

Ministry of the Solicitor General    ministère du Solliciteur général

Freedom of Information and  
Protection of Privacy Services  
200 First Avenue West  
North Bay ON P1B 3B9

Services d'accès à l'information et de la  
Protection de la vie privée  
200 First Avenue West  
North Bay ON P1B 3B9

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ONT-012

RECEIVED  
SEPT 7, 2019  
*[Signature]*

September 3, 2019

Dennis R. Young  
1330 Ravenswood Drive S.E.  
Airdrie, Alberta T4A 0P8

Dear Dennis R. Young:

**SUBJECT: REQUEST NUMBER SOLGEN-A-2019-02470**

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated August 24, 2019 requesting that the Ministry of the Solicitor General waive the fee estimate that was provided to you in reference to the above noted access request.

Section 57(4) of the Act reads as follows:

“A head shall waive the payment of all or any part of an amount required to be paid under this Act where, in a head’s opinion, it is fair and equitable to do so. The Act also provides that all or part of the fee may be waived if, in our opinion, it is fair and equitable to do so, if the fee will cause you a financial hardship or if dissemination of the record will benefit public health and safety.”

It has been established in a number of orders prepared by the Information and Privacy Commissioner that the requester bears the initial responsibility of establishing his or her case.

In your recent correspondence you have stated that the fee would cause a financial hardship, however, you have not provided any financial information or details to substantiate this claim. Without financial evidence to support your claim, you have not discharged the burden of proving that the payment of a fee would cause financial hardship.

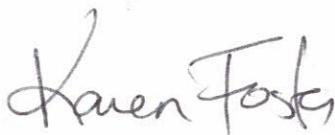
It is the Ministry’s position that you must provide evidence and details regarding your financial situation, which may include information about income, assets and expenses to support your claim. Supporting documentation should include the amount and source of any income, total of personal assets and an outline of expenditures to establish that a fee waiver would be in order.

Dennis R. Young  
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As well, the Ministry is of the view that the information provided in your letter is not sufficient for the Ministry to grant you a fee waiver on the basis that dissemination of the requested records will benefit public health or safety.

If we do not hear from you or receive the required deposit by October 3, 2019 we will consider your request abandoned and close our file. Should you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact Karen Foster, A/Senior Program Analyst & Advisor, at (705) 494-3196.

Sincerely,



Enza Ragone  
Coordinator  
Freedom of Information and  
Protection of Privacy Services



Airdrie, Alberta  
August 24, 2019

MY FILE: ONT-012

Ezna Ragone, Coordinator  
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Services  
200 First Avenue West  
North Bay, ON  
P1B 4B9

Dear Ezna Ragone:

**Re: FOIP Fee Waiver Request: SOLGEN-A-2019-02470 - O.P.P Crime Gun Statistics 2008-2018**

Reference is being made to your letter dated August 20, 2019 requesting search and processing fees in the amount of \$240.00. I respectfully request your consideration of my request to waive the full \$240 fee assessed in the attachment to your letter. I specifically appeal to your discretion to waive these fees as it would cause my wife and I 'financial hardship' and 'dissemination of the record will benefit public health and safety'.

**Financial Hardship**

[REDACTED]

**Records Requested will Benefit Public and Police Health and Safety**

At the *Guns and Gangs Summit* held by Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale in Ottawa in March of 2018, Statistics Canada made the following statement: "*We don't know the origin of firearms involved in gun crime*" (see link below). On June 11, 2018 the Liberal Government tabled their response to Order Paper Questions in Parliament admitting that they don't collect information on firearms seized by police that are '*domestically sourced*' or '*smuggled in Canada*' (see link below). Even former Toronto Chief of Police Bill Blair now Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction and MP for Scarborough Southwest told CBC on July 28, 2018 that '*data on this topic is limited and somewhat flawed*' (see link below). Finally, on February 25, 2019, in response to my Access to Information Act request the RCMP stated: "*Please note that items 1,2 and 5-12 produced no records, as the RCMP does not define 'crime guns', and therefore cannot provide statistics relating to 'crime guns'.*"

The RCMP, Public Safety Canada and Statistics Canada does not collect the data on crime guns I requested so the public has no where else to turn except to local and provincial police services for this important statistical information.

The federal government no longer charges search and processing fees but that hardly matters if they don't collect the statistics the Ontario public needs regarding the sources of crime guns to make better decisions about how best to combat the criminal use of firearms and protect both public and police safety.

If you can't decide on my request for a fee waiver before your September 19, 2019 deadline, please advise and I will send you the deposit of \$120 so you can continue processing of my request.

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed by]

Dennis R. Young  
1330 Ravenswood Drive SE  
AIRDRIE, AB T4A 0P8  
Home Phone: 587-360-1111  
E-Mail1: [dennisryoung@telus.net](mailto:dennisryoung@telus.net)  
E-Mail2: [dennisryoung.ca@gmail.com](mailto:dennisryoung.ca@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.dennisryoung.ca](http://www.dennisryoung.ca)

cc Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner  
2 Bloor Street East, Suite 1400  
Toronto, ON  
M4W 1A8

#### **STATSCAN ATIP CONFIRMS: SOURCE OF CRIME GUNS UNKNOWN**

Access to Information Response dated May 16, 2018 – Received June 26, 2018

<https://dennisryoung.ca/2018/06/26/statscan-atip-response-source-crime-guns-unknown/>

**“THE CANADIAN FIREARMS INFORMATION SYSTEM DOES NOT COLLECT THE REQUESTED INFORMATION.” Firearms Seized by Police that are: "(iii) domestically sourced, (iv) smuggled into Canada"**

<https://dennisryoung.ca/2018/06/23/key-evidence-missing-responses-bill-c-71-order-paper-questions/>

#### **FACTSCAN: BILL BLAIR: ON CRIME GUNS**

By Nojan Kamoosi on October 13, 2018 <http://factscan.ca/bill-blair-crime-guns/>

Bill Blair, Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction and MP for Scarborough Southwest, on CBC's The House on July 28, 2018 <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1287252547509/>: 'While the data on this topic is limited and somewhat flawed, experts agree that historically, most crime guns in Canada have arrived unlawfully from the US. Some new reports contradict this view and imply that a higher rate of crime guns are domestically sourced, however, these reports show that domestic crime guns have been illegally diverted (**straw purchases**), as opposed to being legally owned by the perpetrators.' FactsCan Score: True

#### **MARCH 6, 2019 - RCMP DOES NOT DEFINE 'CRIME GUNS'**

#### **RCMP ATIP RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON 'CRIME GUN' STATISTICS**

**EXCERPT: "Please note that items 1,2 and 5-12 produced no records, as the RCMP does not define 'crime guns', and therefore cannot provide statistics relating to 'crime guns'."**

RCMP Response dated Feb 25, 2019 Received March 6, 2019 by Dennis R. Young

<https://dennisryoung.ca/2019/03/07/rcmp-does-not-define-crime-guns/>

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August 20, 2019

Dennis R. Young  
1330 Ravenswood Drive S.E.  
Airdrie, Alberta T4A 0P8

Dear Dennis R. Young:

**SUBJECT: REQUEST NUMBER SOLGEN-A-2019-02470**

This letter is regarding your request for access to statistics relating to 19 described categories for firearms and "crime guns" for the timeframe of January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2018 under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act). The Ministry anticipates granting you total access to the requested information.

As you may be aware, section 57 of the Act allows fees to be charged. The total estimated fee for the information requested is \$240.00. This estimated fee was calculated with the assistance of experienced ministry staff who are familiar with the requested information. The details of this fee are contained on the attached Fee Estimate Statement.

The Act provides that all or part of the fee may be waived if, in our opinion, it is fair and equitable to do so, if the fee will cause you a financial hardship or if dissemination of the record will benefit public health and safety. Should you wish to apply for a fee waiver, please write to the undersigned and explain why you believe a fee waiver should be considered in your particular situation.

The decision to charge the estimated fee was made by the undersigned. You are entitled to appeal the fee estimate within 30 days to:

Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario (IPC)  
2 Bloor Street East, Suite 1400  
Toronto, ON M4W 1A8  
(416) 326-3333

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Should you decide to file an appeal, please provide the IPC with the following information:

1. a copy of this decision letter;
2. a copy of your request for access to information; and
3. the mandatory appeal fee of \$25.00 in the form of a cheque or money order payable to the Minister of Finance

Your written acceptance of this fee estimate together with a deposit of \$120.00 is required in order for the ministry to proceed with your request. The deposit is equal to 50 percent of the total estimated fee. It should be noted that the final fee may be higher or lower than the estimated fee.

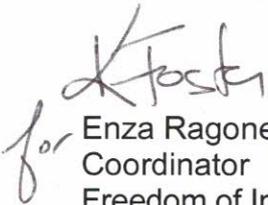
If you are paying by money order or by cheque, please ensure that the money order or cheque is made payable to the Minister of Finance and that the request number is referenced. Your cheque or money order should be sent directly to the undersigned.

Please note this letter constitutes an interim access decision only and that a final access decision will only be made once the required deposit is received and the responsive records are reviewed.

If we have not received your written acceptance of this fee estimate and the required deposit by **September 19, 2019**, we will consider your request abandoned and close our file.

Should you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact Karen Foster, A/Senior Program Analyst & Advisor, at (705) 494-3196.

Sincerely,

  
for

Enza Ragone  
Coordinator  
Freedom of Information and  
Protection of Privacy Services

Attachment

## FEE ESTIMATE STATEMENT

Request #: SOLGEN-A-2019-02470

### Photocopying

Estimated number of pages to be released

Photocopying charges per page per the Act \$

**Total charge for photocopying** **Fee Waived**

### Search Time

Total search time hours to locate and assemble document 8

Search time hours 8

Search time charge per hour per the Act \$30.00

**Total charge for search and assembly of document** **\$240.00**

### Preparation Time

Total hours required to prepare document

Preparation time charge per hour per the Act \$

**Total charge to prepare document** **Fee Waived**

### Shipping

Total cost of shipping document to applicant \$

**Total fee estimate** **\$240.00**

**TOTAL DEPOSIT REQUIRED**

**(Based on 50 % of fee estimate)**

**\$120.00**

**FOLLOW-UP 'CRIME GUN' FOIP TO ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE  
MY FILE: ONT-012**

**Reference is being made to information on your website regarding the Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit** which states: *"This joint-forces unit led by the OPP is responsible for identifying and investigating people involved in the illegal movement of firearms, ammunitions and explosives including smuggling, trafficking and possessing of a 'crime gun.' A 'crime gun' is any firearm used in a criminal offence, is obtained, possessed or intended to be used to facilitate criminal activity or that has a removed or obliterated serial number. It also includes any weapon that has been adapted for use as a firearm."*

<http://www.opp.ca/index.php?lng=en&id=115&entryid=576c2ccf8f94ac5a3c355e0f>

**Reference is also being made to the O.P.P. response to FOIP Request File: SOLGEN-A-2019-00894 which provides 'the most recent definition of a crime gun' as:** It is a gun that is used or has been used in a criminal offence. That is obtained, possessed or intended to be used to facilitate criminal activity; That has a removed or obliterated serial number(s); That is found; and includes any weapon that has been adapted to use as a firearm."

**For each of the years 2008 to 2018 please provide copies of records with the following information on 'crime guns' seized:**

1. Total number of firearms seized (a) Crimes and (b) Non-Crimes;
2. 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);
3. Total number of firearms that were recorded as 'found';
4. Total number of firearms that were 'adapted to use as a firearm';
5. Total number of firearms destroyed;
6. Total number of firearms reported stolen from (a) individuals and (b) businesses;
7. Total number of 'crime guns' seized;
8. 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);
9. Total number of 'crime guns' seized that were reported as stolen from (a) licensed gun owners or (b) licensed businesses by type of firearm (i.e. rifle, shotgun, handgun, toy gun, replica, sawed-off gun, sub-machine gun, machine gun, 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 had the serial number altered;
17. Total number of 'crime guns' seized that were (a) restricted, (b) prohibited, or (c) non-restricted,
18. Total number of 'crime guns' seized that were registered (a) restricted, (b) prohibited (c) non-restricted, and
19. 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, etc).

**Freedom of Information Services**

**Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services**

**200 First Avenue West**

**North Bay, ON**

**P1B 9M3**