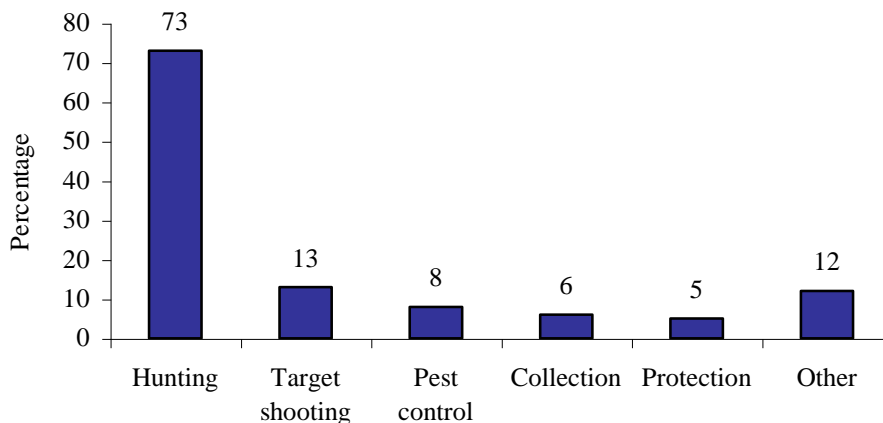
(4) Andrew J. McClurg, David B. Kopel and Brannon P. Denning, eds., *Gun Control and Gun Rights*, New York University Press, New York, 2002.

(5) Canadian Institute for Legislative Action, *Firearms: A Net Benefit to Canadian Society*, Research Report prepared for the Canadian Shooting Sports Association (available at: [www.cdnshootingsports.org](http://www.cdnshootingsports.org)).

(6) GPC Research (2002).

respondents stated that they acquired their firearm(s) primarily for hunting, followed by target shooting, pest control, collecting and self-protection. (See Figure 1, below.)

**Figure 1**  
**Purpose of Firearm Ownership**



Source: GPC Research, *Fall 2001 Estimate of Firearms in Canada*.

As indicated above, in fall 2001, nearly three-quarters of all Canadian firearms owners reported using their weapons primarily for hunting purposes. This is not surprising, given that hunting has a long history in Canada. In fact, in every year since 1999, more than 1,650,000 Canadians have purchased a hunting licence.<sup>(7)</sup> These people hunt for a range of reasons, ranging from subsistence, wildlife conservation and protection of property to training, recreation and prestige.

It can also be from Figure 1 that target shooting ranked well below hunting as the second most popular activity for gun owners in Canada. It is important to point out, however, that these data reflect the *primary* reason for acquiring a firearm. In practice, surveys have consistently revealed that the intended uses of firearms often overlap. For example, a person who uses a shotgun for skeet shooting may also enjoy building a collection at the same time;

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(7) In the 1999-2000 fiscal year, 1,785,456 Canadians held hunting licences, compared to 1,678,211 in 2000-2001 and 1,672,392 in 2001-2002. (See data compiled by the Library of Parliament, August 2002, available on-line at: <http://www.garrybreitkreuz.com>).

similarly, a person who uses a rifle for hunting may also view it as a weapon to be used for personal protection at home or in the wilderness.<sup>(8)</sup>

## **B. Personal Defence**

The use of firearms for self-protection or the protection of property is a key element of the gun debate. As McClurg, Kopel and Denning note:

On the one hand, if guns are recognized as validly possessed for purposes of self-defense, some types of gun control, including gun prohibition or other measures that significantly restrict the availability of guns, are logically precluded. On the other hand, if a right to possess guns for self-defense is denied, virtually all avenues of gun control are at least open for consideration ...<sup>(9)</sup>

Even if not discharged, firearms can be useful tools for protecting oneself, another person or property from animals and human attacks, both in the home and elsewhere (e.g., in the wilderness). Having a firearm can also make some people feel safer. American studies have suggested that “most defensive gun owners feel safer, and most also believe they are safer because they have a gun.”<sup>(10)</sup> For these people, owning a gun represents a major benefit.

Nonetheless, the protective benefits of gun ownership are considered controversial by several researchers and are extremely difficult to quantify, especially when it comes to their defensive use against human attacks. Yvon Dandurand notes, for example, that “[f]ew questions in the firearms research literature are as controversial as those relating to individuals who own firearms to protect themselves or to prevent crime.”<sup>(11)</sup> There are ongoing disputes among researchers over the frequency of firearm use for protection as well as the effectiveness of firearms use for self-protection. Are guns effective in warding off criminals? Do they increase or decrease the risk of injuries for the victims and their families? On these and

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(8) Gary A. Mauser and Taylor Buckner, *Canadian Attitudes Toward Gun Control: The Real Story*, Mackenzie Institute Occasional Paper, Toronto, February 1997.

(9) McClurg, Kopel and Denning (2002), p. 3.

(10) Gary Kleck, *Guns and Violence: A Summary of the Field*, Prepared for the 1991 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, 29 August through 1 September 1991, p. 5.

(11) Yvon Dandurand, *Firearms, Accidental Deaths, Suicides and Violent Crime: An Updated Review of the Literature with Special Reference to the Canadian Situation*, Canadian Firearms Centre, Department of Justice Canada, September 1998, p. 51.

other matters, views and findings vary considerably. Some believe, for example, that people are safer without firearms since firearms tend to increase the risk of injuries, whereas others contend that guns can successfully ward off criminals and protect individuals as well as their property.

## **1. Canadian Data on Self-protective Uses of Firearms**

Most research on the personal benefits of gun ownership has been conducted in the United States. Given the constitutional, social, cultural and historical differences between the United States and Canada, it is very difficult to apply relevant American findings to the Canadian context.<sup>(12)</sup>

### **a. Number of Incidents Involving Defensive Gun Use**

To date, Gary A. Mauser, a professor in the Faculty of Business Administration at Simon Fraser University, is the only researcher to have published data on the defensive use of guns by Canadians.<sup>(13)</sup> On the basis of three telephone surveys of the general public, Mauser estimates that Canadians use firearms to protect themselves, their families or their property against human threats between 19,300 and 37,500 times each year. Furthermore, he estimates

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(12) The use of a firearm for self-defence or the defence of property is not prohibited in Canada or in the United States. However, the use of a firearm in those circumstances poses a particular challenge in Canada due to the principle of proportionality between the assault/threat and the response. Sections 34 to 42 of the *Criminal Code* (R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46) set out the conditions under which a person is justified in using force against another person, either in self-defence or in the defence of property, without being held criminally liable. The most important conditions included in the *Criminal Code* are that the force used must be proportionate to the assault, and only the use of reasonable force is justified. Since firearms are lethal weapons, the justified use of firearms is therefore quite limited. The *Criminal Code* requirements also state that the person claiming that he (or she) acted in self-defence or defence of property must not have violated Canadian gun laws, such as by being in illegal possession of a firearm or in violation of safe storage regulations at the time of the incident.

The protective use of a firearm is also more limited in Canada, due to our firearms legislation, which rejects the argument that citizens should be able to carry guns for general self-protection against dangers present in our society. Unlike the situation in many states, it is illegal to carry a handgun in self-defence in Canada except in limited circumstances. Although laws are not uniform across the United States because most legislation is enacted at the state or local level, laws allowing the carriage of concealed weapons for self-defence and the defence of property have become very popular. More than 33 states have enacted such laws, which suggests that “self-defence or defence of property is more likely to be accepted as a justification in the use of lethal force [in the United States] than in Canada” (Gabor, 1997). Moreover, unlike U.S. practices, Canadian safe storage regulations also limit the availability of firearms for use in self-defence or the defence of property, by requiring all firearms to be put under lock and key and unloaded when stored.

(13) Mauses (1996).



the defensive use of firearms by Canadians to repel animal threats to be between 36,200 and 52,500 annually.<sup>(14)</sup> On the basis of these findings, Mauser believes that:

Since firearms are used in Canada around 66,000 times each year to defend against either human or animal threats, and more importantly, approximately 30,000 times annually to protect against criminal violence, this implies that the private ownership of firearms contributes significantly to public safety.

He further notes that:

It is unknown how many lives are actually saved, but if a life were saved in only 5 percent of these incidents, then the private ownership of firearms would save more than 3,300 lives annually in Canada. To put this in perspective, it should be noted that firearms are involved in the deaths of around 1,400 people annually in Canada (about 1,100 of these are suicides).

While the exact number may be debatable, the results of these three survey studies makes it plausible that the private ownership of firearms saves some Canadian lives.<sup>(15)</sup>

Mauser's findings remain somewhat inconclusive and controversial, partly because of theoretical and methodological challenges. The shortcomings of his study are discussed at length in the literature, and include the vulnerability of the estimate due to the sample size, the question used in his surveys, and the ambiguity of the term "self-defence."<sup>(16)</sup>

### **b. Reliance on Firearms for Protection**

Data from surveys on Canadian firearm ownership and use reveal that Canadians rely far less on firearms for protection than Americans. In a study conducted in 2001 (see

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(14) According to Mauser, "[w]hether or not the fear of animal attacks is exaggerated, animal attacks do pose a real problem, at least in Western Canada. In B.C. alone, 2 people are killed annually by bears. There are about 7,000 complaints about problem bears, and about 1,000 bears are destroyed or relocated annually. Cougars pose less of a problem, but there are hundreds of problem cougars reported each year. While it is rare for humans to be killed by cougars, two people were killed in the past two years [from 1993 to 1995]." BC Wildlife Branch, cited in Gary A. Mauser, "Do Canadians Use Firearms in Self-protection?" *Canadian Journal of Criminology*, Vol. 37, October 1995, p. 560.

(15) Gary A. Mauser, "Armed Self-Defense: the Canadian Case," *Journal of Criminal Justice*, Vol. 24, Issue 5, 1996, pp. 392-406.

(16) For more information, see Thomas Gabor, "Canadians Rarely Use Firearms for Self-protection," *Canadian Journal of Criminology*, Vol. 38, No. 2, April 1996.

Figure 1), just 5% of Canadians cited protection against animal and/or human threats as the primary reason for gun ownership. This finding confirms the estimates of two other Canadian surveys conducted in the 1980s and 1990s, but exceeds the findings of a 1991 survey which concluded that just 1% of all Canadian gun owners relied on their firearms for such reasons.<sup>(17)</sup> In contrast, American studies show that between 22% and 38% of American gun owners purchase their guns for protection against crime.<sup>(18)</sup> The figure for handgun owners is even higher, at 65%.<sup>(19)</sup> Given that these estimates often do not take into account the defensive uses of guns against animal threats, it could be argued that the gap between Canada and the United States with regard to reasons for gun ownership is even greater.

Our limited reliance on firearms for protection may reflect “cultural differences” engendered by our respective historical development. Firearms have played a more important role in American history than in Canada and are more part of the U.S. heritage. They played a key role in early American history, in the American Revolution and in the settlement of the western frontier. Militias were formed to protect states, and individuals kept firearms for personal protection, because there was less reliance on governments to provide protection than in Canada.

Crime levels in both countries may also explain Canadians’ lesser reliance on guns for protection. Over time, high levels of crime in the United States have probably fuelled fear and a perceived need to obtain a firearm for defensive purposes. As Mauser notes: “If one estimates that the probability of having to use a firearm to defend oneself is quite high, a resident of any country may conclude that the potential benefits of firearm ownership would outweigh the inherent dangers.” Conversely, it appears that crime levels in Canada have not, to date, triggered a perceived need for firearms to protect oneself against crime.<sup>(20)</sup>

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(17) P. Stenning and S. Moyer, *Firearm Ownership and Use in Canada: A Report of Survey Findings*, University of Toronto, Centre of Criminology, Toronto, 1981 (5%); Mauser (1994) (5%); Angus Reid Group (1991) (1%). These results are reported in Gabor (1997).

(18) Mauser (1994); David Hemenway, S. J. Solnick and D. R. Azrael, “Firearms and Community Feelings of Safety,” *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, Vol. 86, No. 1, Fall 1995, p. 121; and Arthur L. Kellerman and Philip J. Cook, “Armed and Dangerous: Guns in American Homes,” in *Lethal Imagination: Violence and Brutality in American History*, ed. M. A. Bellesiles, New York University Press, New York, 1999.

(19) National Opinion Research Center, *1998 National Gun Policy Survey*.

(20) Gary A. Mauser, “A Comparison of Canadian and American Attitudes Towards Firearms,” *Canadian Journal of Criminology*, Vol. 32, No. 4, October 1990, p. 573.

## 2. The Benefits of Using a Gun for Self-defence

Gun control advocates typically argue that firearm ownership can increase the risk of injury to the victim(s) and their families (particularly when the weapon is turned against its owner during a confrontation with an assailant) and does not necessarily prevent the commission of a crime. They also argue that firearm ownership may hold substantial risks for the owner and his or her family, due for example to mishandling, family violence or suicide. As Gary Kleck explains, this line of thinking is typically founded on one or more of the following beliefs:

- (1) civilians do not need any self-protective devices, because they will never confront criminals, or at least will never do so while they have access to a gun, or;
- (2) they can rely on the police for protection, or;
- (3) they are not able to use their guns effectively, regardless of need.<sup>(21)</sup>

Kleck challenges this mindset. While he agrees that most Americans will not face a threat of serious physical assault during their lives, he also notes that evidence from the National Crime Survey indicates that most Americans (83%) will, at some time “over the span of their lives, be a victim of a violent crime, all of which by definition involve direct confrontation with a criminal.”<sup>(22)</sup> He further argues that these incidents will most likely occur in or near the victim’s home, “the place where victims would be most likely to have access to a gun if they owned one.”<sup>(23)</sup>

With regard to the belief that one can rely on the police for protection, he argues that citizens cannot depend on police; in fact, studies have shown that police usually respond to crimes after they have occurred.

As for the notion that owners are not able to use their guns effectively, he contends that this belief is based on studies that allowed for the use of any weapon (gun or otherwise) to resist an assailant. Therefore, he believes that although evidence “supports this

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(21) Gary Kleck, *Point Blank: Guns and Violence in America*, Aldine de Gruyter, Hawthorne, N.Y. 1991, p. 121.

(22) *Ibid.*

(23) *Ibid.*

position as it applies to some forms of resistance, it does not support the claim as it applies to resistance with a gun.”<sup>(24)</sup>

That being said, in his review of the literature for the Canadian Firearms Centre, Yvon Dandurand<sup>(25)</sup> notes that American studies have consistently indicated that victims of robberies and burglaries who resist with a firearm are less likely than other victims to lose their property and less likely to be injured than those who do not resist or who do so without a weapon.<sup>(26)</sup> Based on these findings, several authors, including Mauser, have suggested that restrictions on firearm ownership prevent some victims from successfully defending themselves and their property and, as a result, place the lives of a number of law-abiding citizens at risk.

To sum up: there is no clear answer in the literature as to the effectiveness of firearms for the purposes of protection. Although some commentators have used statistical data such as those presented above to argue for the value of firearms in self-defence, further research is required to determine the measurable benefits of gun ownership in such circumstances. As Albert Reiss and Jeffrey Roth note,<sup>(27)</sup> in order to be conclusive, these studies (as well as those dealing with crimes such as physical and sexual assault) would have to look at “comparisons of situational dynamics in events in which gun owning victims did and did not use their guns in self-defence.”

## **SOCIETAL BENEFITS OF FIREARMS OWNERSHIP**

It has been argued in the literature that society also benefits from civilian and public firearm ownership. This section discusses some of the perceived benefits.

### **A. Deterrent Effect of Civilian Gun Ownership**

Whether criminals are deterred from committing crimes because they fear being shot by armed citizens is greatly disputed in the American literature. According to some, widespread gun ownership helps deter crime. In fact, some commentators claim that even people

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(24) *Ibid.*, p. 123.

(25) Dandurand (1998), p. 58.

(26) Kleck (1991).

(27) Albert J. Reiss and Jeffrey A. Roth, “Understanding and Preventing Violence,” in Lee Nisbet, ed., *The Gun Control Debate: You Decide*, Prometheus Books, New York, 2001, p. 199.

who do not own guns benefit from others' gun ownership, since criminals do not know which homes have a gun or which person on the street may be carrying a concealed gun. Others, however, believe that more gun ownership simply adds to the existing problem (i.e., the number of homicides, violent crimes, suicides and fatal accidents).

Research findings in this area are at least as controversial and inconclusive as those concerning the use of firearms for self-defence. Indeed, in his literature review for the Canadian Firearms Centre, Dandurand concludes that existing research fails to support any firm conclusions as to the deterrent effects of civilian gun ownership.<sup>(28)</sup>

As noted by Gary Kleck, "there probably will never be definitive evidence on this deterrence question, since it revolves around the issue of how many crimes do not occur because of gun ownership."<sup>(29)</sup> Furthermore, as Dandurand comments, it is possible that even if criminals are deterred by gun ownership, "the result may simply be that they would find a different group of victims or a different type of crime to achieve the same purpose" and "if that is the case then crime has not been prevented with this deterrence method; it has only been displaced."<sup>(30)</sup>

That being said, Kleck and others strongly believe that there is enough scattered evidence to support the case that firearm ownership deters criminals from attempting crimes in the first place, and consequently benefits society as a whole.

Some of the research cited to support the "deterrent effect" theory may be summarized as follows.

- Interviews have been held with inmates in an attempt to determine the extent to which firearm ownership may serve as a deterrent. James Wright and Peter Rossi conducted the best-known study of this type.<sup>(31)</sup> They asked nearly 2,000 convicted felons serving time in 10 American state prisons whether they took the defensive use of deadly force into account in deciding whether to commit their crimes, and they concluded that criminals are, indeed, concerned by the possibility of armed victims. Indeed, 43% of the inmates reported that, at some point, they had decided not to commit a crime because they thought the victim was in possession of a weapon. As noted by Dandurand, "an equivalent study has yet to be conducted in Canada."<sup>(32)</sup>

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(28) Dandurand (1998).

(29) Gary Kleck, "Guns and Violence: An interpretive Review of the Field," in Lee Nisbet, ed., *The Gun Control Debate: You Decide*, Prometheus Books, New York, 2001, p. 282.

(30) *Ibid.*

(31) James Wright and Peter Rossi, *Armed and Considered Dangerous: A Survey of Felons and Their Firearms*, Aldine de Gruyter, Hawthorne, N.Y., 1986.

(32) Dandurand (1998), p. 56.

- After comparing rates of burglaries involving occupied homes in different American states or different countries, a number of authors have also suggested that widespread gun ownership may “deter burglars from entering occupied homes, reducing confrontations with residents, and thereby reducing deaths and injuries.”<sup>(33)</sup> In support of this proposition, Kleck further observed that “US burglars are far less likely to enter occupied premises than burglars in nations with lower gun ownership (Canada, Great Britain and the Netherlands).”<sup>(34)</sup> This argument was also used to explain the lower rate of residential robberies against occupied homes in the United States (13%) compared to Canada (44%)<sup>(35)</sup> and England (53%).<sup>(36)</sup>
- Analyses of cross-sectional time-series data for American counties are also frequently cited in support of the deterrent effect of civilian firearms ownership. John Lott, an economist,<sup>(37)</sup> used such a methodology in a study that supported the deterrent effect. After examining the impact of “shall issue” laws (laws that permit law-abiding citizens to carry concealed weapons in public), he argues that “allowing citizens to carry concealed weapons deters violent crimes without increasing accidental deaths.” He further argues that “shall issue laws are the most cost effective method of reducing crime.” Moreover, according to Lott:

The benefits of concealed handguns are not limited to those who use them in self-defense. Because guns may be concealed, criminals are unable to tell whether potential victims are carrying guns until they attack, thus making it less attractive for criminals to commit crimes that involve direct contact with victims. Citizens who have no intention of ever carrying concealed handguns in a sense get a “free ride” from the crime-fighting efforts of their fellow citizens.<sup>(38)</sup>

- After comparing restrictions on firearms and crime rates in England and the United States, Joyce Lee Malcolm concluded that restricting firearms in England “has helped make England more crime-ridden than the U.S.”<sup>(39)</sup> Malcolm further noted that “the English approach has not reduced violent crime. Instead it has left law-abiding citizens at the mercy of criminals

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(33) Kleck (2001), p. 282; Joyce Lee Malcolm, “Gun Control’s Twisted Outcome: Restricting Firearms has Helped Make England More Crime-Ridden than the U.S.,” *Reason Online*, November 2002, p. 3.; Don Kates Jr., “Handgun Prohibition and the Original Meaning of the Second Amendment,” *Michigan Law Review*, Vol. 82, 1983, pp. 204-273; Wright and Rossi (1986).

(34) Kleck (1991); Gary Kleck, “Crime Control Through the Private Use of Armed Force,” *Social Problems*, Vol. 35, February 1988, pp. 1-21.

(35) *Ibid.*

(36) Malcolm (2002), p. 3.

(37) John R. Lott Jr., *More Guns, Less Crime*, University of Chicago Press, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Chicago, 2002. Lott’s work is subject to a much criticism in the literature on guns, notably because his methodology did not permit him to control numerous factors that also influence crime rates (such as poverty, drug use and gang activity).

(38) Lott (2002), p. 161.

(39) Malcolm (2002), p. 1.

who are confident that their victims have neither the means nor the legal right to resist them.”<sup>(40)</sup>

## **B. Protecting Rights, Freedoms and Democracy**

Some people argue that the right to keep and bear guns is a matter of giving people the means to resist oppression and to defend the sanctity of their own lives against anyone or anything that seeks to violate it. Thus, it may be argued that firearms ownership may protect society from tyranny and genocide.

## **C. Firearms and Canada’s History, Heritage and Culture**

According to some historians,<sup>(41)</sup> there are considerable differences between the roles that guns played in the development of Canada and of the United States. To many Americans, guns are powerfully symbolic, embodying ideals of safeguarding civil liberties and freedom from oppression as well as self-protection in a dangerous frontier society. Canadians, on the other hand, are more likely to view guns just as useful instruments.

Immigrants to New France and the British Colonies brought their guns to the North American continent. Even though those matchlock guns were much inferior in terms of accuracy, reliability and rate of fire to tomahawks, and bows and arrows, the guns psychologically intimidated the native Americans with their impressive flash and noise. To maintain the immigrants’ dominance, selling guns to native Americans was initially prohibited.

New France specialized in the fur trade, but the British settlers to the south wanted to clear land to farm. They then wanted to keep their new land holdings and families safe from wild animals and human enemies. The early American settlers fought almost continuously with the native Americans and the French. This tradition created the ideal of a civilian soldier that is now embedded in the American character. On the other hand, in Canada guns were instruments of economic security. They were widespread. Every Canadian family had a shotgun, and every village had a gunsmith.

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(40) *Ibid.*

(41) This section follows the analysis of Marilyn Simonds, “Code of Arms,” *Canadian Geographic*, Vol. 116, No. 2, March-April 1996, pp. 45-58.

By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, one million settlers had migrated from Europe to Canada. Many of these became farmers rather than hunters, or joined Canada's major cities. Unlike cities in the United States, Canada's major cities had begun life as garrisons. With the military providing protection, there was little need for civilians to own guns for self-defence. The United States, on the other hand, faced the growing pains of runaway immigration. For Americans, an armed nation was necessary. American ingenuity produced the revolver, a short-barrel gun that was easily concealed. It soon became the weapon of choice in U.S. cities.

#### **D. Firearms and Aboriginal Hunting Rights**

Firearms ownership is essential to Aboriginal hunting, as continued under treaty rights. Firearms also contribute to Aboriginal Communities' economy through businesses and employment.

#### **E. Firearms in War, Defence of Country and Sovereignty**

Firearms have played an important role in Canada's history. Key examples include the following:

- The U.S. invasion of Canada in 1812. Although the Americans had numerical superiority, the better-organized and well-armed Canadian garrisons of professional soldiers supported by Canadian militia units and First Nations, most famously Tecumseh's Shawnees, prevailed.
- The threat posed by the Fenian Brotherhood in the 1860s. After the U.S. Civil War, Irish-American veterans planned to hold Canada hostage to secure the independence of Ireland. Canada was defended from Fenian hit-and-run attacks by its militia of volunteer, part-time soldiers.
- The government response to the Riel uprising in 1885.
- Canadian troops' action in the South African War of 1899-1902.
- Canada's important contribution in World Wars I and II. Within Canadian society, there is widespread respect for the armed forces in recognition of the sacrifices that many Canadians made to serve their country in those wars. Even now, more than 50 years after the end of World War II, the most important news story on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month remains the remembrance of our veterans and what they gave up to safeguard our freedom.

#### **F. Gun Owners' Assistance to Police in Emergencies**

In a country that has abundant wildlife and open spaces, situations can arise that tax the resources of the police. Particularly in the rural areas, the police may need to enlist the



help of private citizens in matters of urgency. When somebody goes missing in an area that is home to dangerous predators, or there is a need to find an animal that has attacked a human being and might be rabid, the help of skilled and armed hunters may save lives or avoid the need for painful and dangerous rabies shots.

### **G. Family Relationships and Character Development**

According to Dr. Randall Eaton,<sup>(42)</sup> hunting engenders respect, power and responsibility, and can successfully transform delinquents into law-abiding citizens. In his award-winning TV production, “The Sacred Hunt Rite of Passage,” Dr. Eaton documents several American programs that use hunting and shooting to successfully transform the lives of delinquent boys. Follow-up surveys of one of these programs suggest a success rate of 85%. According to Dr. Eaton, several American authorities in education, psychology, therapy and violence endorse hunting and shooting for youth as a tool for teaching personal responsibility and safety, the ethics of hunting, sportsmanship, etc.

## **ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF FIREARMS OWNERSHIP**

### **A. Sustenance Hunting**

The purpose of sustenance hunting is to feed the hunters and their families. Sustenance hunters can apply to have their licence and registration fees waived for non-restricted firearms such as rifles and shotguns. In 2002, Chief Firearms Officers<sup>(43)</sup> waived fees for 2,817 such applicants.

First Nations peoples traditionally consider hunting a part of their culture which bonds people with the spiritual side of nature. Killing an animal for sustenance is a sacred act and sovereign right. The spirit of the animal is praised and the Creator is thanked for providing food. Many Aboriginal people believe that hunting, as part of a traditional lifestyle, is a right that is guaranteed by treaty. From this point of view, all Aboriginal people should be considered sustenance hunters.

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(42) For more information, see: [www.eoni.com/~reaton/](http://www.eoni.com/~reaton/).

(43) See RCMP, *Registrar's Report to the Solicitor General on the Administration of the Firearms Act 2002*.

The number of sustenance hunters and the family members they support is not measured by the usual data collection methods. Information on people's occupations is gathered in the labour force section of the Census, which measures participation in the wage economy. Hunting and fishing for sustenance rather than for commercial purposes, however, are part of the non-wage economy, which is not measured by Statistics Canada. At the end of 2002, there were 400,000 Registered Indians on reserve or Crown land, and just over 300,000 off reserve. Assuming an average family size of three or four, and one or perhaps two hunters per family, it would seem that the number of waived fees, 2,817, is rather low. It should be pointed out that low-income non-Aboriginal people who are sustenance hunters may also have their fees waived.

## **B. Sport Hunting**

Sport hunting for big game, small game, and migratory birds contributes to the economy in many ways. Wildlife management and predator control help maintain a balance in nature. Hunters purchase hunting licences and buy guns and ammunition, other sporting goods and recreational vehicles. These items need maintenance and repair by gunsmiths and garages. Hunters travel to hunting areas, rent accommodation and buy meals. Guiding and outfitting are important sources of income in some rural areas. Provinces may require big game hunters to hire licensed guides.

According to hunters, the attraction of hunting is not the kill itself but the chase. The natural evolution of man has been that of a predator. Hunting appeals to an inherent part of our nature. This deep satisfaction may explain the quite large amounts that hunters are willing to pay to pursue their sport.

The most satisfactory way of assessing the economic importance of sport hunting is to examine actual spending by sport hunters and then map out the effects of these expenditures on the economy. Fortunately, Statistics Canada has undertaken a series of such surveys and analyses in the past. Unfortunately, the last survey was for the year 1996, and new surveys have been indefinitely postponed.

The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Task Force on the Importance of Nature to Canadians sponsored these surveys.<sup>(44)</sup> The Task Force is made up of agencies responsible for the environment and tourism. These economic impact studies looked at both consumer

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(44) Details are available at: [http://www.ec.gc.ca/nature/index\\_e.htm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/nature/index_e.htm).

spending and the effect on the national economy of outdoor activities in natural areas, wildlife viewing, recreational fishing and hunting. Statistics Canada conducted surveys for the Task Force in 1981, 1987, 1991 and 1996. The 1996 survey covered 87,000 respondents nationwide. It was mailed out in conjunction with the Labour Force Survey and there was a telephone follow-up, which ensured a response rate of over 70%.

The survey asked respondents to distinguish between primary and secondary reasons for trips. In 1996, 10.3 million Canadians aged 15 and over took part in outdoor activities, with 4.2 million fishing and 1.2 million hunting. According to the survey, men and women enjoy the Canadian outdoors equally; however, 85% of recreational hunters are men, as are 66% of recreational fishers.

Respondents were asked to report their detailed expenditures for mainly nature-related activities over a 12-month period. In just under half of the reported trips, the participants undertook more than one activity. The survey estimated that over \$7.2 billion was spent on outdoor activities in natural areas in 1996, including \$1.3 billion on wildlife viewing as both a primary and secondary activity. Canadians spent \$1.9 billion on fishing and \$823.8 million on recreational hunting.

**Table 1**

<b>Expenditures on Hunting in Canada, 1996</b>				
	<b>Primary</b>		<b>Total</b>	
<b>Category of Expenditure</b>	<b>\$ million</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>\$ million</b>	<b>%</b>
Accommodation	38.7	5.8	39.0	4.7
Transportation	166.5	25	166.5	20.2
Food	99.3	14.9	99.4	12.1
Equipment	285.9	42.9	382.9	46.5
Other items	76.0	11.4	136.1	16.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>666.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>823.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Average yearly (\$)	\$669		\$692	
Average daily (\$)	\$54		\$41	

Source: Federal-Provincial-Territorial Task Force on the Importance of Nature to Canadians, *The Importance of Nature to Canadians: The Economic Significance of Nature-related Activities*, Ottawa, 2000.

Equipment (see Table 1) includes such things as camping gear, special clothing, guns and accessories, game carriers, calls, dogs, decoys, boats and vehicles purchased in 1996. Other items include rental costs of equipment, licences, entry fees, guide fees, and ammunition.

Hunting is more expensive than recreational fishings, which had an average daily cost per participant of \$27, or wildlife viewing at \$17 per day.

The annual average spending was highest for participants from British Columbia, at \$1,017, Yukon was second at \$901, and Alberta third at \$843. Spending in Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan was close to the national average.

More detailed data are available when hunting is the main activity. Large game hunters spent \$420.6 million in 1996, which accounted for nearly two-thirds of total hunting expenditures. Waterfowl hunters spent \$83.3 million, hunters of birds other than waterfowl spent \$100.7 million, and small game hunters spent \$61.7 million.

Spending is only one facet of the economic importance of outdoor activities. Unlike market goods, such as a visit to the cinema, outdoor activities do not usually entail a direct cost to participants for the public open space they use. It is possible, then, that the direct benefit of outdoor activities to participants is higher than the costs incurred. As well as this additional benefit, spending on outdoor activities generates further economic income and production as it ripples through the economy.

The direct benefit of outdoor activities is the value participants assign to those activities. The Statistics Canada survey used standard willingness-to-pay methods. First, respondents were asked to put down their actual spending on outdoor recreation, broken down by transport, food, accommodation, equipment and other. Second, they were asked if they would have still made the trips if the cost were higher. Third, those who would have been willing to pay more were asked how much more the trips would have to cost before they would decide not to go. The respondent was asked to select a range for this additional cost. These ranges started with \$0 to \$49, and the top range was \$800 and more.

In 1996, total willingness to pay for the enjoyment of nature, for all activities, was estimated to be \$13.0 billion. Canadians made actual expenditures of only \$11.0 billion. Thus the size of the direct benefits – the economic value of enjoyment received but not paid for – is \$2.0 billion, which is quite substantial.

**Table 2**

<b>Annual Average Expenditures and Economic Values of Nature-Related Activities for Canada in 1996 (\$)</b>			
<b>Nature-related Activities</b>	<b>Expenditures per Participant</b>	<b>Direct Value per Participant</b>	<b>Willingness to Pay</b>
Outdoor activities in natural areas	704	132	836
Wildlife viewing	332	78	410
Recreational fishing	427	105	532
Hunting			
Large mammals	586	150	736
Small mammals	297	71	368
Waterfowl	384	121	505
Other birds	288	73	361
All hunting	669	181	850

- Notes: 1) “Outdoor activities” include both primary and secondary activities; the others are primary activity only.
- 2) The “all hunting” average includes many participants who hunt more than one species.

Source: *The Importance of Nature to Canadians: The Economic Significance of Nature-related Activities*.

Table 2 shows the value hunters attribute to their activities. Large mammals are the most expensive to hunt, costing an average of \$586 per year, but the additional pleasure of hunting large game is valued by hunters at \$150 on average.

The indirect economic contribution caused by the \$11 billion of spending on nature-related activities as it ripples through the economy was calculated by Statistics Canada using the input-output model. Purchasing hunting equipment, for example, directly raises incomes and employment directly in the retail sector and indirectly in the sectors that support the retail sector (e.g., providing the necessary raw materials, producing the goods, and transporting them to the stores). Input-output analysis takes account of all these interrelationships.

The \$11 billion of spending on all nature-related activities accounted for \$11.4 billion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The various levels of government received revenues of \$5.1 billion. A total of 201,400 jobs was sustained.

Hunting as both a primary and a secondary activity was responsible for:

Expenditures	\$823.8 million
GDP	\$815.2 million
Government revenue from taxes	\$383.9 million
Number of jobs sustained	14,200

The survey also attempted to gauge whether current rates of participation in nature-related activities would change in the future. Nearly three-quarters of Canadians indicated great or some interest in participating in outdoor activities in natural areas, such as camping, picnicking, hiking, riding, cycling, skiing, snowshoeing, off-road vehicle use, swimming or boating. The actual participation rate for these outdoor activities in 1996 was 44%. This potential for increased participation was also seen in recreational fishing and hunting. Nearly 40% of Canadians expressed great or some interest in participating in recreational fishing, which was twice the rate of active participation in recreational fishing (17.7%). Just over 5% of Canadians hunted in 1996, but 10.6% showed great or some interest in participating in hunting.

International tourism for nature-related activities is important for Canada, but is not measured by this survey, because Statistics Canada only queries Canadians through the domestic labour market survey.

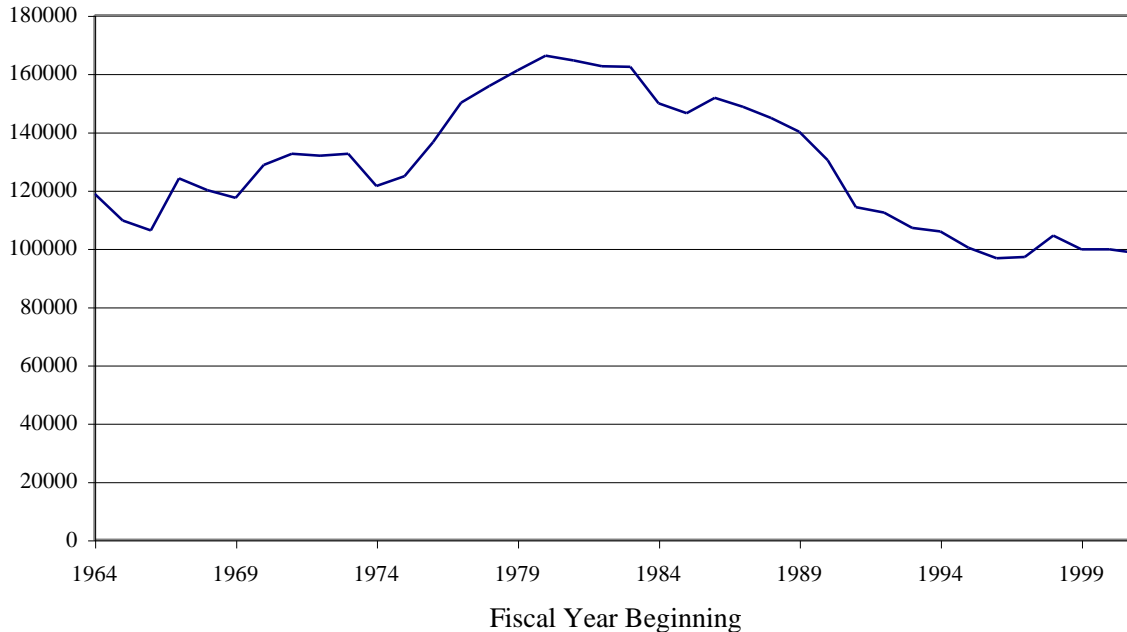
Participation in hunting is declining – a matter of some concern from the point of view of spending and income generation by tourists and visitors. Hunting licences also fund conservation programs in many provinces. All hunters in Alberta, for example, must buy a basic Alberta Wildlife Certificate, and additional permits are needed to hunt some species. Chart 2 shows Wildlife Certificate sales<sup>(45)</sup> between 1964 and 2001

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(45) See <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/hunting/numberhunters.html> for more details.

**Figure 2**

**Alberta Wildlife Certificate Sales**



Source: Alberta Ministry of Sustainable Resource Development.

Licence sales increased between 1964 and 1980 by just over 40,000, or about one-third. During this time, the population of Alberta grew from 1.4 million to 2.2 million, increasing by just over one-half. Thus, the number of hunters in Alberta increased slightly more slowly than the population during this period. After 1980, however, sales of Wildlife Certificates began to decline, reaching a level of 100,000 sales – 20,000 below the 1964 level, in spite of the Alberta population growing to 3.1 million, and a similar expansion in the rest of Canada and the United States.

The Alberta Ministry of Sustainable Resource Development argues that these trends are common throughout North America. In the early 1980s, the decline in waterfowl numbers reduced hunting opportunities, and many waterfowl hunters left the sport. At the same time, the cost of hunting licences increased. This increase, combined with more restrictive gun control laws, has made hunting less attractive. Moreover, increasing urbanization means that fewer potential hunters live close to wildlife areas. Finally, the range of leisure activities has expanded, increasing the competition for leisure time.

### C. Wildlife Management and Pest Control

Wildlife management aims to manage a wild species within its habitat to ensure the maintenance of the species while providing for recreational and economic benefits. It involves finding a balance between nature and people. Wildlife needs space to live, find food, and sustain its offspring. If these areas are next to human habitation, issues of safety, public health and damage to property are raised. The tradition of pest management in rural Canada has been well described by former deputy minister Arthur Kroeger:<sup>(46)</sup>

The gun registry was exactly what you'd expect from a Toronto, urban minister with no sensitivity to the culture of rural Canada and most particularly, the rural West. When I was growing up on the farm, the .22 rifle hung above the kitchen door and when you saw the coyote heading for the chicken coop, you took down the rifle. You didn't need to open a locked cabinet and take a psychological test before you could. There was no sensitivity in the gun registry and how it would be viewed in the rural West.

Options for wildlife management and pest control will depend upon the species and the environment they live in. Moreover, the actual sustainable population level for a particular species is a subject for scientific debate. Scientists may also debate whether culling is necessary, or whether there is some natural balancing process.

Each species and habitat raises different issues, but a recent Ontario report<sup>(47)</sup> provides an interesting analysis. The Nuisance Bear Review Committee was required to review all the factors in black bear management. Concerns about the orphaning of cubs had led to the 1999 decision to cancel the spring bear hunt. This cancellation remains controversial.

Black bears are omnivores, varying their sources of food by season. They have well-developed navigational abilities, and a keen sense of smell. The supply of spring foods that they eat is quite stable, but the summer and fall foods, particularly berries and soft fruits, are unpredictable in timing and availability. Poor berry crops may cause animals to search for other sources of food, perhaps crossing into human habitations to scavenge or take crops. Thus, they become nuisance bears.

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(46) As reported by James Baxter in the *Edmonton Journal*, 8 December 2003.

(47) Available at: <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/ebr/nbrc/index.html>.



Apiaries are an attractive target for nuisance bears, but corn, oats, and other field crops can also be damaged and livestock killed. Table 3 shows the compensation for black bear damage paid by the Province of Ontario. On average during 1995-2002, compensation was paid annually for 44 livestock, including poultry, valued at \$13,291 and 595 beehives valued at \$49,615. Total compensation paid for damage by black bears in one calendar year averaged \$62,906.

It should be noted that this table does not reflect the total damage black bears cause. First, compensation is paid on market value up to a limit for livestock. This cap is \$1,000 for cattle and buffalo, \$500 for horses, and \$200 for sheep, swine and goats. The compensation is \$35 for a bee colony and \$75 for equipment. Secondly, crops and soft fruit are not covered. Moreover, Table 3 does not include the costs of damage to private and commercial property as well as control costs, such as relocation, which reportedly amounts to \$800 per bear.

**Table 3**

<b>Compensation for Black Bear Damage in Ontario, 1995-2002</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Livestock</b>		<b>Beehives</b>	
	<b>Killed or Injured</b>	<b>Compensation Paid (\$)</b>	<b>Beehives or Colonies Destroyed</b>	<b>Compensation Paid (\$)</b>
1995	—	—	519	42,475
1996	12	5,486	350	31,206
1997	13	4,860	689	59,629
1998	14	5,678	266	24,070
1999	32	15,263	892	67,855
2000	26	10,159	729	61,936
2001	74†	21,907	832	70,413
2002	138†	29,685	481	39,335

Note: † includes poultry.

Source: *Nuisance Bear Review Committee Report*, Appendix 20.

Currently, a black bear hunting licence for Ontario residents costs \$33. Non-residents are charged \$165. Most non-residents are required to use the services of a licensed outfitter or guide, unless they own hunting property or go hunting with a relative who is an Ontario resident. The number of bear licences and revenues generated during 1993-2002 are reported in Table 4.

**Table 4**

<b>Ontario Recreational Bear Hunting Licences, 1993-2002</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Licences Issued</b>			<b>Revenue (\$)</b>
	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Non-resident</b>	<b>Total</b>	
1993	10,409	10,442	20,851	1,942,295
1994	12,287	13,439	25,726	2,335,060
1995	12,369	13,713	26,082	2,410,983
1996	9,697	12,913	22,610	2,239,819
1997	9,831	12,421	22,252	2,171,458
1998	10,208	12,069	22,277	2,183,096
1999	10,264	7,058	17,322	1,763,512
2000	10,473	7,766	18,239	1,949,369
2001	12,424	7,495	19,919	2,034,800
2002	11,737	7,924	19,661	2,099,678

Note: 2002 data are estimates.

Source: *Nuisance Bear Review Committee Report*, Appendix 21.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has conducted a mail sample survey of bear hunters in various years. Hunters were asked to report their spending on travel, supplies and services directly related to black bear hunting. The findings are shown in Table 5.

**Table 5**

<b>Economic Impact of Bear Hunting in Ontario, in Millions of Constant Year (2000) Dollars</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Directly Related Expenditures</b>			<b>Contribution to Gross Provincial Income</b>
	<b>Residents</b>	<b>Non-residents</b>	<b>All Hunters</b>	
1997	5.1	25.2	30.3	31.6
1999	6.2	14.3	20.5	21.7
2000	6.1	15.5	21.6	22.8

Source: *Nuisance Bear Review Committee Report*, Appendix 21.

Non-resident hunters spend more on hunting black bears. On a per capita basis, the difference is striking: In 2000, resident bear hunters spent on average under \$600, and non-residents spent about \$2,000. Once the indirect effects of this spending had rippled through the Ontario economy, an estimated \$22.8 million of provincial income was sustained.

Although the measurements of the costs of nuisance bears and the benefits of black bear hunting are partial, a crude cost-benefit analysis comes out strongly in favour of the bear hunt.

The Committee found a clear connection between fluctuations in natural food abundance and nuisance activity, but no connection between the cancellation of the spring bear hunt and recent increases in nuisance bear activity. In other words, there was no evidence that, before 1999, the spring bear hunt had reduced nuisance activity by black bears. Changes in bear nuisance activity levels in Quebec and Manitoba had paralleled those in Ontario, but Quebec has only a spring black bear hunt, and Manitoba has both a spring and a fall hunt. This suggests that the choice of spring or fall hunts, or both, does not affect bear nuisance activity levels.

Many Ontario municipalities and outfitters reported increased economic hardships after the spring black bear hunt was cancelled in 1999. In the light of this and the economic impact analysis, the Committee recommended that a limited spring black bear hunt be reinstated for socio-economic reasons, with strict conditions. However, the Committee suggested other measures, for example subsidies for electric fences to protect beehives, to deal directly with nuisance bears.

The black bear, for example, is an animal with many abilities and skills. It can live close to people, often too close. Research suggests that nuisance behaviour is driven by temporary food shortages; and because such behaviour is not a factor, unlike the level of the dollar and economic conditions, that leads U.S. hunters to head up North or motivates Canadians to hunt, it seems unlikely that managing the levels of hunting activity would effectively counteract changes in the levels of nuisance bear activity.

#### **D. Sport Shooting – Olympic and International Competitions**

Sport is felt to strengthen national pride and identity and to promote healthy living. The federal government has an interest in high-performance athletes who show the potential to compete internationally. Sport Canada provides financial support to national sporting bodies that meet certain eligibility conditions and that are associated with athletes who are performing well. Two of the three shooting-related national sport federations have received continuing federal support in recent years (see Table 6). Biathlon involves shooting and skiing. The modern pentathlon combines shooting, running, swimming, fencing and horse jumping, and the Canadian Modern Pentathlon Association has occasionally received small grants.

Sport Canada also directly funds carded athletes through providing living and training allowances and tuition payments. In addition, it provides some funding to the multi-

sport organizations, such as the Canadian Olympic Association and the Commonwealth Games Association, that handle national teams for those games. Neither of these amounts is included in Table 6.

**Table 6**

<b>Federal Contributions to Shooting-Related National Sporting Organisations, 1997-2002 (\$)</b>						
	<b>1998-1997</b>	<b>1999-1998</b>	<b>2000-1999</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>2002-2001</b>	<b>2003-2002</b>
Biathlon Canada	378,000	441,880	423,690	462,898	463,600	384,000
Shooting Federation of Canada	25,000	49,000	101,000	168,800	109,500	123,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>403,000</b>	<b>490,880</b>	<b>524,690</b>	<b>631,698</b>	<b>573,100</b>	<b>507,000</b>

Source: Public Accounts of Canada and Sport Canada.

Athletes in these sports have achieved competitive success at the highest levels.

Canadians have won Olympic medals in various shooting sports:

<i>Shooting</i>	<i>Small Bore Rifle, Prone 50 metres</i> 1956: Gold – Gerald Ouellette	Bronze – Gilmour Boa
	<i>Military Rifle – Team</i> 1908: Bronze	
	<i>Trap</i> 1908: Gold – Walter Ewing 1952: Gold – George Généreux	Silver – George Beattie
	<i>Trap – Team</i> 1908: Silver 1924: Silver	
	<i>Sport Pistol 25 metres</i> 1984: Gold – Linda Thom	
<i>Biathlon</i>	<i>7.5 Kilometres</i> 1994: Gold – Myriam Bédard	
	<i>15 Kilometres</i> 1992: Bronze – Myriam Bédard 1994: Gold – Myriam Bédard	

In the past 10 Commonwealth Games, Canada has won 38 gold medals in shooting. In the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, Canadian shooters scored four gold, three silver and five bronze positions.

Shooting, moreover, is a skill-based sport at which athletes with disabilities can excel. Canadian shooters with disabilities have won several medals in the Paralympics, the equivalent to the Olympics.

*1976*

Gold – Rifle Shooting – Open – Jean Byrns

Gold – Rifle Shooting – Quadraplegic Class 1A-1C – Ralph Thibodeau

Silver – Rifle Shooting – Quadraplegic Class 1A-1C – Joyce Murland

*1980*

Silver – Men – Air Pistol – Amputees All Classifications – Lazslo Decsi

Silver – Mixed – Air Rifle Standing Class 1A,1B,1C – Y. Page

Silver – Mixed – Air Rifle Prone Class 1A,1B,1C – Y. Page

Bronze – Mixed – Air Rifle 3 Positions Class 1A,1B,1C – Y. Page

*1988*

Silver – Air Pistol – Team, Open

Silver – Women – Air Pistol Class 2,3,4,5,6 – Heather Kuttai

Bronze – Men – Air Rifle 2 Positions Individual – Adam Salamandyk

Bronze – Men – Air Rifle Kneeling Individual – Adam Salamandyk

*1992*

Gold – Mixed – Free Pistol Class SH1-SH3 – Lazslo Decsi

Bronze – Mixed – Air Pistol Class SH1-SH3 – Heather Kuttai

One Canadian athlete, Lazslo Decsi, was good enough to try out for both the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic shooting teams. The International Shooting Union initially ruled that his artificial leg was an artificial aid, making him ineligible to compete internationally against able-bodied athletes. The Union later reversed that ruling.

## **E. Gun Clubs and Shooting Ranges**

Gun clubs in Canada serve a number of needs, including target shooting and range shooting, and a social meeting place for people with like tastes. Shooting ranges are regulated: ranges in Canada, including ranges for long guns, must be approved by a provincial minister,

usually through the Chief Firearms Officer. Ranges must have at least \$2 million of commercial general liability insurance, follow local zoning regulations and environmental protection laws, and meet safety standards. The shooting area should be designed to ensure that bullets will not leave the range, and a range officer should supervise the firing line. In addition to general paperwork, shooting ranges must keep records, for a period of six years, of anyone who uses restricted firearms and prohibited handguns at the club. On request, shooting clubs must provide the Chief Firearms Officer, or the individual concerned, with a written description of the individual's target shooting activities at the club over the previous five years.

Surveys suggest that 13% of gun owners pursue target shooting and nearly three-quarters hunt. Based on GPC Research's fall 2001 estimate of just under 2.5 million gun owners in Canada (although this figure has been disputed), the potential membership for shooting ranges would be over 300,000. In addition to shooting ranges, clubs of a wider scope – including social meetings – may also attract gun owners. These may be identified as rod and gun, fish and game, or chasse et pêche organizations. How many hunters are members of such clubs is not known.

In an attempt to gauge the number of the various gun clubs and shooting ranges, two electronic searches were undertaken. The ReferenceCanada Business Database from infoCanada contains 1.3 million entries compiled from a range of sources: telephone directories; business registration data; federal, provincial and municipal government data; Chamber of Commerce information; leading business magazines, trade publications, newsletters, major newspapers, industry and specialty directories; and postal service information. The ReferenceCanada Business Database attempts to list clubs of some size with some commercial presence, and may not include smaller operations that are not in the Yellow Pages or are run by volunteers. To reach the smaller clubs, an Internet search was conducted by following the links on hunting organizations' pages. It should be emphasized that such counting processes will tend to underestimate the true numbers. Table 7 shows the results of these two counts.

**Table 7**

<b>Estimates of Gun Clubs in Canada, 2003</b>			
<b>Province</b>	<b>infoCanada</b>	<b>WWW</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Maritimes</b>			
NS	3	17	20
NB	1	16	17
PEI	0	1	1
<i>Total</i>	4	34	38
<b>Central Canada</b>			
QC	54	38	92
ON	51	68	119
<i>Total</i>	105	106	211
<b>West</b>			
MB	9	13	22
SK	7	37	44
AB	14	85	99
BC	26	9	35
YT	1	0	1
<i>Total</i>	57	144	201
<b>Canada Total</b>	166	284	450

Source: Library of Parliament.

The infoCanada column shows results of searching the ReferenceCanada database for entries containing terms such as rod and gun, fish and game, chasse et pêche, and various permutations of shooting terms. Entries that were identified as being in the retail sector by their Standard Industrial Classification were removed from the count. The WWW column shows the result of the Internet search. The links sections of as many umbrella hunting and shooting organizations as could be readily identified were combined and electronically checked for duplicates with the infoCanada list.

Table 7 indicates that there are a substantial number of shooting and hunting clubs spread across Canada. It must be emphasized that these numbers are underestimates, because they are based on Internet presence.

## **F. Gun Shows**

Gun shows allow the gun community to meet, see displays, collect information and, perhaps, buy and sell equipment. Between 1993 and 1998, there were on average 53 gun show licences issued per year. More recent data are not available, but the National Firearms Association listed up to 10 shows per month in Canada in 2003.

The *Firearms Act* has imposed a stringent regulatory framework on gun shows. The coming-into-effect date of the subsequent regulations has been postponed from 1 January 2004 to 1 January 2005. Under the proposed regulations, each gun show will need a sponsor who is responsible for organizing, running, and ensuring the security of a gun show. The sponsor can be an individual, an association, or a business, and cannot be foreign. The sponsor applies for a sponsor's firearms business licence from the provincial or territorial Chief Firearms Officer. The sponsor must apply for this approval at least 60 days before the planned show date. The application must include the proposed location, dates, and hours of operation of the show, as well as a security plan and a preliminary list of exhibitors. The list of exhibitors must include their addresses, their firearms licence numbers, the class of firearms they propose to display, and whether or not they intend to sell their firearms. After the show has been approved, an updated exhibitor list is required at least three days before the show, along with a layout showing exhibitor locations. The local police must be notified. There may be additional provincial requirements. The exhibitors must have firearms licences and follow safe display and storage regulations.

The gun community has not greeted these regulations with any enthusiasm, which may explain the delays in their implementation. The regulations require that show organizers collect and transmit considerably more information than previously for public shows, which – the gun community argues – have no records of harming public safety or encouraging criminality.

### **G. Tourism – Foreign Hunters**

Canada is a popular international destination for sports and outdoor activities. In recent years, three out of ten international tourists participated in such activities. Statistics Canada administers a questionnaire to travellers. Unfortunately, for present purposes, hunting is combined with fishing. Table 8 shows the activities reported by visitors from the United States and elsewhere.



**Table 8**

<b>Selected Activities, International Overnight Trips to Canada, 1998 and 1999, (thousands of person-trips)</b>						
	<b>1998</b>			<b>1999</b>		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>Overseas</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>Overseas</b>
Activities – Total	18,828	14,893	3,935	19,367	15,180	4,187
Participate in sports/outdoor activities	5,458	4,338	1,120	5,847	4,584	1,263
Swimming	2,416	1,874	542	2,578	1,975	603
Other water sports	664	504	160	726	551	175
Hunting or fishing	1,316	1,218	98	1,378	1,259	119
Cross-country skiing	134	83	51	132	87	45
Downhill skiing	560	361	199	698	478	220
Other sports	1,858	1,452	406	1,999	1,494	505
Other activities	1,083	912	171	1,121	934	187

Source: Statistics Canada, No. 87-403-XIE, table 3.3a.

In 1998, of the total of 18,828 activities undertaken by international travellers, 5,458 involved sports participation and outdoor activities. Americans were more than twice as likely to go fishing or hunting, with 8% of their trips involving these activities, compared to other overseas tourists, with a rate of just 3%. Moreover, although Canada is often advertised internationally as a world-class skiing destination, hunting and fishing are twice as popular as cross-country and downhill skiing with international visitors.

In addition to the usual fluctuations in the tourism market, hunting is affected by outbreaks of animal diseases. In May 2003, the United States reacted to an incident of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Canada by banning the import of meat, brains and untreated hides of ruminant animals. American tourists who had successfully hunted deer, elk, bison, caribou, moose, musk ox, pronghorn, bighorn sheep or mountain goat after that date would have to find a taxidermist to treat the antlers and trophies, and leave the meat behind.

## **H. Firearms Museums**

Museums help us remember our shared history, preserve our artefacts, objects and sites, and educate our youth about the past. Many Canadian museums display firearms as part of their general collections, reflecting the role firearms have played in the development of Canada. Some museums have a specialized mission to preserve Canada's military heritage. These museums are represented by the Organization of Military Museums of Canada, which in 2000 had a membership of 61 Department of National Defence (DND) museums, 35 non-DND

museums, and one Parks Canada site. The number of museum licences issued by the Canadian Firearms Centre in 2001 and 2002 is given in Table 9 below. The new museum licences last for three years, which means that the total number of CFC-licensed museums would be three times the number of licences granted in an average year. These figures would include the 35 non-DND museums mentioned above. It would not, however, include DND museums that have been established and accredited by the Chief of the Defence Staff in the Canadian Forces, as such museums are not regulated by the CFC. Nor would the figures in Table 9 include museums that possess or display antique or deactivated firearms, as such firearms do not entail the need for a business licence.

**Table 9**

<b>Museums Licensed by Canadian Firearms Centre, by Province or Territory, 2001 and 2002</b>														
<b>Year</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>BC</b>	<b>MB</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>NL</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>NU</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>ON</b>	<b>PE</b>	<b>QC</b>	<b>SK</b>	<b>YT</b>	<b>Total</b>
2001	11	9	3	2	2	3	0	2	10	0	10	12	0	64
2002	13	10	4	5	6	7	0	1	26	2	5	7	1	87

Source: RCMP, *Registrar's Report to the Solicitor General on the Administration of the Firearms Act*, various years.

Apart from those museums accredited by the D.N.D., all museums with firearms, which are not antiques or deactivated, must obtain a firearms business licence. A museum must be approved by the Chief Firearms Officer, and be a non-profit organization open to the public. Anyone who could have access to the firearms in the museum must be eligible for a firearms licence. They do not need to actually have a licence but just be eligible. This list of people who need to be eligible for a firearms licence is widely defined to include all directors, officers and majority shareholders even their spouses, children, brothers, sisters, and parents who could access the firearms held by the museum. The Chief Firearms Officer may determine that this condition is not necessary. Every employee who handles firearms, antiques excepted, is required to have a firearms licence unless exempted by the appropriate provincial or territorial minister.

Although museums do not have to pay firearms registration fees, all firearms have to be registered, except for antiques and deactivated firearms. Firearms without serial numbers will have to have one assigned by the Registrar. The gun would have to be either stamped or engraved or have a sticker attached to a visible part of it. This requirement also applies to guns with serial numbers if the serial number, in conjunction with the other features of the firearm, is

not enough to tell the firearm apart from other firearms. If marking the gun in a visible place would reduce its value, a non-visible part of the gun may be used. If the firearm had not been previously registered or verified, it must be physically examined by an approved verifier to ensure that the information on the registration application is complete and that it accurately identifies and classifies the firearm.

Museums show and preserve firearms, and must follow the display and storage standards for general businesses. In addition, the provincial or territorial Chief Firearms Officer has the responsibility to approve in writing the methods a museum uses for display and storage or to set written standards. The same standards apply to antique guns even though the *Firearms Act* does require these guns to be registered. The basic display rules are that all guns must be unloaded and secured so that visitors cannot remove them. Restricted and prohibited firearms can only be exhibited in a locked display case or cabinet with the firearms made inoperable. There is a wider range of display options for non-restricted firearms. They can be secured to a wall or permanent fixture by a chain or metal cable through the trigger guard or by a metal bar. They can be displayed where only an owner or an employee of the business has ready access if they are made inoperable.

The advent of the new firearms regulations brought a windfall of firearm donations by gun owners who found the trouble and expense of registration too burdensome. The Canadian War Museum reported over 400 donations, some of very valuable guns.

The firearms registration and verification obligations a museum faces can be quite onerous. A number of museums have pointed out the amount of effort that has had to be diverted into gun registration. This may be particular problem for organisations that have faced funding cutbacks and are heavily reliant on volunteer efforts. The Manitoba Museum reported in its annual review<sup>(48)</sup> for 2002-2003:

Ed Dobrzanski has contributed over 10,000 hours of his time as a Museum volunteer over the past 11 years. Last year, as the federal deadline for gun registration approached, Ed offered to help register the Museum's considerable collection of firearms. He spent more than a month assessing hundreds of firearms. Aided by Hanna Peters with the HBC Collection and Ann Hindley with the Human History Collection, they completed the involved process of registering 75 firearms by the December 2002 deadline.

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(48) Available electronically at [http://www.manitobamuseum.mb.ca/gi\\_yearreview.html](http://www.manitobamuseum.mb.ca/gi_yearreview.html).

No estimates are available of the economic and other perceived benefits of firearms displays in museums. For example, the Manitoba Museum is a well-attended heritage and education centre that includes a considerable collection of firearms. The Museum generates \$21.1 million in economic activity annually in Manitoba, sustains 333 jobs, and contributes \$6 million in taxes to three levels of government. Some portion of these benefits is presumably attributable to the firearms collection. According to Statistics Canada in 1999-2000, there were 1,405 museums of all types in Canada. Many of them would include firearms displays. These museums operated with unearned revenues, such as grants and donations, of \$436 million and earned revenues, mainly admissions and memberships, of \$211 million. They employed 5,552 full-time workers, and 6,526 part-timers, and were supported by the work of 28,021 volunteers.

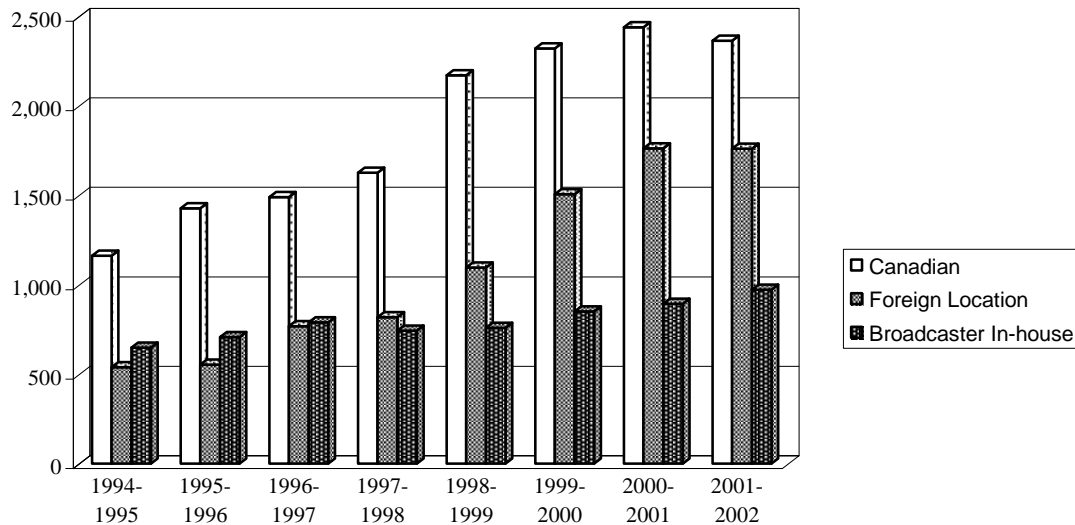
### **I. Movie and Television Productions**

Film and television are important industries that support over 130,000 jobs in Canada and provide entertainment and information to millions of people every day. The industry produces for both the domestic and foreign markets. Action, adventure and crime stories are consistently popular fare, and guns and shooting are – and probably will continue to be – prominent on the cinema and television screens. For the Canadian film and video industry to survive, it will probably need to continue creating entertainment products that feature the use and misuse of firearms. Firearms policy affects the film and video industry by imposing regulatory restrictions that may impose extra costs on action productions above those reasonable costs necessary for the health and safety of the cast and crew. In countries with a gun culture, it is easier to find extras who are very familiar with weapons and can handle them convincingly in front of a camera. Many observers foresee increasingly difficult times for the Canadian film and video industry and it is against these more difficult conditions that the impact of Canadian firearms policy has to be judged.

The economic benefits that derive from creating and marketing such entertainment products are enormous. In 2001-2002, Canadian film and television production was a \$5.1 billion industry, up from \$2.3 billion in 1994-1995 (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3**

**Film and Video Production in Canada,  
(\$ million)**



Source: Nordicity Group Ltd., *Profile 2003: An Economic Report on the Canadian Film and Television Production Industry*.

This national total production of \$5.1 billion in 2001-2002 can be broken down regionally:

Ontario	\$2.1 billion
Quebec	\$1.4 billion
British Columbia	\$1.1 billion
Prairie Provinces	\$286 million
Atlantic Canada	\$183 million

Film and television production in Canada in 2001-2002 generated 137,800 full-time equivalent jobs, made up of 53,000 direct jobs in the film and television production industry and 84,800 indirect jobs in other industries.

Current trends are not so favourable for the big budget productions. Fiction production has decreased by 13%. There has been a switch to variety and reality-based television programming. These can be made at lower costs. Fiction employs more actors and off-camera staff per program hour than any other category. Broadcasters are creating more of their own programming in-house at a lower cost. The growth of specialty cable channels, including the digital services, has fragmented the potential audience, reducing advertising revenues per channel, consequently reducing the funds available for programming.

Foreign location production declined slightly in 2001-2 after a period of steady increases. In summer 2001, the threat of strikes by actors and writers in the United States put production plans on hold. Security concerns raised by the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Centre lessened film shooting abroad by U.S. companies. There are additional grounds to expect further future difficulties for shooting movies in Canada. Film production is an attractive industry for any government to promote. The technology is mobile, and can be attracted with tax breaks. High profile local shoots with U.S. stars create quality off-camera job as well as stimulating general tourist interest. The market for location shoots has become more and more competitive. New Zealand, for example, is the location for the highly profitable *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

The loss of film production has been a source of concern for Hollywood, and the U.S. film production industry has started to fight back. The Directors Guild of America and Screen Actors Guild have played a leading role in lobbying for measures to reduce the outflow. Somewhat prejudicially, they have labelled productions intended for initial release or broadcast in the United States, but shot abroad as “runaways.” In a creative runaway, the story takes place in a setting that cannot be duplicated in the United States. Economic runaways are filmed abroad to lower production costs. The two Guilds are interested in bringing the economic, but not the creative, runaways back to the United States. Table 10 is taken from a study commissioned by the Guilds. U.S. film and video output has been broken down into domestic and runaway productions.

**Table 10**

<b>U.S., Domestic and Runaway Film and Television Productions, 1990 to 1998</b>									
	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Feature films</b>									
<i>U.S. Productions</i>	223	248	263	301	324	331	432	386	363
<i>Cultural Runaways</i>	52	41	45	45	63	64	73	57	71
<i>Economic Runaways</i>	44	48	43	72	93	52	128	79	100
<i>Economic Runaways (%)</i>	14%	14%	12%	17%	19%	12%	20%	15%	19%
<i>Cultural Runaways (%)</i>	16%	12%	13%	11%	13%	14%	12%	11%	13%
<b>Television programs</b>									
<i>U.S. Productions</i>	284	293	282	268	294	301	340	350	313
<i>Cultural Runaways</i>	57	39	25	40	39	44	47	46	43
<i>Economic Runaways</i>	56	58	75	92	113	109	154	150	185
<i>Economic Runaways (%)</i>	14%	15%	20%	23%	25%	24%	28%	27%	34%
<i>Cultural Runaways (%)</i>	14%	10%	7%	10%	9%	10%	9%	8%	8%
<b>Canada's Share of Economic Runaways</b>									
<i>Total Economic Runaways</i>	63%	65%	75%	76%	71%	76%	71%	78%	81%
<i>Telefilms</i>	77%	96%	94%	96%	88%	90%	94%	95%	91%

Source: *U.S. Runaway Film and Television Production Study Report*.

As Table 10 shows, the number of feature films targeted at the U.S. market has fluctuated during the 1990s, reaching a peak of 633 in 1996. However the percentage of economic runaways has only slightly increased from an average of 14% over the years 1990 to 1994 to 16% in the last four years. The number of television programs for the U.S. market has shown more steady growth, but the number of economic runaways has grown quite fast, taking up most of the increase in demand. The number of creative runaway television programs has declined.

Canada has been the major home for economic runaways. The last two rows of Table 10 show how much is produced in Canada. The percentage of all runaways made in Canada has increased from 63% in 1990 to 81% in 1998. In U.S. terminology, telefilms are made-for-television movies and Movies of the Week. Canada produces over nine out of ten runaway telefilms. Looking at these figures and trends it is not hard to understand why Hollywood has directed much criticism towards Canada. The government of British Columbia has answered back, attempting to head off trade complaints of unfair subsidies. The dollar amounts are substantially overstated by the U.S. study, because it uses secondary sources and budget numbers that are forecast or estimated. The relevant statistic is actual spending in Canada, which is accurately recorded in filings to collect Canadian federal and provincial tax credits. Foreign leading actors and directors will probably remit the major part of their salaries back to the U.S. The number of runaways is also overstated because it includes some Canadian productions that would not have been produced without Canadian involvement, becoming joint productions rather than runaways.

Recently an action movie star, Arnold Schwarzenegger, was elected governor of California. Part of his platform was to keep movie productions in his home state, arguing that Canadians had “stolen” this number one export from California. According to newspaper reports, the latest vehicle for Mr. Schwarzenegger, *Terminator 3*, was to have been shot in Vancouver, but, at the last moment, he volunteered to take a salary cut which, along with some cost cuts, made shooting in Hollywood economic. It should be pointed out that *The 6th Day* (2000) was made entirely in Canada at the Lion’s Gate Studios in North Vancouver, and on location in British Columbia and Ontario. In addition to starring in this movie, Mr. Schwarzenegger was the producer, with a major voice in the choice of location. Earlier Schwarzenegger films partially filmed in Canada are *Batman & Robin* (1997), *Eraser* (1996), *True Lies* (1994) and his classic *Conan the Barbarian* (1982).

With regard to the percentage of films produced in Canada that feature firearms prominently, some indication may be obtained from the Internet Movie Database (IMDb) is an electronic source of independent information on film and video. The IMDb produces a listing of the all-time most popular films as measured by sales revenues. From this ranking can be extracted those productions that were filmed in Canada. Table 11 shows the 19 top films that used Canadian locations or studios.

**Table 11**

<b>Top 300 Films Shot or Partially Shot in Canada</b>					
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Film</b>	<b>Year of Release</b>	<b>Box Office Gross, (current US\$ million)</b>		<b>Genre</b>
			<b>U.S.</b>	<b>Non-U.S.</b>	
1	Titanic	1997	601	1235	Dr / Ro
32	Twister	1996	242	253	Ac / Th / Dr
37	The Lost World: Jurassic Park	1997	229	385	Ho / SF / Ad / Th / Ac
88	Three Men and a Baby	1987	168	n.a.	Co / Fam
121	The Santa Clause	1994	145	45	Co / Fam / Fan
133	Look Who's Talking	1989	140	157	Ro / Co
138	Good Will Hunting	1997	138	n.a.	Dr
149	Superman	1978	134	155	Ac / Ad / SF
168	Rocky IV	1985	128	173	Ac / Dr
206	Double Jeopardy	1999	117	n.a.	Th / Ac / Dr / My
235	Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls	1995	108	104	Co
236	A Time to Kill	1996	108	37	Dr / Th
238	Superman II	1980	108	n.a.	Ad / Fan / SF / Ac
241	Batman & Robin	1997	107	130	Ac / Ad / Fan / Th
257	Phenomenon	1996	105	38	Dr / Ro / Fan
279	Unforgiven	1992	101	n.a.	We / Dr
282	Contact	1997	101	n.a.	Dr / SF
285	Eraser	1996	101	134	Ac / Dr / Th
291	Jumanji	1995	100	165	Fam / Ad / Ac / Fan

Genre Key:    Ac – Action                      Ad – Adventure                      Co – Comedy  
                   Dr – Drama                              Fam – Family                        Fan – Fantasy  
                   Ho – Horror                                My – Mystery                        Ro – Romance  
                   SF – Sci-Fi                                 Th – Thriller                        We – Western

Source: IMDb.



The IMDb does not record how many film used guns and firearms, but the genre listing can be used to give some indications. For example, *Unforgiven* – an Oscar-winning Clint Eastwood film using Alberta as a Wild West location – explores gun violence. Over half of these all-time top-grossing movies with a Canadian location involve guns as a part of the storyline.

Film companies shooting scenes with guns visible or in action employ property masters and armourers to keep the guns safe and help the actors. The usual practice in filming is to have the actors use replica firearms, which cannot not fire, whenever possible for reasons of safety.

Since December 1998, the *Firearms Act* has treated replica firearms as prohibited. Replica firearms, except for replicas of antique firearms, cannot be imported, manufactured nor sold in Canada. These provisions would have harmed the entertainment industry, but an exception was made. Licensed businesses in the entertainment industry are allowed to have replicas as well as other prohibited items such as switchblades and numchucks. Employees who handle these items and guns have to be licensed. Licensed companies in the entertainment industry can contract with an unlicensed business to produce replica firearms. Very complete record keeping is required in the production of replicas and the use of all weapons on movie sets. It is more difficult to obtain replica firearms in Canada than in Hollywood, but some legislative and regulatory accommodations have been made. The provinces regulate health and safety in the workplace and may set additional regulations.

Actors are not considered to be employees and do not need to be licensed to handle firearms provided they are under the supervision of licensed individual.

Some Canadians who work as armourers on movie sets have argued that the lack of a gun culture in Canada means that Canadian actors need more training in weapons handling, safety, and tactics. Actors with gun phobia are less credible in their roles, and can even be a danger on the set because blank ammunition can kill.

The Canadian film and video industry faces some challenges. Television advertising revenues are being spread over more channels in Canada and abroad forcing the choice of cheaper reality programming. The political climate in Hollywood is less friendly to runaway productions and a strengthening dollar makes Canada more expensive. Recent changes to firearms policy have added to the complexity of making action movies, but there has been some attempt to make accommodations. Canadian firearms policy treats replica guns as prohibited, but on the film set replicas are the safest way to fill the hands and holsters of actors.

## **J. Historical Re-enactments**

Reliving history can be an engrossing hobby. Re-enactors, as these hobbyists are called, have to research their period deeply enough allow them to actually live the period lifestyle. There is a great emphasis on historical accuracy. Clothes must be made of the correct fabric and colour. Utensils and equipment ought to be authentic. Some re-enactors recreate battles; some re-enact scenes from daily life; some take part in parades and pageants. In many cases, firearms are part of the re-creation. The benefits of historical re-enactments are wide-ranging: they contribute to the economy by attracting tourism; they provide entertainment for the re-enactors and the viewers; and they help to extend public awareness of Canada's history and identity. Some notable re-enactments in Canada are the following:

- The Battle of Stoney Creek marked the turning point in the War of 1812. The battle has often been re-enacted at the original 200-year-old Gage Homestead. The event takes place over a weekend, with the Friday is devoted to a History in Action day for local schoolchildren. There is also a performance of Tecumseh's life. The re-enactment of the battle itself uses authentic artillery, guns, bayonets, drums and uniforms. During the rest of the day, there are historical encampments to see, horse and wagon rides, period music and fashions, and fireworks at night.
- The Battle of Georgian Bay is a fictional battle with tall ships, cavalry and smaller vessels using authentic War of 1812 and Revolutionary War naval and military tactics. In 2001, the Battle of Georgian Bay attracted over 1,700 re-enactors from all over the world. They met in Midland and Penetanguishene to set up a living history encampment.
- Heritage Days in Chatham, Ontario, are the only the only 19<sup>th</sup>-century "Pleasure Faire" in Canada, allowing visitors to relive pioneer times. The Battle of the Thames is re-enacted as part of the Faire.
- Parks Canada maintains heritage sites such as Fort George and Fort Henry which feature official recreations of their past, including musket and gun demonstrations. Private re-enactors also hold events on these sites.

The number of re-enactors in Canada is unknown, but a quick search of the Internet reveals about 50 military living history groups covering colonial to modern periods with an emphasis on earlier periods, particularly the War of 1812.

The *Firearms Act* prohibits, with exceptions, carrying a loaded gun and firing it in public, but this is exactly what re-enactments involve, although the guns are loaded with blanks. The *Firearms Act* specifically exempts parades, pageants and historical re-enactments, as well as the activities of hunting and target shooting, firearms courses, and controlling predators.

The *Firearms Act* stipulates that a firearms licence is required to use or own a registered firearm, with some exceptions. A firearms licence is also required to obtain ammunition. If the *Act* exempts a particular class of firearm from registration, the owner or user does not need a firearms licence.

The *Firearms Act* exempts some but not all old guns. Antiques are exempted if they were manufactured before 1898 and do not discharge rim-fire or centre-fire ammunition. Thus, all black powder muzzleloaders made before 1898 are classified as antiques, but 19<sup>th</sup> century guns that use centre-fire or rim-fire black powder cartridges may not be antiques. There is a somewhat complicated listing of prescribed antiques in the regulations. Loose black powder and lead shot can be bought without a firearms licence.

Reproductions of antique matchlock, flintlock and wheel-lock long guns are also classified as antiques, but reproductions of such handguns and black powder reproductions of antique percussion-cap, muzzle-loading firearms are not.

Replicas, unlike reproductions, cannot fire. They are prohibited under the *Firearms Act*, and cannot be made, sold or imported. Already-owned replicas are grand fathered. Replicas of antiques are allowed and do not need to be registered.

The obligations of the re-enactors to be licensed and register their firearm will depend on precisely on the particular firearms in use. The War of 1812 re-enactments were not affected by the *Firearms Act*, but re-enactors participating in living history pageants for other times especially from American Civil War to the modern period will have to fully comply by being registered and having licences. Visiting re-enactors have to declare antique firearms at the border, but other firearms require Non-Resident Firearm Declaration form 909 be filled in and fees paid. Re-enactors from abroad who wish to borrow a non-restricted firearm for use at an event in Canada have to apply for a non-resident temporary borrowing licence and pay a fee.

**K. Firearms Businesses**

**Table 12**

<b>Number of Firearms Businesses and Activities by Province or Territory, 2002</b>														
<b>Activity</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>BC</b>	<b>MB</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>NL</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>NU</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>ON</b>	<b>PE</b>	<b>QC</b>	<b>SK</b>	<b>YT</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ammunition (sale)	322	350	176	158	333	187	45	39	830	26	863	332	12	3,673
Auction	7	10	5	2	0	3	0	0	11	0	0	3	1	42
Display of firearms	0	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	11
Entertainment	5	39	6	0	0	6	2	0	17	1	4	0	0	80
Gunsmith	55	93	31	31	21	53	1	1	205	5	157	37	2	692
Manufacturing	16	33	3	0	0	6	1	0	41	2	13	0	0	115
Pawned firearms	8	12	9	1	0	0	0	0	6	0	5	14	0	55
Possession	22	26	7	10	4	23	0	2	323	3	67	11	1	499
Retail/Wholesale	138	161	61	67	46	75	45	27	307	9	318	83	7	1,344
Storing firearms	62	69	18	12	6	27	2	3	128	7	121	31	4	490
Other	57	85	21	3	7	3	6	7	408	0	164	40	2	803
<i>Total Licences</i>	<i>705</i>	<i>889</i>	<i>344</i>	<i>292</i>	<i>423</i>	<i>390</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>2,302</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>1,720</i>	<i>559</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>7,891</i>
<i>Total Businesses</i>	<i>398</i>	<i>465</i>	<i>208</i>	<i>182</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>209</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>995</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>981</i>	<i>378</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>4,326</i>

Source: RCMP, *Registrar's Report to the Solicitor General on the Administration of the Firearms Act, 2002*.

In Table 12, “display of firearms” refers to a licence allowing a Royal Canadian Legion or an organized veterans group of any Canadian armed forces or police force to exhibit or store firearms. A “possession” licence allows the armoured car industry to have their employees armed to protect their lives and transport valuable cargo. The number of licences is nearly twice the number of businesses, indicating that most businesses have more than one licence.

“Manufacturing” entails the production, processing or assembly of firearms, but a better insight into major gun manufacture can be obtained from the Strategis Canadian Company Capabilities database. This source records sales as a range rather than an exact number.

The Strategis database identifies the following manufacturers:

- Diemaco Inc. of Kitchener, Ontario, produces various combat rifles for the Canadian Department of National Defence and for military clients in NATO countries. Diemaco employs 90 workers and has total sales in the range \$10 to \$25 million.
- Para-Ordnance Manufacturing Inc. of Scarborough, Ontario, makes 9mm, .40- and .45-calibre pistols for the law enforcement, military, and civilian markets. Para-Ordnance employs 65 workers, and has total sales between \$5 and \$10 million.

- Savage Arms (Canada) Inc. of Lakefield, Ontario, makes .22-calibre long rifles and sporting rim fire rifles, including those used for target shooting and biathlon events. Savage Arms employs 75 workers and has total sales between \$5 and \$10 million.
- Armament Technology of Halifax, Nova Scotia, makes tactical, sniper and precision rifles for military, police and civilian customers. Armament Technology employs 4 workers and has sales in the range of \$500,000 to \$1 million.
- RTI Research. Ltd of Langley, British Columbia, makes gun-care products for the shooting sports industry, the military, and law enforcement. These products include cleaning fluids, cleaning rods, brushes and swabs, tactical gun cases, shooting muffs and earplugs. RTI Research employs 3 workers and has sales in the range of \$500,000 to \$1 million.
- Range Sports Unlimited of Kamloops, British Columbia, manufactures hunting and marksmanship equipment, including smallbore target rifles, sights and clothing. Range Sports Unlimited employs 3 workers and has reported sales less than \$100,000.
- Excalibur Crossbow of Kitchener, Ontario, makes hunting and target crossbows and accessories for both domestic and foreign markets. Excalibur Crossbow employs 8 workers and has sales in the range of \$1 to \$5 million. (As well as regulating guns, the *Firearms Act* requires that a firearms licence is needed to acquire a crossbow.)

In addition to a number of smaller ammunition manufacturers and reloaders, SNC Industrial Technologies Inc. of Le Gardeur, Quebec, makes munitions for military and civilian purposes in small, medium and large calibres, as well as grenades, pyrotechnic products and demolition devices. SNC Industrial Technologies employs 1,450 workers and has sales of more than \$267 million. SNC has recently taken over Expro Chemical Products Inc. of Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Quebec, which is a major North American producer of propellents and explosives for military, civilian and commercial purposes.

Canadian firms also produce many accessories for guns, such as specialty cases, sights and scopes, which are not recorded in Table 12, above.

Table 13 shows the value of exports and imports of guns, ammunition and related goods. Military goods are included, because a number of the firms previously described produce both military and hobbyist weapons.

**Table 13**

<b>Canadian Imports and Exports of Firearms and Related Goods (\$ million), 1999-2003</b>					
<i>Exports</i>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Propellant Powders	38.1	45.2	32.3	31.6	43.5
Military Weapons	13.2	22.2	25.6	4.0	11.3
Revolvers and Pistols	9.8	10.9	9.0	10.7	7.4
Rifles, Shotguns, and Muzzle-Loaders	9.9	12.5	13.0	20.4	26.3
Other Firearms	0.7	0.3	1.4	2.3	1.7
Parts and Accessories	17.4	26.4	42.1	27.6	23.3
Cartridges	0.5	0.7	0.7	1.8	1.2
Air Gun Pellets	2.1	0.8	0.0	7.4	0.5
Other Cartridges and Parts	30.8	20.9	19.1	34.9	25.3
Other Ammunition	13.9	38.4	20.5	80.3	104.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>136.3</b>	<b>178.2</b>	<b>163.8</b>	<b>220.9</b>	<b>245.3</b>
<i>Imports</i>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Propellant Powders	5.4	6.2	4.6	3.5	3.9
Military Weapons	6.0	21.2	5.8	9.1	13.1
Revolvers and Pistols	2.0	2.5	5.7	5.5	4.0
Rifles, Shotguns, and Muzzle-Loaders	12.7	16.4	18.9	27.7	29.3
Other Firearms	9.7	10.1	10.4	17.0	16.7
Parts and Accessories	46.4	43.6	50.0	37.5	32.0
Cartridges	9.8	14.4	11.1	10.6	8.4
Air Gun Pellets	4.8	4.0	4.9	9.4	5.8
Other Cartridges and Parts	28.9	30.3	26.9	24.0	20.7
Other Ammunition	73.9	95.1	62.4	63.7	75.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>199.7</b>	<b>243.9</b>	<b>200.9</b>	<b>208.1</b>	<b>209.9</b>

Notes: Data classified according to the Harmonized System, categories 9306 and 3601.

Source: Strategis Trade Data Online.

Canada is a net exporter of propellant powders, which have much wider uses than in gun cartridges and shells, ranging from excavation and construction to airbags. Canada is also a net exporter of revolvers and pistols as well as military guns, but a net importer of rifles, shotguns and other types of guns and equipment.

Overall, for the goods in Table 13, Canada has experienced an annual trade deficit of over \$23 million. The number of non-military guns is given in Table 14, below.

**Table 14**

<b>Canadian Imports and Exports of Non-military Firearms, 1990-2001</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>Imports</b>				<b>Exports Total</b>
	<b>Shotguns</b>	<b>Rifles</b>	<b>Handguns</b>	<b>Total</b>	
1990	63,405	108,774	44,434	216,613	26,012
1991	49,249	77,659	27,922	154,830	21,111
1992	34,828	50,833	19,549	105,210	14,925
1993	48,437	104,357	28,745	181,539	38,110
1994	42,111	70,606	41,946	154,663	49,162
1995	20,376	53,065	34,130	107,571	80,535
1996	21,615	37,869	24,398	83,882	73,906
1997	13,966	26,952	9,179	50,097	77,568
1998	12,894	61,164	9,316	83,374	95,544
1999	7,692	22,040	4,736	34,368	91,237
2000	13,935	25,615	5,391	44,941	104,285
2001	13,364	31,817	13,097	58,278	100,015

Source: Statistics Canada, No. 65-007, 65-203 and 65-004.

These imports into Canada are not necessarily sold in the year of importation, and may include items destined for the police and other public agents.

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