



OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICER  
BUREAU DU DIRECTEUR PARLEMENTAIRE DU BUDGET

10 April 2019

Mr. Brad Trost, M.P.  
House of Commons  
Justice Building  
Room 113  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Trost:

Thank you for your request regarding the clarification of spending on the Canadian Firearms Program.

In accordance with section 79.12 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) has a duty to cooperate with the Parliamentary Librarian in the provision of services to parliamentary committees and members of the Senate and the House of Commons.

Based on the nature of your request, the Library of Parliament would be best positioned to perform the analysis.

Although I am unable to submit a request on your behalf, in an effort to facilitate the analysis, I have advised the Parliamentary Information and Research Service (PIRS) of the Library of Parliament to anticipate your request.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Should you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of my staff.

Sincerely,

Yves Giroux  
Parliamentary Budget Officer

Cc: Dr. Heather Lank, Parliamentary Librarian

Brad Trost, MP

Member of Parliament  
Saskatoon—University  
[www.bradtrost.ca](http://www.bradtrost.ca)  
[brad.trost@parl.gc.ca](mailto:brad.trost@parl.gc.ca)



OTTAWA

March 20, 2019

Yves Giroux, Parliamentary Budget Officer  
50 O'Connor Street, Suite 919  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A9

Dear Mr. Giroux:

**Re: Clarification of Spending on the Canadian Firearms Program**

Congratulations on your appointment as Parliamentary Budget Officer. I am writing to you today to ask for the help of your office to clarify the money spent by the federal government on the Canadian Firearms Program since our gun control laws were updated by Parliament in December of 1995.

On January 30, 2017, I received a reply to my Order Paper Question (OPQ) No. 624 which provided one set of dollar figures for the 'Amount spent' on the program for the years 1995-1996 to 2015-2016. In the attached copy you will note that the spending for four fiscal years 2011-2012 to 2014-2015 were not available.

Dennis Young, a long-time researcher and former staffer of a former colleague of mine, MP Garry Breitkreuz, compared the government's responses to my OPQ with those previously provided to MP Breitkreuz and with the RCMP's responses to *Access to Information Act* requests. See his spreadsheet with the results attached.

You will note there are a number of discrepancies in the annual dollar amounts reported by the government in their responses to our OPQs and the RCMP's responses to Young's *Access to Information Act* requests. I am hoping your office can conduct a comprehensive review of the Treasury Board reports on spending on the Canadian Firearms Program since 1995 and provide Parliament with the correct dollar figures.

The other financial information about the costs of gun control still not made available to Parliament by the government are the 'major additional costs' of enforcement and compliance identified by the Auditor General paragraph 10.29 of the Auditor General's 2002 Report to Parliament, *Further, in its Regulatory Impact Analysis Statements the Department of Justice did not provide Parliament with an estimate of all the major additional costs that would be incurred. This disclosure was required by the government's regulatory policy. The costs incurred by the provincial and territorial agencies in enforcing the legislation were not reported. In addition,*

**Constituency**

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Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
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**Ottawa**

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K1A 0A6  
Tel.: 613-992-8052



*costs that were incurred by firearms owners, firearms clubs, manufacturers, sellers, and importers and exporters of firearms, in their efforts to comply with the legislation were not reported.*

An undated Public Safety Backgrounder on Costs and Crime Statistics noted:

*(1) Neither the costs incurred by provincial and territorial agencies in enforcing the legislation, nor the costs borne by Firearms owners and businesses to comply with the legislation have been calculated. (Auditor General's Report 2002, Chapter 10). and*

*(2) Two Library of Parliament studies estimate that enforcement and compliance costs are substantial, running into the hundreds of millions of dollars. (Compliance Costs of Firearms Registration, 10 October 2003; and, Estimates of Some of the Costs of Enforcing the Firearms Act, 20 March 2003).*

Given the current debate of Bill C-71 in the Senate and the ongoing government review of proposals to ban handguns and assault rifles, I think it is important for Parliamentarians to have the spending numbers they can rely on.

I have included the hotlinks below, with the documents attached. If you or your staff need any help during your review, please give my office a call.

Sincerely,



Brad Trost, MP  
Saskatoon-University  
Encl.

**JANUARY 30, 2017 – MINISTER GOODALE'S RESPONSE TO MP TROST'S OPQ NO. 624**

<https://dennisyoung.ca/2017/02/18/goodales-response-to-mp-brad-trosts-question-q-624-cost-effectiveness-of-facs-vs-pals/>

**FEBRUARY 1, 2019 - SUMMARY OF REPORTED FIREARMS PROGRAM SPENDING 1995 TO 2017**

- Highest Spending Amounts Reported = \$1.79 Billion
- Lowest Spending Amounts Reported = \$1.60 Billion

**PUBLIC SAFETY CANADA BACKGROUNDER: Costs and Crime Statistics**

**QUESTIONS GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO ANSWER**

<https://dennisyoung.ca/2019/02/03/what-has-gun-control-cost-taxpayers/>

**RCMP ATIP RESPONSE: FIREARMS PROGRAM SPENDING & STAFFING 2016/2017 \$53.7 MILLION AND 451 FULL TIME EQUIVALENTS (FTE) RCMP ATIP**

Response dated January 23, 2018 - Requested Dec 8, 2017 - Received January 29, 2019

<https://dennisyoung.ca/2019/01/29/rcmp-fiirearms-program-2016-2017-53-7-million-and-451-employees/>

# 42nd PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

EDITED HANSARD • NUMBER 129

Monday, January 30, 2017



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

## House of Commons Debates

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=42&Ses=1&DocId=8712771>

### Question No. 624--

**Mr. Brad Trost:**

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

(Return tabled)

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

**Q-624<sup>2</sup>** — November 23, 2016 — Mr. Trost (Saskatoon—University) — With regard to gun control laws in effect between 1979 and 2001, the period when the Firearms Acquisition Certificate Program was in effect, and between 2001 and present, the period when the Possession and Acquisition Licence and Possession Only License Programs were in effect: (a) what was the average annual cost for administering federal firearms laws, regulations, policies, and programs; and (b) for each of these two periods, what are the statistics that show which period was most effective at (i) reducing violent crime, (ii) reducing homicides, (iii) reducing the number of armed crimes involving firearms?

**Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)**

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

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

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

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

**FIREARMS AND VIOLENT CRIME IN CANADA, 2012**

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

**Homicide in Canada, 2015**

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

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

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

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

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



DENNIS R. YOUNG  
WWW.DENNISRYOUNG.CA

## WHAT HAS GUN CONTROL COST TAXPAYERS AND HAS IT BEEN EFFECTIVE?

By Dennis R. Young – February 3, 2019

### **SUMMARY OF REPORTED FIREARMS PROGRAM SPENDING 1995 TO 2017**

Highest Spending Amounts Reported = \$1.79 Billion

Lowest Spending Amounts Reported = \$1.60 Billion

NOTE: The attached spreadsheet of all Firearms Program Spending Reported to Parliament and RCMP Responses to ATIP Requests prepared from original documents by Dennis R. Young – February 3, 2019

<https://dennisryoung.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Firearms-Program-Spending-1995-2017.png>

### **PUBLIC SAFETY CANADA BACKGROUNDER: Costs and Crime Statistics**

<https://dennisryoung.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Backgrounder-on-Firearms-Programs-Costs.pdf>

**EXCERPT #1:** *"Neither the costs incurred by provincial and territorial agencies in enforcing the legislation, nor the costs borne by Firearms owners and businesses to comply with the legislation have been calculated. (Auditor General's Report 2002, Chapter 10)."*

**EXCERPT #2:** *"Two Library of Parliament studies estimate that enforcement and compliance costs are substantial, running into the hundreds of millions of dollars. (Compliance Costs of Firearms Registration, 10 October 2003; and, Estimates of Some of the Costs of Enforcing the Firearms Act, 20 March 2003)."*

### **QUESTIONS GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO ANSWER**

Question: What Do All Gun Control Programs Cost Taxpayers Annually?

Question: What are the Enforcement, Compliance And Economic Costs?

Question: Has the Bill C-68 Regime Been More Effective than the previous Bill C-17 Regime?

Question: Have Gun Control Programs Reduced Homicides & Violent Crime?

Question: Are Taxpayers Getting The Best Bang For Their Buck?

Question: Where Are The Value-For-Money Audits?

Question: Where Are The Treasury Board Cost-Benefit Analyses?

Question: What Are The Benefits Of Gun Ownership?

[illegible]





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# Background

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## The Long-Gun Registry: Costs and Crime Statistics

### Costs

- In 1995, the previous government told Parliament that the firearms program, most specifically the long-gun registry, would involve a net cost of just \$2 million (*Auditor General's Report 2002*, Chapter 10).
- In May 2000, the previous government admitted that the costs had actually ballooned to at least \$327 million (*Auditor General's Report 2002*, Chapter 10).
- By March 2005 the net cost of the firearms program was \$946 million and by summer of 2006, costs had exceeded \$1 billion. The Auditor General states that Parliament was misinformed about many of these costs. (*Auditor General's Report 2006*, Chapter 4).
- Neither the costs incurred by provincial and territorial agencies in enforcing the legislation, nor the costs borne by Firearms owners and businesses to comply with the legislation have been calculated. (*Auditor General's Report 2002*, Chapter 10).
- Two Library of Parliament studies estimate that the enforcement and compliance costs are substantial, running into hundreds of millions of dollars. (*Compliance Costs of Firearms Registration*, 10 October 2003; and, *Estimates of Some of the Costs of Enforcing the Firearms Act*, 20 March 2003).

### Crime Statistics

- There are nearly 7 million registered long-guns in Canada. Yet of 2,441 homicides recorded in Canada since mandatory long-gun registration was introduced in 2003, fewer than 2 percent (47) were committed with rifles and shotguns known to have been registered. (*Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*).
- Illegal smuggling by organized crime is by far the principal source of firearms on our streets. Indeed, the Vancouver police report that 97 percent of firearms seized in 2003 were illegal guns smuggled in from the United States, usually by organized crime (Vancouver Police, *Strategic Plan 2004-08*).

Ce document d'information est aussi disponible en français.



JAN 23 2019

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

RECEIVED  
29 JANUARY 2019  
*[Signature]*

Dear Mr. YOUNG:

This is in response to your request under the *Access to Information Act*, which was received by this office on December 19, 2017, to obtain:

*Reference is being made to the RCMP's response to RCMP ATIP Files: A-2016-08471 dated December 28, 2016 <https://dennisryoung.ca/2017/01/06/rcmp-firearms-budget-20152016-53-3-million-474-employees/>. Please provide a copy of the updated Budget Fiscal Year 2016/2017 for each of the sections, subsections and partners of the Canadian Firearms Program and the number of employees (FTEs) working in each section and subsection in the Canadian Firearms Program. Below is the most current Organizational Structure I have for the CFP.*

**FIREARMS INVESTIGATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT SERVICES**

- National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST)
- Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre (CNFTC)
- Firearms Operations and Enforcement Support (FOES) Unit
- Specialized Firearms Support Services (SFSS)
- Crown Attorney Program (CAP)
- Firearms Investigative and Enforcement Policy (FIEP) Unit
- Firearms Internet Investigations Support (FIIS) Unit

**FIREARMS MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGIC SERVICES**

- Firearms Strategic Policy
- Firearms Research
- Performance Management and Statistical Analysis
- Client and Community Outreach Services
- Business Services Section

**FIREARMS SERVICE DELIVERY**

- Central Processing Site (CPS)
- Canadian Firearms Registry (CFR)

**CHIEF FIREARMS OFFICER OPERATIONS IT INTEGRATION AND BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT PARTNERS - CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM**

- Public Safety Canada
- Transfer Payments to Provinces and Territories
- Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)
- Department of Justice
- Global Affairs and/or Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT)
- Contribution Payments to Aboriginal Communities

Based on the information provided, a search for records was conducted for the information you are seeking. Enclosed is a copy of all the information relevant to your request, which are disclosed in their entirety.

Please be advised that you are entitled to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner concerning the processing of your request within 60 days after the day that you become aware that grounds for a complaint exist. In the event you decide to avail yourself of this right, your notice of complaint should be addressed to:

Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada  
30 Victoria Street, 7th Floor  
Gatineau, Quebec  
K1A 1H3

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, you may contact Barry Kerfoot at 613-843-6857 or [barry.kerfoot@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:barry.kerfoot@rcmp-grc.gc.ca). Please quote the file number appearing on this letter.

Regards,



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

ATIP Response

Sections, Subsections, Partners

Budget FY 2016/2017 FTE as of March 31, 2017

Firearms Investigative and Enforcement Services

- National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST)
- Canadian National Firearms Training Centre (CNFTC)
- Firearms Operations and Enforcement Support (FOES) Unit
- Specialized Firearms Support Services (SFSS)
- Crown Attorney Program (CAP)
- Firearms Investigative and Enforcement Policy (FIEP) Unit

5,265,774	20
463,000	4
0	0
2,106,600	23
32,326	0
246,700	3

Firearms Managements and Strategic Services

- Director
- Firearms Strategic Policy
- Firearms Research
- Performance Management and Statistical Analysis
- Client and Community Outreach Services
- Business Services Section

Within the Firearms Management and Strategic Services section budgets were held at the Director Level

1,037,670	18
0	0
0	0
0	0
0	0
1,488,758	0

Firearms Service Delivery

Central Processing Site (CPS)

11,903,310	212
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CFO Operation and Firearms Safety Training (Includes CFR)

7,579,459	95
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Canadian Firearms Registry (CFR)

1,402,000	18
-----------	----

IT Integration

- IT Integration and Business Improvement
- IT Integration and Business Improvement Partners

2,170,194	10
4,652,168	48

RCMP Legal Services

780,000	N/A
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Transfer Payments to Provinces and Territories

14,230,446	N/A
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Transfer Payments to Aboriginals and/or Other Communities and Organizations

256,554	N/A
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Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) MOU

Annual transfer through Supplementary Estimates Exercise

1,700,000	N/A
<u>63,784,929</u>	<u>451</u>

Note: These figures do not represent the entire envelope identified in the RRP and DPR reports. Employee Benefits Plan, Internal Services, and Accommodation charges are not included in these figures.

# ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

## Access to Information Request Form

For official use only:

My File: 185

### Federal Government Institution:

**RCMP and CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM**

### Details regarding the information being sought:

Reference is being made to the RCMP's response to RCMP ATIP File: **A-2016-08471** dated December 28, 2016 <https://dennisryoung.ca/2017/01/06/rcmp-firearms-budget-20152016-53-3-million-474-employees/>

**Please provide a copy of the updated Budget Fiscal Year 2016/2017 for each of the Sections, Subsections and Partners of the Canadian Firearms Program and the number of employees (FTEs) working in each Section and Subsection in the Canadian Firearms Program. Below is the most current Organizational Structure I have for the CFP.**

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- Crown Attorney Program (CAP)
- Firearms Investigative and Enforcement Policy (FIEP) Unit
- Firearms Internet Investigations Support (FIIS) Unit

#### **FIREARMS MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGIC SERVICES**

- Firearms Strategic Policy
- Firearms Research
- Performance Management and Statistical Analysis
- Client and Community Outreach Services
- Business Services Section

#### **FIREARMS SERVICE DELIVERY**

- Central Processing Site (CPS)
- Canadian Firearms Registry (CFR) -

#### **CHIEF FIREARMS OFFICER OPERATIONS**

#### **IT INTEGRATION AND BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT**

#### **PARTNERS - CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM**

- Public Safety Canada
- Transfer Payments to Provinces and Territories
- Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)
- Department of Justice
- Global Affairs and/or Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT)
- Contribution Payments to Aboriginal Communities

**Method of access preferred:** ☐ Receive copies of originals ☐ Examine originals in government offices

**Name of Applicant:** Dennis R. Young  
**Address:** 1330 Ravenswood Drive SE  
Airdrie, Alberta T4A 0P8

**Telephone Number:** 587-360-1111 **E-Mail:** dennisryoung@telus.net

**This request for access to information under the Access to Information Act is being made by:**

- ☐ a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or another individual present in Canada, or  
☐ a corporation present in Canada

Cheque # 588

[Original signed by]

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Dennis R. Young

**Date:** December 8, 2017