



Public Safety Sécurité publique
Canada Canada

Deputy Minister Sous-ministre

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0P8

For your meeting with:
Mr. Bob Paulson
Commissioner of the RCMP

UNCLASSIFIED

DATE:

File No.: 398016
RDIMS No.: 920265

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MINISTER

**FIREARMS CLASSIFICATION:
RCMP FIREARMS VAULT AND RANGE TOUR**

(Information Only)

ISSUE

You are scheduled to meet the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., on Monday, September 30, 2013, at the National Police Service Building of the RCMP at 1200 Vanier Parkway to participate in a firearms briefing and demonstration.

A meeting agenda (**TAB A**) and biographies (**TAB B**) of those officials scheduled to be in attendance is attached.

CURRENT STATUS

The RCMP has extended an invitation for you and senior officials to visit the Canadian Firearms Programs firearms vault and range. This visit provides you and senior staff an opportunity to gain a more fulsome understanding of the classification of different firearms through a hands-on experience. A background note on firearms classification is attached (**TAB C**).

Under the supervision of RCMP staff, participants will have the opportunity to view and handle a selection of **non-restricted** (long-guns, rifles), **restricted** (handguns and certain semi-automatic rifles) and **prohibited** (fully automatics, smaller concealable handguns) firearms. A selection of these firearms will be demonstrated by a firearms expert. You will be invited, should it be of interest to you, to shoot a variety of these firearms at a range located on site as a practical, hands-on means of better understanding the different types of firearms.

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RECOMMENDATION

Although this is an informal presentation and demonstration, closing remarks thanking the Commissioner and his team for the briefing and the demonstration have been prepared for your use (**TAB D**).

In light of its informal nature, and the opportunity to live fire several firearms, business casual dress is recommended.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kathy Thompson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Law Enforcement and Policing Branch, at 613-990-2703.

François Guimont

Enclosures: (4)

Prepared by: Ryan Doyle



FOR DISTRIBUTION

MINISTERIAL VISIT CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM

When: September 30, 2013
10:00 to 11:30

Location:

Canadian Firearms Program Firearms Vault and Range
National Police Service (NPS) Building
1200 Vanier Parkway
Ottawa, Ontario

Parking:

Available at 1200 Vanier Parkway

On-site Firearms Contact:

Murray Smith 613-993-0139

Public Safety Participants:

The Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency
Preparedness
François Guimont, Deputy Minister of Public Safety Canada
John Ossowski, Associate Deputy Minister of Public Safety Canada
Kathy Thompson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Law Enforcement and Policing
Mark Potter, Director General, Policing Policy
Trevor Bhupsingh, Director General, Law Enforcement and Border Strategies

RCMP Participants:

Commissioner Bob Paulson
Deputy Commissioner Peter Henschel, RCMP Specialized Policing Services
Rennie Marcoux, Chief Strategic Policy and Planning Officer, RCMP Strategic
Policy and Planning Directorate
Gylaine A. Dansereau, Director General, RCMP Canadian Firearms Program

RCMP Presenters:

Murray Smith, Manager, Specialized Firearms Support Services
Nadine Renaud, Firearms Research Analyst, Specialized Firearms Support
Services



FOR DISTRIBUTION

Agenda

10:00 – 10:15

Welcome Address
Commissioner Paulson

10:15 – 10:45

Firearms Classification Framework
Murray Smith

**RCMP CFP Roles and Responsibilities with
Regards to Classification**
Murray Smith

10:45 – 11:15

Live-fire Demonstration
Murray Smith

Practical Exercise for the Minister
Murray Smith

11:15

Closing Remarks
Commissioner Paulson

BIOGRAPHY

NAME: Mr. Bob Paulson, C.O.M.
TITLE: Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police



BIOGRAPHY

Commissioner Bob Paulson joined the RCMP in 1986 in Chilliwack, British Columbia. Prior to joining the RCMP, Commissioner Paulson served for almost seven years in the Canadian Armed Forces.

From 1986 to 2005, Commissioner Paulson policed in various locations in British Columbia at the municipal, provincial and federal policing levels. This included work related to unsolved homicides, aboriginal and community policing, and investigating organized crime. In 2005, Commissioner Paulson transferred to National Headquarters in Ottawa, where he served in Major and Organized Crime Intelligence Branch and National Security Criminal Operations. In November 2008, he was promoted to Assistant Commissioner, National Security Criminal Investigations and then Assistant Commissioner, Contract and Aboriginal Policing Services. In November 2010, he was appointed Deputy Commissioner, Federal Policing.

Commissioner Paulson became the 23rd Commissioner of the RCMP on November 21, 2011.

In November of 2012, Commissioner Paulson was elected to the Executive Committee of Interpol as the Delegate for the Americas.

He has a son and two daughters. Commissioner Paulson and his wife Ms. Erin O'Gorman reside in Ottawa.

BIOGRAPHIE

Nom: M. Bob Paulson, C.O.M.
Titre: Commissaire de la Gendarmerie Royale du Canada



BIOGRAPHIE

Avant de se joindre à la GRC en 1986 à Chilliwack, en Colombie-Britannique, le commissaire Bob Paulson a été membre des Forces armées canadiennes pendant près de sept ans.

De 1986 à 2005, le commissaire Paulson a travaillé à divers endroits en Colombie-Britannique pour la police municipale, provinciale et fédérale. Il a notamment été affecté aux homicides non résolus, à la police communautaire et autochtone et aux enquêtes sur le crime organisé. En 2005, le commissaire Paulson a été muté à la Direction générale à Ottawa, où il a travaillé à la Direction des renseignements criminels sur les crimes graves et le crime organisé et aux Opérations criminelles relatives à la sécurité nationale. En novembre 2008, il a été promu commissaire adjoint aux Enquêtes criminelles relatives à la sécurité nationale, puis commissaire adjoint aux Services de police communautaires et autochtones. En novembre 2010, il a été nommé sous-commissaire à la Police fédérale.

Le commissaire Paulson est devenu le 23e commissaire de la GRC le 21 novembre 2011.

En novembre 2012, le commissaire Paulson a été élu au Comité exécutif d'Interpol à titre de délégué pour les Amériques.

Le commissaire Paulson a un fils et deux filles et réside à Ottawa avec son épouse, Mme Erin O'Gorman.

BIOGRAPHY

NAME: Mr. Peter Henschel, O.O.M.
TITLE: Deputy Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Specialized Policing Services



BIOGRAPHY

Deputy Commissioner Peter Henschel is responsible for Specialized Policing Services (SPS), a broad range of critical services that include the Canadian Firearms Program, the Canadian Police College, Criminal Intelligence Service Canada, the Chief Information Officer Sector, Forensic Science and Identification Services, and Technical Operations. His responsibilities include stewardship for National Police Services, a suite of scientific, technological and police educational programs that support the broader Canadian law enforcement community.

He joined the RCMP in 1981 and spent the first seven years of his career in general-duty and investigative policing in British Columbia. He then moved to Technical Operations at RCMP National Headquarters (HQ) in Ottawa in 1988, where he provided electronic, covert, and technical support to major investigations across Canada.

In 1997, he was commissioned and appointed Security Officer for Governor General Romeo LeBlanc. He later transferred to the Commercial Crime Section in the RCMP's National Capital Region (NCR) division, where he also led the Tactical Troops and Emergency Medical Response Teams at major events.

He returned to National HQ in 2002, completing a series of assignments including: Officer in Charge (OIC) of the Critical Incident Program; Director General, Major Events and Protective Services; and OIC, Protective Operations Branch, where he oversaw the security for the Prime Minister, Governor General and other dignitaries.

Peter Henschel was appointed Assistant Commissioner, Forensic Science and Identification Services, in September 2008. In this role, he led a wide range of forensic programs that provide specialized investigative support services to Canadian and international clients.

In May 2012, he was promoted to his current rank and position of Deputy Commissioner, Specialized Policing Services (SPS).

Born and raised in Alberta, Deputy Commissioner Henschel completed an Honours Diploma in Electronic Engineering Technology at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. He is a fitness enthusiast with an avid interest in cycling and cross-country skiing.

BIOGRAPHIE

Nom: M. Peter Henschel, O.O.M.
Titre: Sous-commissaire de la Gendarmerie Royale du Canada
Services de police spécialisés



BIOGRAPHIE

Le sous-commissaire Peter Henschel est responsable des Services de police spécialisés (SPS), qui regroupent divers services essentiels dont le Programme canadien des armes à feu, le Collège canadien de police, le Service canadien de renseignements criminels, le Secteur du dirigeant principal de l'Information, les Services des sciences judiciaires et de l'identité et les Opérations techniques, et il dirige les Services nationaux de police, un ensemble de programmes scientifiques, techniques et de formation policière à l'appui des organismes canadiens d'application de la loi.

Membre de la GRC depuis 1981, il a d'abord travaillé aux services de police généraux et aux enquêtes en Colombie-Britannique, pour ensuite être muté en 1988 aux Opérations techniques, à la Direction générale (DG) de la GRC à Ottawa, où il a assuré un soutien électronique, technique et aux opérations secrètes pour des enquêtes majeures partout au pays.

En 1997, il a reçu son brevet d'officier et a été nommé responsable de la sécurité du gouverneur général Roméo LeBlanc. Il a ensuite été muté à la Section des délits commerciaux de la Division de la GRC dans la région de la capitale nationale (RCN), où il a aussi dirigé les groupes tactiques et les groupes des interventions médicales d'urgence à l'occasion d'événements majeurs.

En 2002, il est retourné à la DG, où il a occupé successivement divers postes, dont ceux d'officier responsable du Programme des incidents critiques, de directeur général des Événements majeurs et des Services de protection, et d'officier responsable des Missions de protection, où il a supervisé la sécurité du premier ministre, du gouverneur général et d'autres dignitaires.

En septembre 2008, il a été nommé commissaire adjoint aux Services des sciences judiciaires et de l'identité. Dans ce rôle, il a dirigé un vaste éventail de programmes judiciaires qui offrent des services spécialisés de soutien aux enquêtes à des clients canadiens et étrangers.

En mai 2012, il a été promu à son grade et à son poste actuels de sous-commissaire aux Services de police spécialisés (SPS).

Le sous-commissaire Henschel est né et a grandi en Alberta, et est titulaire d'un diplôme spécialisé en technologie du génie électronique du Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. Sportif accompli, il est grand adepte du cyclisme et du ski de fond.

BIOGRAPHY

Name: Ms. Guylaine A. Dansereau
Title: Director General, Canadian Firearms Program
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Biography

The RCMP Canadian Firearms Program (CFP) is an operational service line within the Specialized Policing Services business line of the RCMP. The CFP provides a broad range of firearms-related expertise, regulatory control, assistance and advice to the general public in support of safer communities, as well as consultative and operational support to law enforcement. The Director General of the CFP reports to the Deputy Commissioner of Specialized Policing Services.

Guylaine A. Dansereau has worked for the RCMP for more than 16 years, most recently as Director General, Executive/Officer Development and Resourcing (EODR). She has held several senior level positions and has worked in Forensic Science and Identification Services, Technical Security Operations, Atlantic Region Management, Internal Affairs and the National Advisory Board.

Prior to assuming leadership of EODR, Guylaine was in charge of Canadian Criminal Real Time Identification Services where she oversaw six fields of national services and more than 400 employees. Included in her responsibilities, she managed the national repository of fingerprint and criminal record information by providing direct operational support to the Canadian Criminal Justice Community and Interpol partners, biometric verification/identification for civil and criminal purposes and a security screening environment for all levels of government and the general public.

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Guylaine pursued her post-secondary studies

BIOGRAPHIE

Nom: M^{me} Guylaine A. Dansereau
Titre: Directrice générale, Programme Canadien des armes à feu
Gendarmerie Royale du Canada



BIOGRAPHIE

Le Programme canadien des armes à feu (PCAF) de la GRC est un secteur de service opérationnel qui relève maintenant des Services de police spécialisés. Le PCAF offre une vaste expertise liée aux armes à feu, y compris une aide et des conseils au public en vue d'accroître la sécurité des collectivités, ainsi que des services consultatifs et un soutien opérationnel aux organismes d'exécution de la loi. La directrice générale relève du sous-commissaire des Services de police spécialisés.

Guylaine A. Dansereau travaille à la GRC depuis plus de 16 ans et elle a exercé plus récemment les fonctions de directrice générale du programme Perfectionnement et Renouvellement des cadres et des officiers (PRCO). Elle a occupé plusieurs postes de niveau supérieur et a travaillé aux Services des sciences judiciaires et de l'identité, aux Opérations de la sécurité technique, à la direction de la région de l'Atlantique, aux Affaires internes et au Conseil consultatif national.

Avant d'assumer la direction du PRCO, Guylaine était responsable des Services canadiens d'identification criminelle en temps réel, où elle assurait la surveillance de six domaines de services nationaux et de plus de 400 employés. Parmi ses attributions figurait la gestion du dépôt national des empreintes digitales et des casiers judiciaires, à partir duquel elle offrait un soutien opérationnel à la collectivité canadienne de la justice pénale et aux partenaires d'Interpol, des services de vérification et d'identification biométriques à des fins civiles et criminelles, ainsi qu'un environnement d'enquête de sécurité pour tous les ordres de gouvernement et pour le grand public.

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BIOGRAPHY

NAME: Mr. François Guimont
TITLE: Deputy Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness



BIOGRAPHY

François Guimont was appointed Deputy Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness in November 2012.

Prior to this appointment, Mr. Guimont served as:

- Deputy Minister of Public Works and Government Services (PWGSC) (2007-2012);
- President of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (2005-2007);
- Associate Deputy Minister of PWGSC (2005); and,
- Deputy Commissioner of the Canada Revenue Agency (2002-2005).

Mr. Guimont is the Deputy Minister University Champion for the University of Ottawa. As Champion, he is leading initiatives to strengthen relations between the Government of Canada and Canadian universities by promoting research and exchanges on public policies and programs of mutual interest, building awareness of career opportunities in the federal Public Service and facilitating recruitment and branding opportunities within the university community.

Over the course of his career in the federal public service, Mr. Guimont has held senior positions at the Privy Council Office, Environment Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Before joining the federal public service, Mr. Guimont worked for the Quebec provincial government as a physical scientist.

Mr. Guimont holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from the University of Ottawa and two Master of Science Degrees—one in water resources from l'Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS-Eau) and another in civil engineering from Université Laval.

BIOGRAPHIE

Nom: M. François Guimont
Titre: Sous-ministre de Sécurité publique et protection civile



BIOGRAPHIE

François Guimont a été nommé sous-ministre de Sécurité publique et protection civile en novembre 2012.

Avant d'occuper ce poste, M. Guimont a été :

- sous-ministre des Travaux publics et des Services gouvernementaux (PWGSC) (2007-2012);
- président de l'Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments (2005-2007);
- sous-ministre délégué de TPSGC (2005);
- et commissaire délégué de l'Agence du revenu du Canada (2002- 2005).

M. Guimont est sous-ministre champion de l'Université d'Ottawa. À ce titre, il dirige des initiatives visant à renforcer les relations entre le gouvernement du Canada et les universités canadiennes en faisant la promotion de la recherche et des échanges en lien avec les politiques publiques et les programmes d'intérêt mutuel, en misant sur la sensibilisation aux possibilités de carrière dans la fonction publique et en facilitant le recrutement et les possibilités de valorisation de l'image de marque auprès de la communauté universitaire.

Au cours de sa carrière au sein de la fonction publique fédérale, M. Guimont a occupé des postes de direction au Bureau du Conseil privé, à Environnement Canada et à Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada. Auparavant, M. Guimont travaillait pour le gouvernement du Québec en tant que spécialiste des sciences physiques.

M. Guimont est titulaire d'un baccalauréat en biologie de l'Université d'Ottawa et de deux maîtrises en sciences, l'une en ressources hydriques, de l'Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS-Eau), et l'autre en génie civil, de l'Université Laval.

BIOGRAPHY

NAME: Mr. John Ossowski
TITLE: Associate Deputy Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness



BIOGRAPHY

John Ossowski was appointed Associate Deputy Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness on January 28, 2013.

Prior to this appointment, John was Assistant Secretary, International Affairs, Security and Justice Sector, at the Treasury Board Secretariat. He has also held senior positions at Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC) where he was Director General, Policy and Communications and then Deputy Chief, Corporate Services. Before joining CSEC, John was Assistant Director, Government Relationships and Communications at the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada, which is Canada's financial intelligence unit. Prior to this, John spent a number of years at TBS in the Government Operations Sector and finally as the Executive Assistant to the Secretary.

John has a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Victoria.

BIOGRAPHIE

Nom: M. John Ossowski
Titre: Sous-ministre délégué de Sécurité publique et protection civile



BIOGRAPHIE

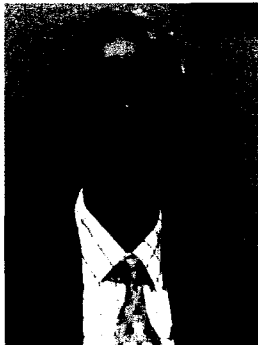
John Ossowski a été nommé sous-ministre délégué de Sécurité publique et protection civile Canada, le 28 janvier 2013.

Avant sa nomination, John était secrétaire adjoint du Secteur des affaires internationales, de la sécurité et de la justice du Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor (SCT). Il a également occupé des postes de direction au Centre de la sécurité des télécommunications Canada (CSTC), où il a été directeur général des Politiques et communications, puis chef adjoint des Services ministériels. Avant de rejoindre les rangs du CSTC, John était directeur adjoint des Relations gouvernementales et communications au Centre d'analyse des opérations et déclarations financières du Canada, qui est l'unité de renseignements financiers au Canada. Auparavant, John a passé un certain nombre d'années au Secteur des opérations gouvernementales du SCT et a également été chef de cabinet du secrétaire.

John possède un baccalauréat en économie de l'Université de Victoria.

BIOGRAPHY

NAME: Mr. Mark Potter
TITLE: Director General, Policing Policy
Public Safety Canada



BIOGRAPHY

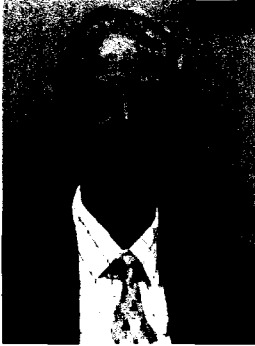
Mark Potter has been the Director General of Policing Policy at Public Safety Canada since December 2007. The Policing Policy Directorate works closely with the RCMP on firearms issues.

Prior to taking on his current responsibilities, Mark held various positions within the Government of Canada, including roles at FINTRAC, the Department of Finance and Industry Canada.

Mark holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Ottawa, a Master of Arts in International Affairs from Carleton University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Political Science from the University of Toronto.

BIOGRAPHIE

Nom: M. Mark Potter
Titre: Directeur général, politiques en matière de police
Sécurité publique Canada



BIOGRAPHIE

Mark Potter est le directeur général de la Direction générale Politique en matière de la police à Sécurité publique Canada depuis Décembre 2007. La Direction travaille en étroite collaboration avec la GRC en matière des armes à feu.

Avant de prendre ses responsabilités actuelles, Mark a occupé divers postes au sein du gouvernement du Canada, y compris les rôles à CANAFE, le ministère des Finances et de l'Industrie Canada.

Mark est titulaire d'une maîtrise en administration des affaires de l'Université d'Ottawa, une maîtrise ès arts en affaires internationales de l'Université Carleton et un baccalauréat ès arts en économie et en sciences politiques de l'Université de Toronto.

BIOGRAPHY

NAME: Mr. Trevor Bhupsingh
TITLE: Director General, Law Enforcement and Border Strategies
Public Safety Canada



BIOGRAPHY

Trevor Bhupsingh is the Director General of Law Enforcement and Border Strategies Directorate for the Department of Public Safety Canada. He is responsible for the development and leadership of national strategies focusing on enhanced efforts to address border security, organized crime, illicit drugs, child sexual exploitation, human trafficking and efforts to support the Minister of Public Safety's role in national police leadership.

Since starting his career with the Federal Government in 1991, Mr. Bhupsingh served in a number of departments at the executive level, including Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Industry Canada, and at the Treasury Board of Canada.

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BIOGRAPHIE

Nom: M. Trevor Bhupsingh
Titre: Directeur général,
Direction générale de l'application de la loi et des stratégies frontalières
Sécurité publique Canada



BIOGRAPHIE

Trevor Bhupsingh occupe le poste de directeur général de la Direction générale de l'application de la loi et des stratégies frontalières à Sécurité publique Canada. Il doit jouer un rôle de leader et élaborer des stratégies nationales visant à consacrer davantage d'efforts aux questions de la sécurité des frontières, du crime organisé, des drogues illicites, de l'exploitation sexuelle des enfants et de la traite des personnes, et à appuyer le rôle de leader que joue le ministre de la Sécurité publique au chapitre de la police nationale.

M. Bhupsingh a commencé sa carrière au sein du gouvernement fédéral en 1991. Dans le cadre de gestion, il a occupé plusieurs postes dans nombre de ministères, notamment les Affaires autochtones et Développement du Nord Canada, Industrie Canada, et au Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor du Canada.

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FIREARMS CLASSIFICATION

ISSUE:

Overview of the firearms classification regime.

BACKGROUND:

Classification Framework

In Canada, there are three classes of firearms:

1. **Prohibited:** firearms essentially available only to police and a few grandfathered individuals, with the appropriate firearms licence, who owned firearms that became prohibited after the passage of the *Firearms Act*, in 1995; this classification includes small easily concealed handguns, as well as short rifles and shotguns, e.g., sawed-off shotguns, and fully automatic firearms.
2. **Restricted:** firearms available to properly licenced sport-shooters and collectors, including all handguns that are not prohibited and semi-automatic firearms with a barrel of less than 470 mm; or,
3. **Non-restricted:** firearms commonly used by hunters, trappers and farmers, including ordinary hunting rifles and shotguns.

The classification framework is set out in the definitions of "Prohibited Firearm" and "Restricted Firearm" in the *Criminal Code*. The prohibited and restricted classes are defined by technical characteristics such as the length of the firearm and barrel, the calibre, and the action, i.e., semi-automatic or fully automatic.

Further to these definitions, there are supporting regulations that name specific makes and models of firearms as prohibited or restricted, including variants or modified versions of them (e.g., the AK-47 rifle and its variants are prohibited).

It was envisioned that the classification framework would be updated as more firearms came onto the Canadian market, but it has not been updated since its inception in 1995. Firearms not matching either of the two definitions and not mentioned in the regulations are, by default, categorized as non-restricted (e.g., many 50 calibre sniper rifles, and other military and paramilitary type firearms are currently non-restricted).

Individuals holding firearms licences may only possess or acquire those classes of firearms authorized by their firearms licence. The more restrictive the firearm classification, the more stringent are the application, screening and training requirements to legally obtain the firearm.

Roles and Responsibilities

Firearms are an area of shared responsibility. The Minister of Public Safety is the lead minister responsible for firearms policy. The Minister of Justice is responsible for the firearms-related penalty provisions of the *Criminal Code* and the criteria defining the classification of firearms.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Canadian Firearms Program (CFP) is responsible for the administration of the *Firearms Act*, which includes providing the technical expertise to interpret and determine the classification of firearms. The RCMP do not have the power to “reclassify” a firearm (i.e., unilaterally change the classification of a firearm), an action that can only be taken by Parliament (amendments to the *Criminal Code*) or by the Governor in Council (amendments to the regulations).

CONSIDERATIONS

Stakeholder views on classification are polarized. Firearms advocates consider the classification of firearms as too restrictive, asserting that there are legitimate uses for prohibited firearms. Conversely, gun control advocates are of the view that some firearms that are currently classified as non-restricted and restricted should be moved to the prohibited class, as they do not perceive any reasonable civilian applications for them. Calls for prohibiting particular firearms frequently follow tragic and high-profile shooting incidents.

Though the RCMP has no power to change the classification criteria, there have been cases where the CFP has had to correct its initial determination of the class of a firearm. As a result, in some instances, it has been necessary for owners of the firearm in question to surrender it, which in limited cases has resulted in the Government offering compensation. Actions taken by the CFP to fix incorrect classifications have been met with some resistance from owners and with negative media coverage.

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s.14(a)

A separate briefing on firearms classification will be provided for the FPT Ministers conference in Fall 2013.

Going forward, the Government

s.21(1)(a)

Any changes to the classification framework would be controversial. Firearms advocates would view reclassification as an attempt to deprive them of their property, while gun control advocates would support the reclassification of some firearms to the restricted or prohibited classes, to ensure the reduced circulation of firearms that are potentially more lethal.

On December 6, 2012, the Prime Minister stated in the House of Commons that “prohibited weapons exist as a category under the law for essential reasons of public security. Our government has no intention of changing that category.”

CURRENT STATUS



s.21(1)(a)

Kathy Thompson
Law Enforcement and Policing Branch

Prepared by: Christine Guénette



- Commissioner Paulson, I would like to thank you and your team for inviting me to visit the firearms vault and range today.
- As Minister, I really appreciate the efforts the RCMP and the Canadian Firearms Program undertakes to ensure the safety of all Canadians.
- The classification of firearms is an important, yet complex policy issue for the Government of Canada.
- The opportunity to meet all of you today to learn more about classification through this briefing and hands-on experience has been a terrific learning event for me.
- Again, thank you for hosting me this morning and I wish you much success in your continued efforts to keep Canadians safe.