



DENNIS R. YOUNG
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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE (SPC) ON FIREARMS STATEMENT ON SOURCES OF CRIME GUNS – SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

Regina Police Chief Evan Bray and Chair of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Special Purpose Committee (SPC) on Firearms:

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police have established a Special Purpose Committee (SPC) on Firearms. This committee is working towards being able to produce a report outlining the national situation and trends of criminal gun sourcing, gun-related issues hampering police investigations, and offer potential options to be considered further by the Board of Directors.

This is complicated and intense work, with a goal to build better data that supports our understanding of the issues around the illegal use of firearms and firearms being used in the commission of an offense. There are currently many differences across Canada in terms of the source of crimes guns as well as the type of guns being used to commit crimes and the types of crimes being committed. This work will build consistent data to isolate national, regional and local trends and better help communities as a collective address these public safety issues.

The focus of this work is not on law abiding firearms owners who have a lawful, legal purpose and right to their firearms.

Any comments I have made about our local firearm situation comes from discussions I have had with front line police officers. Comments I make around type of firearms being used for criminal purposes and where those guns are coming from is anecdotal information based on what front line officers are experiencing. As we progress through our national committee work, I hope to be able to also have data to better illustrate this complex issue.

NOTE: See attached email received from the Regina City Police Access and Privacy Team dated September 16, 2019 in response to my Freedom of Information request dated August 10, 2019 - FOIP File #19-0119.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

CBC - REGINA POLICE CHIEF SETS SIGHTS ON 'MONSTER ISSUE' OF GUN VIOLENCE AS REPORTED CRIME HITS 10-YEAR HIGH - Bray is chairing a national committee for the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The focus of the committee is to dig into the illegal use of firearms for crime, which Bray called, "a monster issue." Bray was skeptical about how effective a proposed handgun ban would be. **He said that in Regina, the firearms used in crimes are often stolen hunting rifles.** "I'm not going to say that handguns aren't a risk to citizens in Regina, because they are," said Bray, but "predominantly the crime that's involving firearms in our city is long-barrelled rifles or shotguns." By Alec Salloum · CBC News · Posted: Aug 29, 2019 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/crime-stats-2019-mid-year-report-1.5264600>

CBC - GUN VIOLENCE ACROSS CANADA SPURS NEW TASK FORCE HEADED BY REGINA POLICE CHIEF - Police chiefs want legislative solutions, including tracking big purchases of licensed guns. Excerpt: **"Bray already knows that most firearms used in crimes in Saskatchewan are domestically sourced within the province."** By Chelsea Laskowski · CBC News · Posted: Jan 17, 2019 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/regina-gun-violence-task-force-1.4981099>

THE SOURCE OF GUNS ON REGINA'S STREETS By Jules Knox, Reporter/Anchor, Global News - July 25, 2017 - Police are struggling with gun crime on the Queen City's streets, and some people might find that the source of the firearms is closer than expected. *"They're not being brought in by the United States, in fact most of them are not even being brought across a border to come here. They're coming from break and enters,"* Regina Police Chief Evan Bray said. <https://globalnews.ca/news/3624668/the-source-of-guns-on-reginas-streets/>

Dennis R. Young

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From: La_Foip <La_Foip@reginapolice.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2019 3:28 PM
To: 'dennisyoung@telus.net' <dennisyoung@telus.net>
Subject: Access to Information Request #19-0119
Importance: High

Good day Dennis Young,

Re: *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*
Access to Information Request #19-0119

This is a follow-up to your email on August 23, 2019, where you requested more information about access to information request #19-0119. You requested further information on the public statement Chief Bray made about firearms to Global News in July 2017. Your question was forwarded to Chief Bray and his response is as follows:

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police have established a Special Purpose Committee (SPC) on Firearms. This committee is working towards being able to produce a report outlining the national situation and trends of criminal gun sourcing, gun-related issues hampering police investigations, and offer potential options to be considered further by the Board of Directors.

This is complicated and intense work, with a goal to build better data that supports our understanding of the issues around the illegal use of firearms and firearms being used in the commission of an offense. There are currently many differences across Canada in terms of the source of crimes guns as well as the type of guns being used to commit crimes and the types of crimes being committed. This work will build consistent data to isolate national, regional and local trends and better help communities as a collective address these public safety issues.

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Chief Bray also stated that if you have further questions he would be happy to talk with you. I can arrange this for you if you would like.

If you have any questions or require additional information on the Access to Information process, please refer to the Regina Police Service web page <http://reginapolice.ca/resources/freedom-of-information-and-protection-of-privacy/> . If you have any questions or require additional information you can reach us at 306-777-8656, or by email at lafoip@reginapolice.ca.

Thanks,



Access and Privacy Team

Regina Police Service, 1717 Osler Street, Regina

Ph.: 306-777-8656

lafoip@reginapolice.ca

"Working together to keep Regina safe"



DENNIS R. YOUNG
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REGINA POLICE 'CRIME GUN' STATS FAIL TO SUPPORT CHIEF BRAY'S STATEMENT

Regina Police Service Freedom of Information incomplete response received August 20, 2019 by Dennis R. Young

REGINA POLICE SERVICES FOIP 'CRIME GUNS' – AUGUST 10, 2019 - MY FILE: SASK-001

THE SOURCE OF GUNS ON REGINA'S STREETS By Jules Knox, Reporter/Anchor, Global News - July 25, 2017 - Police are struggling with gun crime on the Queen City's streets, and some people might find that the source of the firearms is closer than expected. *"They're not being brought in by the United States, in fact most of them are not even being brought across a border to come here. They're coming from break and enters,"* Regina Police Chief Evan Bray said. <https://globalnews.ca/news/3624668/the-source-of-guns-on-reginas-streets/>

For each of the last five complete calendar years, please provide copies of records with the following information about firearms seized and crime guns:

1. The most current definition of a 'crime gun';
2. Total number of firearms seized for (a) Crimes and (b) Non-Crimes;
3. Total number of firearms surrendered to police (i.e. during a buy-back or amnesty, turned in voluntarily for destruction, issued with 'quit claim' receipts, etc);
4. Total number of crime guns seized that were: (a) 'used in a criminal offence'; (b) 'suspected of being used in a criminal offence'; (c) 'obtained, possessed, or intended to be used to facilitate criminal activity'; (d) 'serial number removed, altered or obliterated'; (e) 'adapted for use as a firearm';
5. Total number of firearms that were recorded as 'found';
6. Total number of firearms destroyed;
7. Total number of firearms reported stolen from (a) individuals and (b) businesses;
8. Total number of 'crime guns' seized that were reported as stolen from (a) licensed gun owners or (b) licensed businesses;
9. Total number of 'crime guns' seized from licensed gun owners or licensed businesses (a) for a violent crime, (b) for an administrative or paper firearms crime (i.e. expired license, current address not reported, Authorization to Transport violation, error on registration certificate, registered firearm not at correct address; etc, etc);
10. Total number of 'crime guns' seized that you attempted to trace;
11. Total number of 'crime guns' seized that were successfully traced;
12. Total number of 'crime guns' seized that were successfully traced to the U.S.A;
13. Total number of 'crime guns' seized that were successfully traced to Canada;
14. Total number of 'crime guns' seized that were traced to a licensed gun owner;
15. Total number licensed gun owners charged with providing a 'crime gun' to a criminal;
16. Total number of 'crime guns' seized that were (a) restricted, (b) prohibited, or (c) non-restricted;
17. Total number of 'crime guns' seized that were registered (a) restricted, (b) prohibited (c) non-restricted;
18. Total number of 'crime guns' seized by type of firearm (i.e. rifle, shotgun, handgun, toy gun, replica, sawed-off gun, sub-machine gun, machine gun, etc).

REGINA POLICE SERVICES FOIP RESPONSE – AUGUST 20, 2019

The Regina Police Services has Firearm Reports that are made public on a monthly basis available at <http://reginapolice.ca/category/firearms-statistics/>

"As all the information you requested is publicly available, we can refund your \$20.00 if you would like."

See copies of the Regina Police Service response in the three pages attached.



Regina Police Service

Working together to keep Regina safe

Your File _____

Our File _____

Good day Dennis Young:

Re: *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*

Access to Information Request #19-0119

This is further to your Access to Information request pursuant to *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

We have processed your request and our response is provided below:

- The Regina Police Services has Firearm Reports that are made public on a monthly basis available at <http://reginapolice.ca/category/firearms-statistics>.
- For Gun Amnesty information please visit our website at www.reginapolice.ca and search for the word "Amnesty" for details on our province-wide firearms amnesty program.
- Please note that although seized guns are traced, they are traced by the RCMP, therefore we do not own that information. The RCMP has a national database and they may be able to assist you if you wish to reach out to them with your request.

As the information you requested is publicly available, we can refund your \$20.00 if you would like. If you choose to do so, please respond to this email with your request for refund.

If you have any questions or require additional information on the Access to Information process, please refer to the Regina Police Service web page <http://reginapolice.ca/resources/freedom-of-information-and-protection-of-privacy/>.

If you have any questions or require additional information you can reach us at 306-777-8656, or by email at lafoip@reginapolice.ca

Sincerely,

Tracy Raison

Tracy Raison
Access and Privacy Officer

TR



Firearms

January 1 – December 31st, 2018

Mission

Public
Service
First

Vision

Working
Together to
Keep Regina
Safe

Values

Respectful
Professional
Service

OCCURRENCES

- 10 violent occurrences involved a firearm in December 2018 compared to 7 in December 2017.
 - There were 151 violent occurrences involving a firearm reported in 2018 which is an increase of 25% compared to the 121 reported occurrences in 2017.
- 6 firearm occurrences without injuriesⁱ were reported to the Regina Police Service in December 2018 compared to 3 in December 2017.
 - 68 firearm occurrences without injuries were reported in 2018 compared to 46 in 2017.

VICTIMS

- 4 people were injured by a firearm in December 2018 compared to 1 person in December 2017.
 - In 2018, 41 persons were injured by a firearm compared to 29 in 2017.

SEIZURES

- 52 firearms were seizedⁱⁱ in December 2018 compared to 30 in December 2017, an increase of 73%.
 - 52 firearms seized in December 2018 is an increase from December's five year average of 32 firearms for the month.
 - A total of 476 firearms were seized in 2018; which is an increase of 22% compared to the five year average of 389 firearms.
 - 36% of all firearms seized in 2018 were for public safety reasons; this is lower than the five year average of 39%.

STOLEN FIREARMS

- 16 firearms were reported stolen in the month of December 2018 compared to 4 in December 2017.
 - A total of 70 firearms were reported stolen in 2018 compared to 72 in 2017. This is higher than the average of 48 firearms reported stolen over the last five years.

FIREARMS (Year to Date)ⁱⁱⁱ

		January 1 to December 31				
<u>SEIZURES</u>		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Criminal ^{iv}		155	264	284	272	306
Public safety ^v		123	154	152	215	170
TOTAL		278	418	436	487	476
<u>OCCURRENCES</u>		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Violent occurrences		56	78	142	121	151
Stolen firearms - property offences		36	43	56	72	70
Victims		12	16	41	29	41
Firearm occurrences no injuries		19	14	57	46	68

ⁱ Firearm occurrences without injuries refer to three types of incidents: discharge firearm with intent, used in the commission of an offence, and pointing a firearm.

ⁱⁱ Seizures do not include devices, ammunition, or the gun amnesty program.

ⁱⁱⁱ The statistics contained in this report were extracted from IEIS on February 6th, 2019. These numbers are subject to change after data quality review.

^{iv} Criminal seizures refer to all incidents except provincial statutes, municipal bylaws and special inquiries.

^v Public safety seizures refer to incidents such as the *Mental Health Services Act*, Youth Drug Detox, Sudden/Accidental Death, Domestic Violence, Attempt Suicide, and Lost/Found Property. **Firearms seized during the Gun Amnesty in February 2017 (98) and April 2018 (100), were not included in these numbers.**