

**HIGH RIVER FORCED ENTRIES, UNWARRANTED SEARCHES & SEIZURES  
RCMP RESPONSES TO MP SCOTT REID'S ORDER PAPER QUESTIONS  
COMMENTS & QUESTIONS BY DENNIS R. YOUNG - OCTOBER 5, 2014**

**Q-540** — June 3, 2014 — Mr. Reid (Lanark—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington) — With regard to the operations of the RCMP in and around the Town of High River, Alberta, between June 20, 2013, and July 12, 2013:

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (a)** what special procedures and measures were implemented, and pursuant to what statutory and policy authorities and declarations were those special procedures and measures implemented:

**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE (RCMP) RESPONSES - SEPT 15, 2014**

*In response to this question, the RCMP has provided the following assessment. There is an ongoing review of this matter by the Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP.*

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (a)** *At the direction of the Director(s) of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre three plans were implemented: rescue/recovery plan, search plan, and security plan. The statutory regulatory and policy authorities that guided the RCMP's emergency response procedures are as follows: A state of local emergency was declared for the Town of High River by the appropriate local authority pursuant to the Alberta Emergency Management Act. The Government of Alberta declared a State of Provincial Emergency pursuant to Alberta Emergency Management Act and thereby effectively took control of the emergency situation in the Town of High River. On the making of the declaration of a state of local emergency pursuant to the Alberta Emergency Management Act and for the duration of the state of emergency, the local authority is granted the authority to exercise any power given to the Minister under the provisions Alberta Emergency Management Act. The Alberta Emergency Management Act states that a local authority shall, at all times, be responsible for the direction and control of the local authority's emergency response unless the Government of Alberta assumes direction and control. The Alberta Emergency Management Act states that the local authority has the statutory power to authorize any person, including the RCMP to enter into any building or land, without warrant, in the course of implementing an emergency plan or program. RCMP Operational Manual 21.1 - Authority to Search.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (a):** I will start these comments with these fundamental rights and legal authorities and protections:

**BRITISH PRIME MINISTER WILLIAM PITT (1763):** *"The poorest man may in his cottage bid defiance to all the forces of the crown. It may be frail - its roof may shake - the wind may blow through it - the storm may enter - the rain may enter - but the King of England cannot enter."*

**CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS:** Section 8: *"Everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure."*

**CANADIAN BILL OF RIGHTS:** Section 1 states: *"It is hereby recognized and declared that in Canada there have existed and shall continue to exist without discrimination by reason of race, national origin, colour, religion or sex, the following human rights and fundamental freedoms, namely, (a) the right of the individual to life, liberty, security of the person and enjoyment of property, and the right not to be deprived thereof except by*

*due process of law; (b) the right of the individual to equality before the law and the protection of the law;...*" [Emphasis added]

**ALBERTA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT:** Section 18 (5.1) states: *"Unless otherwise provided for in the order for a declaration of a state of emergency, where an order for a declaration of a state of emergency is made, and there is a conflict between this Act or a regulation made under this Act and any other Act or regulation, other than the Alberta Bill of Rights or the Alberta Human Rights Act or a regulation made under either of those Acts, during the time that the order is in effect, this Act and the regulations made under this Act shall prevail in Alberta or that part of Alberta in respect of which the order was made."* [Emphasis added]

**ALBERTA BILL OF RIGHTS:** Section 1 of the Alberta Bill of Rights states: *"It is hereby recognized and declared that in Alberta there exist without discrimination by reason of race, national origin, colour, religion or sex, the following human rights and fundamental freedoms, namely: (a) the right of the individual to liberty, security of the person and enjoyment of property, and the right not to be deprived thereof except by due process of law; (b) the right of the individual to equality before the law and the protection of the law; ..."* [Emphasis added]

**HIGH RIVER EMERGENCIES BYLAW (3843/96) IN EFFECT IN JUNE OF 2013:** Section 10 states: *"The power to declare or renew a state of local emergency under the Act, the powers specified in Section 12 of this Bylaw and the requirements specified in Section 15 of the Bylaw are hereby delegated to a committee of two comprised of: 1. the Mayor or Deputy Mayor, plus one Councillor; or 2. If the Mayor or Deputy Mayor is not available, the committee may be comprised of two Councillors; or 3. If two elected officials are not readily available, the committee may be comprised of any Councillor and the Chief Administration Officer or his/her designate."*

Section 15(g) states: *"authorize the entry into any building or on any land, without warrant, by any person in the course of implementing an emergency plan or program;"*

Section 15(k) states: *"authorize any persons at any time to exercise, in the operation of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan and related plans or programs, any power specified in Paragraphs (b) through (j) in relation to any part of the municipality affected by a declaration of a state of local emergency."*

**GENERAL COMMENTS:** The RCMP responses to Parliament are not supported by the evidence and testimony of hundreds of High River residents and will do little to rebuild the trust in the RCMP necessary to convince many, many High River residents to obey another emergency evacuation order. RCMP policies do not provide "authority" for the police to do anything, only laws do.

In direct rebuttal to the RCMP's response to question (a): The Alberta Property Rights Advocate's report dated June 2, 2014 describes this explanation as "misguided." The full quote is as follows: *"As previously noted, Deputy Commissioner McGowan advised that the RCMP Members involved in this situation did not take operational direction from elected officials or public service employees. Instead, they relied on the authority of section 19 of the Emergency Management Act. But if such actions were taken by the RCMP Members under section 19 without Ministerial approval or direction, as normally would be required by the Act, their interpretation of that section is misguided."* [Emphasis added]

FOR FULL REPORT: [http://justice.alberta.ca/programs\\_services/about\\_us/prao/assets/AnnualReport2013.pdf](http://justice.alberta.ca/programs_services/about_us/prao/assets/AnnualReport2013.pdf)

In an e-mail dated July 12, 2013, from Marianne RYAN, who was then Assistant Commissioner Officer in Charge Criminal Operations "K" Division seems to concur with the legal opinion of the Alberta Property Rights Advocate when she stated: *I am also aware of the provisions of the Emergency Management Act and we have obtained a legal opinion from our counsel through the DOJ as to how and when we should consider the*

provisions of this Act. It is my understanding that authority from the Minister should be obtained if homes are to be inspected for any health or structural issues. [emphasis added]

See page 175 in this RCMP *Access to Information Act* response for the complete text of Marianne Ryan's e-mail. <https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/151-184.pdf>

It is not clear from the evidence available at this time whether or not the Director of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre was one of the people with the delegated authority to direct the RCMP to conduct a door-to-door search of High River residences. The RCMP response is quoting their Operational Manuals - not the laws as they existed in Alberta and in High River in June of 2013.

What is clear, is that the High River Town Council and even the Director of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre would probably have had second thoughts about approving a door-to-door search of High River residences if they had known that the RCMP would overstep their authority and the fundamental and legal rights of High River residents by kicking in the doors to 754 homes (their number, not mine), causing damage to approximately 2,000 homes (their numbers, not mine), seizing firearms, ammunition, magazines, compound bows, cross bows, knives, bayonets, etc from more than a hundred homes and destroying tons of ammunition without the permission of the owners.

Finally, the true test of the RCMP's responses to these questions and even the report of the High River forced entries by the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP will be whether the vast majority of residents of High River will ever trust the RCMP enough to obey an evacuation order in the future.

#### CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION NEWS RELEASE - AUGUST 7, 2014 POLL OF HIGH RIVER RESIDENTS SHOWS A DISMAL LACK OF TRUST IN RCMP

A large percentage of the residents of High River, Alberta would refuse another evacuation order.

<https://nfa.ca/news/poll-high-river-residents-shows-dismal-lack-trust-rcmp>

<http://www.calgarysun.com/2014/08/08/gunter-poll-shows-fallout-from-high-river-gun-grab-continues>

<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/featured/prime-time/867432237001/high-river-fallout/3727434608001>

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (b)** what were the circumstances that informed the decision to engage in a door-to-door search of residences and non-residential buildings, what procedures or special measures were implemented to engage in this search, and pursuant to what statutory or policy authorities were those procedures or special measures implemented;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (b)** *The Director of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre directed the search of residential and non-residential buildings. The procedures or special measures were implemented under the statutory or policy authorities cited in the response to (a) above.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (b):** Do the RCMP want Parliamentarian to believe that they did exactly what the local High River "dog catcher" directed them to do without question and without confirming the actual need for these actions and the legal authorities justifying his directions? Where are all the documents and records of this discussion? Surely the Alberta Minister Responsible for Emergency Response was consulted before taking such drastic action? Surely, the "K" Division Commanding Officer was consulted and approved this action? Surely, the Mayor of High River and his Council were asked if they approved of this action ordered by their appointee and asked if he had been delegated this authority?

The Alberta Property Rights Advocate's report dated June 2, 2014 describes this explanation as "misguided." (see excerpt from his report in rebuttal to the RCMP's answer to Questions (a). K Division Commanding Officer Marianne Ryan's e-mail dated July 12, 2013 concurs when she states: "*It is my understanding that authority from the Minister should be obtained if homes are to be inspected for any health or structural issues.*"

It is not clear from the evidence available at this time whether or not the Director of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre was one of the people with the delegated authority to direct the RCMP to conduct a door-to-door search of High River residences. RCMP policies do not provide "authority" for the police to do anything, only laws do.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (c)** what were the circumstances that informed the decision to engage in entries through the use of force during the course of the door-to-door search of residences and non-residential buildings, what procedures or special measures were implemented to engage in the use of force, and pursuant to what statutory or policy authorities were those procedures or special measures implemented;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (c):** *The Director of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre directed search teams to conduct a door to door search in High River. The RCMP High River incident commander approved the use of force as required to enter property. If forced entry was required, search teams were directed to cause the least amount of damage possible. The procedures or special measures were implemented under the statutory or policy authorities cited in the response to (a) above.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (c):** First, see the Comments & Questions in response to Q-540 (b). Did the RCMP High River incident commander order these forced entries on her own without getting approval from the Alberta Minister Responsible for Emergency Response, the Alberta Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, the High River Mayor and Council and her own "K" Division Commanding Officer were consulted and did they all approve of the RCMP kicking in doors? t

Second, as stated previously, it is not clear from the evidence available at this time whether or not the Director of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre was one of the people with the delegated authority to direct the RCMP to conduct a door-to-door search of High River residences. The Alberta Property Rights Advocate's report dated June 2, 2014 describes this explanation as "misguided" (see excerpt from the Alberta Property Rights Advocate report in rebuttal to the RCMP's answer to Questions (a)). "K" Division Commanding Officer Marianne Ryan's e-mail dated July 12, 2013 concurs when she states: "*It is my understanding that authority from the Minister should be obtained if homes are to be inspected for any health or structural issues.*" [Emphasis added] If this statement is correct and the authorization from the Minister is required for inspections for health and structural issues, surely the Minister would also have to authorize forced entries into homes and unwarranted seizures of private property.

Third, section 18 (5.1) of the Alberta Emergency Management Act states: "*Unless otherwise provided for in the order for a declaration of a state of emergency, where an order for a declaration of a state of emergency is made, and there is a conflict between this Act or a regulation made under this Act and any other Act or regulation, other than the Alberta Bill of Rights or the Alberta Human Rights Act or a regulation made under either of those Acts, during the time that the order is in effect, this Act and the regulations made under this Act shall prevail in Alberta or that part of Alberta in respect of which the order was made.*"

Why didn't section 18 protect the residents of High River from the RCMP's kicking in the doors to many hundreds of their homes, the unwarranted search of thousands of their homes, and the unwarranted seizure of property from more than a hundred homes including a number of arrests and charges being laid (many of which have still not been made public)?

Third, testimony from hundreds and hundreds of residents of High River (in public and in writing) proves that RCMP officers did not follow the orders of the "RCMP High River incident commander" to "cause the least amount of damage possible." Make public all the photographs of all the damage caused by the RCMP officers. Make public copies of all the written the damage claims complete with a full accounting. Make public any disciplinary action taken against the RCMP officers who conducted these forced entries and unwarranted searches of High River homes. Make public a list of the names of the RCMP officers refused to conduct these forced entries. Make public a list of the names of the Canadian Armed Forces personnel who complained to their superiors about the actions of the RCMP officers who kicked in hundreds and hundreds of High River doors.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (d)** what organization or organizations were consulted by or provided advice to the RCMP respecting the need for and the conduct of the searches referred to in (b) and (c).

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (d)** *The following organizations were present at various times during the Town of High River Emergency Operation Center planning sessions and therefore had the opportunity to contribute to the decision- making process relative to all aspects of the emergency response:*

*Fire Chief*

*Mayor*

*Director*

*Communications specialist*

*Operations managers (i.e., water treatment, road maintenance)*

*Reeves and councillors from the Municipal District of Foothills*

*Alberta Emergency Management Agency*

*Canadian Armed Forces*

*Pet rescue volunteers*

*Fortis*

*ATCO*

*Telus*

*Other subject matter experts (i.e., structural engineers)*

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (d)(i)** what information was sought, if any, by the RCMP from each organization.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (d)(ii)** what information was provided, if any, to the RCMP by each organization:

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (d)(i) and (ii):** *The Town of High River Operation Centre and RCMP records are not sufficiently detailed to provide specifics as to the nature of the information sought and/or obtained.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (d)(i)(ii)** This response doesn't make any sense. Before RCMP officers were ordered to start kicking in hundreds of doors, great care should have been taken to ensure that everyone involved were on solid legal footing. The minutes of all these meetings must be disclosed including the



subsequent discussions and disclosures with Crown Counsel, the Alberta Minister of Municipal Affairs & Emergency Response, and the Alberta Minister of Justice, and his officials including Bill Sweeny, Assistant Deputy Minister/Director of Law Enforcement, Public Security Division who was in direct contact with the RCMP Asst. Commissioner Marianne Ryan (High River RCMP incident commander?) regarding these "legal authorities" on June 25, 2013. It is important that the minutes of all these meetings and all the handwritten notes of the RCMP officers in attendance at these meetings be reviewed because the story has changed between June 28, 2013, August 16, 2013 and September 15, 2014. On August 16, 2013, Commanding Officer, Dale McGowan wrote the Alberta Property Rights Advocate saying: "...we did not take operational direction from any elected officials or public service employees to enter in private homes and remove personal property." A year later, the RCMP are now laying a large part of the blame on the "Director of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre" who was clearly out of his depth. Why did the RCMP explanations change? The full text of Dale McGowan's letter is available at this link:

[http://www.cdnsshootingsports.org/2014/06/D\\_N\\_Dale\\_McGowan\\_Commanding\\_Officer\\_of\\_K\\_Division\\_Letter\\_on\\_High\\_River-20130816.pdf](http://www.cdnsshootingsports.org/2014/06/D_N_Dale_McGowan_Commanding_Officer_of_K_Division_Letter_on_High_River-20130816.pdf)

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (e)** what criteria were used to determine which residences and non-residential buildings to enter during the conduct of the searches referred to in (b) and (c);

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (e)** *The Director of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre directed that all residential and non-residential properties be searched.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (e):** This response doesn't square with the letter dated August 16, 2013 from Commanding Officer, Dale McGowan wrote the Alberta Property Rights Advocate that stated: "...we did not take operational direction from any elected officials or public service employees to enter in private homes and remove personal property." Without proper legal authority to conducted unwarranted searches (and kick-in hundreds of doors), the RCMP were not in the homes lawfully and consequently, had no authority to search homes or seize anything from those homes.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (f)** what was the total number of residences that were entered by the RCMP during the searches referred to in (b) and what was the total number of residences that were entered by the RCMP during the searches referred to in (c);

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (g)** what was the total number of non-residential buildings that were entered by the RCMP during the searches referred to in (b) and what was the total number of non-residential buildings that were entered by the RCMP during the searches referred to in (c);

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (f)& (g)** *A total of 4,666 residential and non-residential buildings were entered by the RCMP, during the searches. Of those, forced entry was required in 16 percent of these searches (754 occasions). RCMP records do not distinguish between residential and non-residential entries.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (f)&(g):** As explained previously, if the RCMP did not have the clearly stated legal authority to conduct searches of High River homes then they certainly didn't have clearly stated legal authority to kick-in the doors of 754 High River homes (their number, not mine) and proceed to search their homes - not only for people but for evidence of criminal wrong-doing. The RCMP claim that they only kicked in the doors to 754 homes is also very questionable because on September 5, 2013, High River RCMP S/Sgt. Ian Shardlow told a crowd of hundreds of High River residents that he had received over 1,900 damage claims and though it might reach 2,000 before it was all over.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (h)** were any residences or non-residential buildings referred to in (b) and (c) entered multiple times or on multiple dates and, if so, how many residences were entered multiple times or on multiple dates, and for what purposes were the initial entries and subsequent entries made,

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (h):** *The RCMP is unable to provide a specific number without a manual search of an extensive number of files which would take excessive amount of resources and time. The purpose of entries was to search for persons in need of assistance and to facilitate the work of utility service providers (i.e., turning off of natural gas to each property). Although not an initial purpose, an ancillary benefit derived from searches was the location of household pets in need of rescue. Other reasons for entry into a residential or non-residential property directed by the Director of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Center include: Escort of volunteer pet rescue personnel; and Escort of house inspectors. The RCMP also provided escorts to residents to retrieve personal property such as passports and medical supplies, where it was safe to do so or did attend residences at the express request of the home owner to retrieve personal property where it was safe to do so.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (h):** RCMP response to *Access to Information Act* request (RCMP ATIP File: A-2013-04640) confirms that RCMP officers entered homes multiple times.

[https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/A201304640\\_2014-02-18\\_08-21-23.PDF](https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/A201304640_2014-02-18_08-21-23.PDF)

PDF page 71 the RCMP officer's notes state: "Majority of doors are kicked in previously"

PDF page 72 lists 26 homes searched and notes: "\*All doors breached previous"

Given the fact that the RCMP have now admitted to forcibly entering 754 High River homes without warrants and having received damage claims from as many as 2,000 High River homes, it is important that they spend the time and effort to produce the documents necessary to fully explain their actions and table these documents in Parliament. Repeating the same feeble excuses over and over doesn't make them any more believable. We have also been told by residents of High River that there is no need to enter homes to turn off natural gas to homes.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (h)(i)** what measures were taken by the RCMP, regarding each residence entered through the use of force by the RCMP, to ensure that residences were secured against further entry after the RCMP finished searching each residence;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (h)(i):** *Search teams were directed to secure the residence upon the completion of their search.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (h)(i):** Based on the evidence and testimony from High River residents, it is clear, the RCMP officers committing these forcible entries did not follow these orders. On June 9, 2014, the RCMP responded to one of my *Access to Information Act* requests saying they had "no records" of any disciplinary action taken against RCMP officers who refused orders to kick-in doors. My letter of complaint to the Information Commissioner of Canada is available at this link:

<https://nfa.ca/news/complaint-info-commissioner-rcmp-high-river-2014-03392>

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (j)** did the RCMP allow anyone who was not an RCMP police officer to enter residences during the searches referred to in (b) and (c),

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (j)(i)** if (j) is answered in the affirmative, on a residence-by-residence basis, whom (by name, position and organization) did the RCMP allow into residences and for what purpose,

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (j)(ii)** if (j) is answered in the affirmative, have the home owners been made aware that non-RCMP personnel were allowed into their homes by the RCMP; (k) what

information did the RCMP possess prior to the searches referred to in (b) and (c), regarding the presence, in residences and non-residential buildings in and around the Town of High River, of firearms, firearms ammunition, non-firearm weapons, and weapon accessories;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (j)(i)(ii)** *At the direction of the Director of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre, the RCMP was the lead agency of the search teams comprised of:*

- Canadian Armed Forces
- Fortis (private company – electrical service provider to the Town of High River)
- ATCO (private company – natural gas service provider to the Town of High River).

*RCMP records do not contain the names of the individual representatives of the Canadian Forces, Fortis or ATCO. Private enterprise locksmiths were also engaged to facilitate entry once they became available to the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre. RCMP did not contact individual home owners to advise them that their residences had been entered by non-RCMP representatives. These entries had been authorized by the Director of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (j)(i)(ii):** Contrary to this RCMP statement tabled in the House of Commons, some RCMP records do "contain the names of the individual representatives of the Canadian Forces, Fortis or ATCO." See the handwritten notes contained in this link: RCMP 212-PAGE ATI Act response (RCMP ATIP File: A-2013-04640) [https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/A201304640\\_2014-02-18\\_08-21-23.PDF](https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/A201304640_2014-02-18_08-21-23.PDF)

As pointed out in previous rebuttals, It is not clear from the evidence available at this time whether or not the Director of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre was one of the people with the delegated authority to authorize the RCMP, Canadian Armed Forces, Fortis and ATCO employees or locksmiths to enter High River homes.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (k)** what information did the RCMP possess prior to the searches referred to in (b) and (c), regarding the presence, in residences and non-residential buildings in and around the Town of High River, of firearms, firearms ammunition, non-firearm weapons, and weapon accessories;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (k)** *The RCMP did not possess any specific information prior to the searches regarding the presence of firearms, firearms ammunition, non-firearm weapons, and weapon accessories.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (k)** First, it's clear from records obtained by Don and Jane White (see links below) that forced entry and search of their home was not an attempt to rescue anyone - it was a search for guns. On June 24, 2013, the same day Canadian Armed Forces stated that there was "no further risk to life and limb" in High River and no further need for evacuation and after Don and Jane had left three messages with the RCMP and local emergency authorities that they were safely out of their home and staying with relatives, this is what happened to them. The time line in the RCMP Constable's notes state: "18:50 Back in the water. 19:00 Door-Locked, Entry-Hard, Res.-Searched, 11 firearms located (the notes list eleven long-guns complete with makes, models and serial numbers) 19:17 All firearms seized placed in boat, 19:35 secured into 3B155 to be transported to detachment, 19:41 Secured High River Detachment secure bay."

Chronology of a High River Gun Seizure

<https://nfa.ca/news/information-act-responses-expose-rcmp-inconsistencies-high-river>

Don and Jane White's full story also exposes many other inaccuracies in RCMP's responses tabled in Parliament. <http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/62108>

Second, the expert analysis of the audio in a video released by the RCMP on June 28, 2013 determined that the radio transmission said: "located all the firearms" (see link below for more details). This indicates that someone



in charge had a list of firearms and they were actually trying to locate the firearms - not just coming across them during their unwarranted searches of High River homes.

NFA News Release: Video analysis reveals RCMP targeting of High River homes with firearms

<https://nfa.ca/news/video-analysis-reveals-rcmp-targeting-houses-firearms>

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (l)** in how many cases were legally-stored firearms rendered illegally-stored, as a result of forced entries into residences by the RCMP;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (l)** *None*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (l)** This response is simply not true. High River residents have provided testimony that their firearms lockers were pried open and in one case even opened with a blow torch. Of course, even if a long gun was left unsecured in a locked home as a result of the flooding, the firearm would become unsecured the minute the RCMP kicked in the homeowner's door and left the home unsecured). The RCMP created the unsecured firearm by kicking in the doors and didn't fix the problem by resealing homes as directed by the RCMP High River Incident Commander. The RCMP simply seized the firearms rather than securing the homes they had broken into.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (m)** during the course of the searches referred to in (b) and (c), what statutory authorization allowed the removal of, (i) legally-stored firearms from residences, (ii) legally-stored ammunition from residences, (iii) legally-stored weapons other than firearms from residences, (iv) illegally-stored weapons other than firearms from residences, (v) legally-stored weapon accessories from residences, (vi) illegally-stored weapon accessories from residences;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (m)(i) (iii) (v) – (viii)** *Section 18 of the RCMP Act directs members of the RCMP to take all necessary actions to keep the peace, in accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, including Section 8.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (m)(i) (iii) (v) – (viii)** Section 8 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms states: "Everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure." I doubt the 754 High River residents (their number, not mine) who had their doors kicked in, the 1,200 more homeowners who suffered damages during the RCMP searches and the more than 112 homeowners who had their property seized without warrants don't agree with this RCMP response.

Section 18 (5.1) of the Alberta Emergency Management Act states: "*Unless otherwise provided for in the order for a declaration of a state of emergency, where an order for a declaration of a state of emergency is made, and there is a conflict between this Act or a regulation made under this Act and any other Act or regulation, other than the Alberta Bill of Rights or the Alberta Human Rights Act or a regulation made under either of those Acts, during the time that the order is in effect, this Act and the regulations made under this Act shall prevail in Alberta or that part of Alberta in respect of which the order was made.*" Alberta Emergency Management Act

<http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/E06P8.pdf>

Section 1 of the Alberta Bill of Rights states: " It is hereby recognized and declared that in Alberta there exist without discrimination by reason of race, national origin, colour, religion or sex, the following human rights and fundamental freedoms, namely: (a) the right of the individual to liberty, security of the person and enjoyment of property, and the right not to be deprived thereof except by due process of law; (b) the right of the individual to equality before the law and the protection of the law; ..."

Alberta Bill of Rights <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/A14.pdf>

How did the Alberta Bill of Rights fail to protect the residents of High River from RCMP forced entries, multiple unwarranted searches, seizure of their private property, and destruction of some of their property

without their permission? Where was the due process for any of them especially the 112 homeowners who had their firearms seized, ammunition seized and destroyed, firearms magazines seized (and charges laid in at least one instance); knives and bayonets seized, compound and cross bows seized, etc?

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (m)** during the course of the searches referred to in (b) and (c), what statutory authorization allowed the removal of, (ii) illegally-stored firearms from residences, (iv) illegally-stored ammunition from residences.

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (m)(ii) (iv)** *The Firearms Act and the Criminal Code and their supporting regulations allow for the removal of illegally stored firearms or ammunition.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS (m)(i) to (viii)** It is not clear from the evidence available at this time whether or not the Director of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre was one of the people with the delegated authority to direct the RCMP to conduct a door-to-door search of High River residences. If the evidence reveals that the RCMP did not have authority to enter any High River homes as required under the Alberta Emergencies Management Act, the High River Bylaws and Emergency Plan; it will mean that the RCMP were not in any of the High River homes lawfully and did not have statutory authorization to remove anything (legal or illegal) from the High River homes. I believe that if the RCMP needed to enter homes, especially forcibly, they should have obtained the proper authority from the Minister or his properly authorized delegates or obtained warrants.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (n)** how many of the items mentioned in (m)(i) through (viii), were removed by the RCMP:

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (n)** *Items removed by the RCMP:*

- 606 firearms were removed from residences.
- Only ammunition in plain view was removed from residences, however the quantity was not recorded.
- Other potentially dangerous items other than firearms in plain view were removed from residences. These items found in plain view and removed were: five pellet guns, two knives, one airgun, four compound bows, four crossbows, two bayonets and three sets of brass knuckle.

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (n)** First, see the Comments and Questions to the RCMP response to question (m) (1) to (viii) above. The "plain view doctrine" only applies if the RCMP are in the home lawfully.

Second, why remove ammunition from High River homes? Ammunition isn't dangerous without the firearms to shoot it and the RCMP already had the firearms. Even in a fire ammunition is not dangerous and in a flood not even remotely dangerous to public and police safety. Something else was going on in High River that had nothing at all to do with public safety.

Third, the RCMP did keep track of the quantity of ammunition seized. In an article by Taylor Weaver of the High River Times published on September 9, 2013, quoted Staff Sgt. Ian Shardlow: "We have destroyed approximately 5,000 pounds of ammunition and we have 2,500 pounds here that will be destroyed as well," he said. I have filed a delay complaint with the Office of the Information Commissioner asking her to investigate why the RCMP have not responded to my Access to Information Act request asking: "For the period from June 20, 2013 to July 31, 2013, please provide copies of all records, documents, correspondence, reports and communications showing: (1) the dates and amounts of ammunition seized during the searches of the High River homes; (2) the dates, amounts and receipts for the ammunition turned in by the public; (3) the authority for the RCMP to destroy both the seized ammunition and the ammunition turned in for destruction; and (4) the methods and costs associated with the destruction of all the ammunition from High River."

Fourth, how are compound bows and crossbows seized by the RCMP "potentially dangerous"? If the RCMP considered two knives were "potentially dangerous" why didn't they seize the butcher knives and steak knives from every home in High River? Just like kicking in the doors to 754 homes and damaging another 1,200 more makes no sense, neither does the RCMP's answer to this question.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (o)** did the RCMP remove any legally-owned items, other than firearms, ammunition, non-firearms weapons, or weapon accessories from any residences or non-residential buildings during the course of the searches referred to in (b) and (c) and, if so, how many items were removed, what were they, and what statutory and policy authorities allowed the RCMP to do so;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (o)** *The RCMP did not remove any legally owned items other than firearms, ammunition, non-firearms weapons or weapon accessories from any residences or non-residential buildings during the course of the searches referred to in (b) and (c). However, the RCMP did provide escorts to residents of the Town of High River to their residence to retrieve personal property such as passports, medication, medical supplies, where it was safe to do so or did attend residences at the express request of the home owner to retrieve personal property where it was safe to do so.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (o)** While it may be true that the RCMP escorted residents to retrieve their personal property, medication and medical supplies, it is not true in all cases. When Don and Jane White learned that the water around their home was only a few inches deep they asked the RCMP if they could go back in their home to retrieve Jane's heart monitor - the RCMP refused. When Jane went to go through the barricades an unnamed RCMP officer grabbed her, twisted her arm and told her she was under arrest. The RCMP even refused Jane's request for the officer to enter their home and get her heart monitor for her. The RCMP didn't follow through with Jane's arrest.

Read their full story here: <http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/62108>

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (p)** did the RCMP remove any illegal items, objects or substances, other than firearms, ammunition, non-firearms weapons, or weapons accessories, from any residences or non-residential buildings during the course of the searches referred to in (b) and (c) and, if so, what items were removed;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (p)** *Yes, 815 grams of cannabis marihuana, 770 grams of liquid cannabis resin, 29 cannabis marihuana plants and currency-alleged proceeds of crime over \$5,000.00.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (p)** I have no sympathy for drug dealers but as explained above, it is still not clear that the RCMP entered any of these High River homes lawfully, therefore, may have had no authority to seize anything whether it be lawful or unlawful, in plain view or hidden. Even if the RCMP officers thought they had authority to kick-in doors and search homes, in the cases above, their superiors should have ordered them to leave the home and remain outside the property until they had obtained the proper warrants.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (q)** was a warrant or warrants for the search of residences and non-residential buildings or removal of any personal property, including but not limited to firearms, firearms ammunition, non-firearm weapons, and weapon accessories, ever requested, (i) if (q) is answered affirmatively, are copies of the requests available, (ii) if (q) is answered in the negative, why was no request for a warrant or warrants referred to in (q) made;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (q)** *No, under the Alberta Emergency Management Act the local authority has the statutory power to authorize any person, including the RCMP, to enter into any building or land, without warrant, in the course of implementing an emergency plan or program.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (q)** As mentioned previously in the Comments and Questions provided in (a), the Alberta Property Rights Advocate in his June 2, 2014 report to the Alberta Legislature indicated that this RCMP response is "misguided". In an e-mail dated July 12, 2013, Marianne RYAN, who was then Assistant Commissioner Officer in Charge Criminal Operations "K" Division stated: *"If other items were seized under the plain view doctrine, such as illegal drugs, an assessment would have been made as to whether grounds existed to obtain a Search Warrant to search for additional evidence and whether there was time permitting. To my knowledge, no additional search warrants were pursued."* Ryan's e-mail, who is now Commanding Officer of "K" Division, continued: " I am also aware of the provisions of the Emergency Management Act and we have obtained a legal opinion from our counsel through the DOJ as to how and when we should consider the provisions of this Act. *It is my understanding that authority from the Minister should be obtained if homes are to be inspected for any health or structural issues.* The opinion from DOJ with respect to our actions in general is that given the chaotic evacuation of some southern Alberta towns, and the impracticality of conducting inquiries, that the RCMP have a good argument that members simply do not know whether someone is injured inside or whether there are latent dangers like ruptured fuel lines, and need to enter to ensure public safety and protection of property." [emphasis added].

See page 175 in this RCMP Access to Information Act response for the complete text of Marianne Ryan's e-mail. <https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/151-184.pdf>

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (r)** was a warrant or warrants for the search of residences and non-residential buildings or removal of any personal property, including but not limited to firearms, firearms ammunition, non-firearm weapons and weapon accessories, ever issued, (i) if (r) is answered affirmatively, are copies of the warrant or warrants available, (ii) if (r) is answered in the negative, why was the warrant or warrants not issued;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (r)** *No, under the Alberta Emergency Management Act the local authority has the statutory power to authorize any person, including the RCMP, to enter into any building or land, without warrant, in the course of implementing an emergency plan or program.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (r)** As mentioned previously in (a), the Alberta Property Rights Advocate in his June 2, 2014 report to the Alberta Legislature indicated that this RCMP response is "misguided".

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (s)** what was the total number of RCMP police officers who took part in the searches referred to in (b) and (c) and were the RCMP police officers conducting the searches referred to in (b) the same as the RCMP conducting the searches in (c) and, if not, what was the reason for the difference;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (s)** *There was a total of 121 RCMP police officers. The searches referred to in (b) and (c) were conducted by members of the RCMP Special Tactical Operations group who are trained in search and rescue operations.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (s)** The RCMP isn't even clear about the number of officers they had working in High River. This quote is from a Transcript taken by CBC News at 2:45 pm on June 28, 2013:

*"Good afternoon, everyone. I am Inspector Woolsey and I am the spokesperson for the RCMP on emergency operations and I have a relatively short operational update for you this morning. And of course, as always throughout this incident, public safety remains job one for the RCMP in High River. I am pleased to report that the community remains secure overnight if RCMP has approximately between 160 to 200 RCMP officers on the ground in this community around the clock keeping it secure." [emphasis added]*

RCMP ATIP RESPONSE FILE: A-2013-04354 PAGE 92 <https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/51-100.pdf>  
A/Commissioner Marianne Ryan - "K" Division Situation Report Flooding Jun 24, 2013 0600 hrs

- 310 Canadian Forces personnel assigned to High River
- 50 RCMP assigned to High River Detachment Duties
- 223 RCMP assigned to High River Emergency Flood Operations.

NOTE: That's a total of 273 RCMP officers working in High River on June 24, 2013 at 6 pm.

So how many RCMP officers were working in High River during the flood? 121, 160, 200 or 273?  
How many Alberta Sheriffs? How many private security personnel? Why is there no mention of these people in the RCMP's response to Parliament?

This *Access to Information Act* response from the RCMP shows the RCMP's Special Tactical Operations (STO) group was kicking in doors in High River starting on June 21, 2013.

RCMP 212-PAGE ATI Act response (RCMP ATIP File: A-2013-04640)  
[https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/A201304640\\_2014-02-18\\_08-21-23.PDF](https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/A201304640_2014-02-18_08-21-23.PDF)

Star News Headline: *RCMP conduct Special Tactical Operations training on Base.* Look at the eight pictures of their training at this link below. Does that look like they are being trained for search and rescue operations?  
[http://www.starnews.ca/news/article\\_50ac453c-a107-11e1-921a-001a4bcf6878.html?mode=image](http://www.starnews.ca/news/article_50ac453c-a107-11e1-921a-001a4bcf6878.html?mode=image)

Star News - May 15, 2013: *RCMP Inspector Garrett Woolsey, Commander Officer in Charge for Special Tactical Operations unit for 'K' Division explained that the five day training in Wainwright was to work on its public order training.* Was the public out of order in High River?

CTV Calgary - March 15, 2012: *Nearly 60 police officers from specialized RCMP units from across the country are in Calgary, taking part in joint training sessions aimed at improving search techniques for high profile targets. For the past two weeks, members of various special tactical operations teams have been learning how to conduct anti-terrorist searches of vehicles, V.I.P. routes and buildings.*

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (t)** what are the names, ranks, positions, units, and detachments of the officer or officers who authorized or otherwise initiated the (i) searches referred to in (b) and (c).

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (t)(i)** *The searches were authorized and initiated by the Director of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (t)(i):** It is not clear from the evidence available at this time whether or not the Director of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre was one of the people with the delegated authority to direct the RCMP to conduct a door-to-door search of High River residences. The Alberta Property Rights Advocate's report dated June 2, 2014 describes this RCMP's explanation as "misguided" and even Assistant Commissioner Marianne Ryan, who was then Assistant Commissioner Officer in Charge Criminal Operations "K" Division seems to concur with the legal opinion of the Alberta Property Rights Advocate (see more detailed comments under Question (a)).



**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (t)(ii) removal of legally-stored firearms from residences.**

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (t)(ii)** *No one authorized or initiated the removal of legally stored firearms from residences.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (t)(ii):** And yet it happened. The Department of Public Safety's Canadian Firearms Program Strategic Media Scan, Notes for the Director General dated July 22, 2013 states: "The RCMP has confirmed that in some cases trigger locks were used for the firearms in question." See page 191 in this RCMP Access to Information Act response for the complete text of this Notes for the Director General: <https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/151-184.pdf>

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (t)(iii) removal of illegally-stored firearms from residences.**

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (t)(v) removal of illegally-stored ammunition from residences.**

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (t)(vii) removal of illegally-stored non-firearms weapons from residences.**

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (t)(viii) removal of legally-stored weapon accessories from residences.**

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (t)(iii) (v) (vii) (viii)** *No one expressly authorized the removal of illegally or carelessly stored firearms, ammunition, non-firearm weapons, or weapon accessories from residences. RCMP officers engaged in the search process who encountered firearms relied upon their knowledge, skills, training and experience to ascertain the existence of reasonable and probable grounds to believe that the firearms were not stored in accordance with the law relating to the storage of firearms.*

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (t)(iv) removal of legally-stored ammunition from residences.**

**See COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (t)(ii) above.** The RCMP admit to seizing legally stored firearms during their unwarranted searches of High River homes; consequently, the response to this question is very hard to believe. I think everyone should wait to hear testimony from High River residents who had their ammunition seized without warrant and destroyed without their permission.

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (t)(iv)** *No ammunition that was out of plain sight was removed from residences.*

**See COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (t)(ii) above.** The RCMP admit to seizing legally stored firearms during their unwarranted searches of High River homes; consequently, the response to this question is very hard to believe.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (t)(vi) removal of legally-stored non-firearms weapons from residences.**

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (t)(vi)** *No non-firearms weapons that were out of plain sight were removed from residences.*

**See COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (t)(ii) above.** The RCMP admit to seizing legally stored firearms during their unwarranted searches of High River homes; consequently, the response to this question is very hard to believe.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (t)(ix)** removal of illegally-stored weapon accessories from residences;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (t)(ix)** *No legally stored firearms accessories were removed from residences.*

**See COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (t)(ii) above.** The RCMP admit to seizing legally stored firearms during their unwarranted searches of High River homes; consequently, the response to this question is very hard to believe. Can the RCMP please explain how to "legally store" firearms magazines?

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (u)** did the RCMP gather any information over the course of the searches referred to in (b) and (c) and if so, (i) what information was gathered regarding any firearms,

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (u)(i)** The descriptors of the firearm, including make, model, serial number and caliber (if applicable). Other additional information may have been collected on a case-by-case basis related to the ownership of the firearm or the residence and recorded for the purpose of ascertaining ownership to facilitate the return of the firearm to the rightful owner.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (u)(ii)** what information was gathered regarding any ammunition,

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (u)(ii)** *The descriptors of the ammunition including amount, manufacturer and the caliber (if applicable).*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (u)(ii)** Please note that the RCMP contradict themselves in this response. In RCMP response to Question (n) the RCMP state: "*Items removed by the RCMP - Only ammunition in plain view was removed from residences, however the quantity was not recorded.*" So did they record the amount of ammunition or not?

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (u)(iii)** what information was gathered regarding any weapon accessories,

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (u)(iii)** *No specific information was gathered other than a description of the item.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (u)(iii)** This is not a complete response. We have first-hand information from a High River resident who was arrested for having a firearms magazine that could hold more ammunition than allowed by firearms regulations. This man was arrested and held in jail for two days. He said the RCMP officers took him to several ATM bank machines so he could raise his bail. We know, that at least in one case, the RCMP had to gather more information about this "firearms accessory". This action by the RCMP also proves that they were not just securing private property but were also seizing property for enforcement purposes.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (u)(iv)** what information was gathered regarding any weapons, other than firearms,

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (u)(iv)** *The descriptors of the weapon. Other information relative to ownership that was readily accessible may have been recorded on a case-by-case basis to facilitate the return of the weapon to the rightful owner.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (u)(iv)** Maybe an explanation why these particular knives, bayonets, compound bows and cross bows were deemed "potentially dangerous" and why they were more "potentially dangerous" than thousands of other things in thousands of High River homes that could also be used as a weapon.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (u)(v)** has any form of database or information record (electronic or physical) been developed which could identify any of the residents, or residences, in and around the Town of High River, based on the presence of firearms, weapons, ammunition or accessories located during the conduct of the searches referred to in (b) and (c).

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (u)(v)** *Individual information records were created for each individual case where firearms, weapons, ammunition or accessories were removed from a residence. Electronic records were created in the Police Reporting and Occurrence System ("PROS") which is the records management system utilized by the RCMP for recording all of its investigations/calls for service. A physical file corresponding to the electronic file was also created to manage hard copy information. The manner in which these records were created and kept is in keeping with the standard practices of the RCMP in relation to any investigation/call for service.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (u)(v)** How long will the RCMP retain this private and personal information and who has access to it and for what purposes?

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (u)(vi)** is any of the information referred to in (u)(i) through (iv) still in existence and, if so, what information is still accessible by the RCMP, or any other government organization.

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (u)(vi)** *The information contained in the individual information records contained electronically in PROS and the corresponding hard copy record still exists. Upon the return of the secured firearms to their rightful owner, files were concluded. The electronic and hardcopy file will be retained in accordance with the policies and procedures in place regarding storage and retention periods. All of the information housed in the database remains in existence. Access to the database is controlled by the file manager who is situated in RCMP "K" Division Headquarters. Information in this database will be retained in accordance with the policies and procedures in place regarding storage and retention period. For added clarity, this information was compiled solely for the purpose of returning property to its rightful owner. The information collected will not be used for any other purpose.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS (u)(vi)** As pointed out in Comments & Questions (u)(iii), in at least one instance, this information was used for enforcement purposes not simply for "returning property to its rightful owner". It would be helpful to know how long will this private and personal information be kept in the RCMP files and who has access to it and for what purposes?

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (u)(vii)** under what statutory and policy authority did the RCMP have the legal right to gather any information referenced in (u)(i) through (iv).

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (u)(viii)** under what statutory and policy authority does the RCMP have the legal right to keep any information referenced in (u)(i) through (iv).

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (u)(vii)(viii)** *The collection, use and retention of investigative information held in the RCMP operational systems is governed by Section 4 of the Privacy Act.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (u)(vii)(viii)** As pointed out in Comments & Questions (u)(iii), in at

least one instance, this information was used for enforcement purposes not simply for "returning property to its rightful owner". It would be helpful to know how long will this private and personal information be kept in the RCMP files and who has access to it and for what purposes?

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (v)** have any charges been laid based on any of the RCMP's findings from the searches referred to in (b) and (c) and, so, what are the charges that have been laid and how many of each type of charge have been laid;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (v)** *One count of each of the following charges were laid:  
Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking - Schedule VII - Cannabis (783 grams of marihuana)  
Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000.00 (currency - alleged proceeds of crime)  
Unauthorized Possession of Firearm/Prohibited or Restricted Weapon (three sets of brass knuckles)*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (v)** First, what was the disposition of the arrest and detention for two days of the High River resident who was charged with the over-capacity firearms magazine (see Comments & Questions (u)(iii) above)? Second, until we have conclusive proof that the RCMP had all "legal authorities" necessary to enter any High River homes without a warrant, it remains a legal question whether or not officers were in any of the vacant High River homes lawfully and; therefore, whether or not the evidence of these crimes obtained lawfully under the "plain view doctrine" is also unclear.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (w)** have any members of the RCMP been charged or internally-disciplined, and to what degree, regarding, (i)the forced entry into residences or non-residential buildings in and around the Town of High River, (ii) the removal of any items from residences or non-residential buildings in and around the Town of High River;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (w(i)(ii))** *No members of the RCMP have been charged with any offence. It would be inappropriate to discuss any internal disciplinary matters.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (w)** It would not be inappropriate to disclose to Parliament the number of officers that were disciplined as a result of their actions in High River and what they were disciplined for.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (x)** what were the reasons (broken down by case) for (i) all entries (forced or otherwise) into each residence and non-residential building, between the dates of June 24 and July 12, 2013, (ii) all the searches of each residence and non-residential building between the dates of June 24 and July 12, 2013, (iii) the removal of any firearms, ammunition, non- firearms weapons and accessories from each residences and non-residential building, between the dates of June 24 and July 12, 2013;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (x)(i)(ii)(iii)** *At the direction of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre. The reasons are as follows: Escort of pet rescue volunteers. Escort of building inspectors carrying out the inspection to determine their structural integrity and habitability. Escort of property owners needing to retrieve personal property. Firearms were removed in an attempt to keep the community safe. However, as indicated in part (m), Section 18 of the RCMP Act directs members of the RCMP to take all necessary actions to keep the peace, in accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, including Section 8.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (x) (i)(ii)(iii)** In an e-mail dated July 12, 2013, from Marianne Ryan, who was then Assistant Commissioner Officer in Charge Criminal Operations "K" Division stated: *I am also aware of the provisions of the Emergency Management Act and we have obtained a legal opinion from our counsel through the DOJ as to how and when we should consider the provisions of this Act. It is my*

understanding that authority from the Minister should be obtained if homes are to be inspected for any health or structural issues.[emphasis added]

Deputy Commissioner Ryan's statement and the legal opinion from the RCMP's own counsel (which we have not received a copy of yet) would indicate that, at the very least, the unwarranted entries into High River homes after June 24, 2013 were not properly authorized under the *Alberta Emergency Management Act*.

Finally, under what scenarios did the RCMP officers think that leaving the firearms, ammunition, firearms accessories, etcetera in locked homes would be unsafe and a threat to public and police safety?

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (y)** what are the contents of all communications, hard copy or electronic, including but not limited to, mail, email, fax, text, letter, that have been exchanged between any members of the RCMP, as well as between the RCMP and any government officials, including but not limited to municipal governments, the Alberta provincial government and associated agencies and crown corporations, the federal government and associated government agencies and crown corporations, regarding the requirement of the searches referred to in (b) and (c), the conduct of the searches referred to in (b) and (c) and the removal of any items during the course of the searches referred to in (b) and (c); and

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (y)** *Given the current time and resource constraints, the RCMP is unable to provide the requested information as a case-by-case manual search would be required.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-540 (y)** The Information Commissioner of Canada is investigating complaints filed for incomplete responses and/or no responses at all to fifteen *Access to Information Act* requests filed with the RCMP on the High River forced entries and unwarranted seizures of firearms, ammunition, firearms magazines, knives, bows, etc, etc. Given that there appears to be some reluctance on the part of the RCMP to release all the records necessary to complete an impartial investigation into the events that took place in High River between June 20, 2013 and July 13, 2013, it seems only fair and reasonable that this information not also be withheld from Parliament.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-540 (z)** what is the source of the information provided in the responses to (a) through (y)?

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-540 (z)** The source of information includes, but is not limited to, individual members' notes, various reports, including memoranda, briefing notes, minutes of meetings and e-mail correspondence. Other information sources such as records provided to the RCMP by the Province of Alberta, records provided to the RCMP by the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre and records that were publicly accessible via the internet, were used.

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**Q-541 — June 3, 2014 — Mr. Reid (Lanark—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington) — With regard to the actions of the RCMP in Alberta, between June 20, 2013 and July 12, 2013:**

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (a)** respecting the actions implemented in and around the Town of High River, Alberta, what statutory, regulatory and policy authorities (citing specific clauses) guided the RCMP's emergency response procedures;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541 (a)** *A state of local emergency was declared for the Town of High River by the appropriate local authority pursuant to section 21 of the Alberta Emergency Management Act, and*



*renewed, pursuant to section 22 of the Alberta Emergency Management Act. The Government of Alberta declared a State of Provincial Emergency pursuant to section 18 of the Alberta Emergency Management Act and thereby effectively took control of the emergency situation in the Town of High River. Paragraph 11(a) of the Alberta Emergency Management Act states that a local authority shall, at all times, be responsible for the direction and control of the local authority's emergency response unless the Government assumes direction and control under section 18. Pursuant to paragraph 24(1)(b) of the Alberta Emergency Management Act, on the making of the declaration of a state of local emergency and for the duration of the state of emergency, the local authority is granted the authority to exercise any power given to the Minister under the provisions of section 19 of the Alberta Emergency Management Act. The Operational Manual, Section 21.1 Authority to Search, also guided RCMP personnel as it related to the search of buildings and the seizure of property.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-541 (a) - See Comments & Questions to Q-540(a).**

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (b)** were the RCMP's emergency response procedures, referred to in section (a), the same as the emergency response procedures used by the RCMP in other municipalities in Alberta.

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541 (b)** *The RCMP implements emergency response procedures that are tailored to the specific needs of communities and situations.*

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (b)(i)** was the RCMP's removal of firearms, firearms ammunition, non-firearm weapons, and related accessories, during the searches of residences and non-residential buildings in and around the Town of High River a course of action which was used in other communities in Alberta and, if so, where else was this course of action used, and to what extent.

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541 (b)(i)** *Although evacuations were carried out in other communities, to varying degrees, the RCMP was not requested by the local authority to assist with the evacuation in the same manner as they were in High River. In no other community was the RCMP asked by the local authority to conduct door-to-door searches.*

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (b)(ii)** was the RCMP's decision to temporarily deny the residents of the Town of High River the ability to re-enter the town taken in other municipalities and, if so, what were the dates when the RCMP allowed residents to re-enter, and the circumstances which allowed re-entry, for each affected municipality.

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541 (b)(ii)** There have not been other analogous incidents to which to draw a comparison.

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-541 (b)(ii) -** The RCMP failed to answer this question. On June 28, 2013, RCMP Inspector Garrett Woolsey told the Calgary Herald: "*So, our instructions to our officers, and it's no different than in Slave Lake, was to seize firearms or to secure firearms that were in plain view.*" [Emphasis added] Maybe it's also time for Parliamentarians to find out what really happened in Slave Lake, Alberta?

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (b)(iii)** if (b) is answered in the negative, what were all of the differences in standard response procedures used by the RCMP in each municipality and the reasons for the differences.

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541 (b)(iii)** *The response is dictated by the totality of the situation and is guided by*

*Emergency Operational Plans established by the local authority. The response of the local authority, under the authority of the Alberta Emergency Management Act, where a state of local emergency was declared, varied by the situation facing the local authority and the resources at its disposal.*

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (c)** during the RCMP's emergency response procedures implemented in and around the Town of High River, did the RCMP locate any people and, if so,

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541 (c) Yes.**

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (c)(i)** how many of the people located by the RCMP required assistance and how many were given assistance by the RCMP,

**RCMP RESPONSE (c)(i)** *The RCMP is unable to provide an exact number of people who required or were given assistance.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-541 (c)(i)** - The RCMP said they were unable to answer this question and yet responded to the very next question.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (c)(ii)** how many people were located by the RCMP, or assisted by the RCMP, as a direct result of the RCMP's searching of residential or non-residential buildings, in and around the Town of High River,

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541 (c)(ii)** *A total of 364 people were located within the portion of the mandatory evacuation area subject to the door-to-door search of residential and non-residential properties searched by the RCMP and other emergency responders. Of these 364 people, 38 were provided assistance in evacuating the town. The remaining 326 people refused the assistance of emergency responders.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-541 (c)(ii)** There is some confusion in the RCMP's reports about the number of High River residents who were "rescued" or "escorted out of town" or "provided assistance in evacuating the town." Sometimes it's 28 and sometimes it's 38. The problem is that in the 143 pages of handwritten notes by RCMP search teams there is not one documented case of a High River resident being "rescued" or "escorted out of town" or "provided assistance in evacuating the town." Lots and lots of notes about pets being found, fed, watered and taken to animal shelters but not one note about a person being "rescued" or "escorted out of town" or "provided assistance in evacuating the town."

[https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/A201304640\\_2014-02-18\\_08-21-23.PDF](https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/A201304640_2014-02-18_08-21-23.PDF)

Officers were far more diligent recording the firearms they seized (even though the RCMP has still not provided those officer's notes for the 609 firearms they seized). Wouldn't RCMP officers think it was more important to write down how and when they rescued a person than a pet or seized a firearm? Below are the different reports received from the RCMP in response to Access to Information Act requests.

(1) This is an excerpt from an e-mail dated July 12, 2013, from Asst. Commissioner Marianne Ryan's to an unknown recipient: *"During the these residential searches, several people (28) were indeed found stranded in their homes and were subsequently rescued."* <https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/151-184.pdf>

(2) This is an excerpt from a letter dated August 16, 2013 from "K" Division Commanding Officer Dale McGowan to the Alberta Property Rights Advocate: *"During these building searches, several people (28) were indeed found stranded in their homes and were subsequently rescued."*

<https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/Deputy%20Commissioner%20D.N.%20%28Dale%29%20McGowan%2C%20Commanding%20Officer%20of%20K%20Division.pdf>

(3) This is an excerpt from an e-mail entitled "Search Numbers" dated June 25, 2013 to RCMP Supt. Frank D. Smart: "*Buildings entered: 4,668; Forced Entries: 754; People Located in Evac Zones: 327; Rescued people (Initiated by STO Team for various reasons): 38*" <https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/pages%201-50.pdf>

**Comment & Question:** One wonders what the "various reasons" were? Did the STO teams discuss charges that could be laid under the *Emergency Management Act* for refusing to obey and evacuation order?

(4) *Access to Information Act* request asked for: "*For the period from June 19, 2013 to present, please provide copies of all the records, correspondence and documentation related to the search of private homes in High River, Alberta that document the number of homes broken into using locksmiths, the number of homes broken into using physical force, the number of people rescued, the number of dogs, cats and other pets rescued, . . .*" In response, the RCMP provided 143 pages of handwritten notes describing the search of just 1,801 of the 4,666 High River homes and businesses covering the period from June 21 to June 25. The RCMP Officer's notes documented many, many pets fed, watered and taken to shelters and a few of the firearms seized but not one note about even one person being rescued or escorted out of town or provided assistance in evacuating the town.

**Comment & Question:** It is most odd that these records of 28 or 38 people escorted out of town were not documented because one would think that this would be the RCMP's best justification for kicking in 754 doors (their number, not mine), damaging almost 2,000 homes (their number, not mine) and the unwarranted search of 4,666 homes and buildings. But I commented a little too hastily. Read the answer to this very next question.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541** (c)(iii) how many people were located by the RCMP, or assisted by the RCMP, as a result of the RCMP's forced entry into residential or non-residential buildings in and around the Town of High River.

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541** (c)(iii) *None.*

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541** (c)(iv) what forms of assistance were provided to anyone who was found through the RCMP's searching of residential or non-residential buildings in and around the Town of High River;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541** (c)(iv) *The primary form of assistance rendered to anyone found during the door-to-door search of residential and non-residential property was transportation out of the mandatory evacuation zone, and, in some cases, minor medical attention.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-541** (c)(iv) Why in all 149 pages of handwritten notes by STO search teams is there no notes about High River residents being provided with transportation out of town or being provided minor medical attention?

RCMP Access to Information Act Response - RCMP Handwritten Notes of High River Homes Searched (PDF pages 58 to 207) [https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/A201304640\\_2014-02-18\\_08-21-23.PDF](https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/A201304640_2014-02-18_08-21-23.PDF)

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541** (d) on what specific dates did the RCMP locate any people or domesticated animals, in and around the Town of High River, (i) through the searching of residences,

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541** (d)(i) *The door-to-door search of residential properties by RCMP-led search teams commenced on June 21, 2013, and was completed on June 24, 2013. During this period, people and*

*domestic animals were found in High River on Friday, June 21, 2013, Saturday, June 22, 2013, Sunday, June 23, 2013 and Monday, June 24, 2013. On June 23, 2013, the Director of the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre directed that no volunteers conducting pet rescues from residences were to go to a residence without an RCMP escort. These escort duties were outside the scope of and in addition to the RCMP-led door-to-door searches of residential and non-residential properties. The RCMP-escorted pet rescue operation was completed on July 2, 2013. During each of these days; Sunday, June 23, 2013 until Tuesday, July 2, 2013, inclusive, domesticated animals were located.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-541 (d)** If all the people and pets were "rescued" by July 2, 2013, how and why did RCMP keep seizing firearms right up to July 10, 2013?

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (d)(ii)** through the searching of non-residential buildings;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541 (d)(ii)** There are no documented cases of persons or domestic animals being located during the search of non-residential property.

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-541 (d)(ii)** After reviewing 149 pages of handwritten notes of the RCMP search teams, the RCMP did not resort to kicking in the doors or searching without warrant any of the non-residential properties. The records show that they were satisfied by just looking in the windows of the businesses they checked. Why wasn't this method of checking business premises extended to private homes? If the RCMP were really looking for stranded residents and residents in distressed, why did they not believe that people were not also stranded in non-residential buildings.

RCMP Access to Information Act Response - RCMP Handwritten Notes of High River Homes Searched (PDF pages 58 to 207) [https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/A201304640\\_2014-02-18\\_08-21-23.PDF](https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/A201304640_2014-02-18_08-21-23.PDF)

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (d)(iii)** through the forced entry into residences, (iv) through the forced entry into non-residential buildings;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541 (d)(iii)(iv)** Without an exhaustive effort at cross referencing, which cannot be done within current time frames, it is not known whether any of the 364 people located in the mandatory evacuation zone or any of the 38 people who were provided assistance in evacuating the town. Nor is it known if any of the number of domesticated animals rescued were located in property that was forcibly entered.

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-541 (d)(iii)(iv)** After reviewing 149 pages of handwritten notes taken by the RCMP search teams between June 21 and June 25, 2013, I was unable to find one documented case a person being "provided assistance in evacuating town." It really doesn't take that long to review these handwritten notes (unless the RCMP failed to provide me with all the notes in their possession). The RCMP had 45 sitting days of the House of Commons to complete their search for these records. Not having enough time is not a valid excuse! Parliamentarians deserve a full and honest answer and the documents to support it.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (e)** on June 20, 2013, what was the RCMP's standard procedure when responding to a natural disaster, and the declaration of a state of emergency, (i) regarding searching residences and non-residential buildings for people or domesticated animals, (ii) regarding forced entry into residences and non-residential buildings, while searching for people and domesticated animals, (iii) regarding the removal of valuable items discovered when searching residences and non-residential buildings for people or domesticated animals, (iv) regarding legally-stored firearms, ammunition, non-firearm weapons, or weapons accessories, which are located by the RCMP in residences and non-residential buildings, while searching, through forced entry or otherwise, for people or domesticated animals, (v) regarding illegally-stored firearms, ammunition, non-firearm weapons, or weapons accessories, which are

located by the RCMP in residences and non-residential buildings, while searching, through forced entry or otherwise, for people or domesticated animals, (vi) regarding securing a residence or non-residential building, after being subject to forced entry by the RCMP, (vii) when was the procedure created and last amended;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541 (e)** *The response is dictated by the totality of the situation and is guided by Emergency Operational Plans established by the local authority. The response of the local authority, under the authority of the Alberta Emergency Management Act, where a state of local emergency was declared, varied by the situation facing the local authority and the resources at its disposal, including the RCMP.*

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (f)** did the RCMP have thermal imaging technology available for their use in and around the Town of High River,

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541 (f)** *Yes.*

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (f)(i)** if (f) is answered in the affirmative, how was the technology employed in and around the Town of High River,

**RCMP RESPONSE (f)(i)** *A Forward Looking Infrared Imaging System (FLIR) platform attached to an RCMP helicopter was deployed in and around the Town of High River during the initial response to the flooding. Hand-held thermal imaging technology was available through the High River and neighbouring RCMP detachments.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-541 (f)(i)** Has all these images been provided to the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP to aid in their investigation? It is essential for the RCMP to show these images to the Parliamentary Committee on Public Safety and National Security.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (f)(ii)** was the technology capable of identifying the presence of people or domesticated animals in residences or non-residential buildings without physically entering the buildings, and if not, why not and how was this determination reached;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541 (f)(ii)** The technology available for deployment by the RCMP is not capable of identifying the presence of people or domesticated animals in residences or non-residential buildings without physically entering the building.

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-541 (f)(ii)** If the thermal imaging technology is not capable of identifying the presence of people and pets, what was the technology used for?

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (g)** what are the contents of all communications, hard copy or electronic including, but not limited to, mail, email, fax, text, letter, that have been exchanged between any members of the RCMP, as well as between the RCMP and any government officials including, but not limited to, municipal governments, the Alberta provincial government and associated government agencies and crown corporations, the federal government and associated government agencies and crown corporations, regarding the end of the state of emergency in all affected areas and the denial of re-entry of citizens in all affected areas;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541 (g)** *Given the current time and resource constraints, the RCMP is unable to provide the requested information as a case-by-case manual search would be required.*



**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-541 (g)** This same information was requested by the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP so at a minimum, Parliament should receive a list of the information provided to the Public Complaints Commission. Parliament should decide which records should be provided to Parliamentarians - not the RCMP.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (h)** what are the contents of all the meetings attended by the RCMP with respect to the operations in and around the Town of High River;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541 (h)** *These meetings were conducted by the Town of High River Emergency Operations Centre and any minutes are held by the Town of High River Emergency Operations Centre. In addition there were numerous meetings held between the RCMP and other agency representatives with respect to the operations in and around the town of High River. These minutes are handwritten, extensive and contained in multiple volumes. These minutes are not electronically searchable or indexed. Given the current time constraints, the RCMP is unable to provide the requested information as a case-by-case manual search would be required, which would take an excessive amount of time and a significant amount of resources.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-541 (h)** Parliamentarians should be able to review all the minutes of these meetings rather than be denied access completely.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (i)** on what date and time were any states of emergency or declarations pertaining to the Town of High River lifted;

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541 (i)** *The state of local emergency for the Town of High River lapsed on September 20, 2013.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-541 (i)** This response is at odds with information obtained from the Alberta Minister responsible for Emergency Management who approved a Provincial State of Emergency on June 28, 2013 to run for two weeks. See Order in Council below.

**Order in Council Approved June 28, 2013**

**HONOURABLE MR. GRIFFITHS - 202/2013 - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT (section 18) -** *Declares that a state of emergency exists in the Town of High River as a result of severe overland flooding and groundwater seepage from June 19, 2013 to June 25, 2013 triggered by extremely high streamflow levels, which caused extraordinary losses and damages to residents, businesses and others located in the Town of High River. Orders in Council can now be viewed on the Queen's Printer website at:*

<http://www.qp.alberta.ca/507.cfm>

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (j)** on what date and time and by what means were the residents of the Town of High River notified of their ability to re-enter the town; and

**RCMP RESPONSE (j)** *Notification of residents of the Town of High River of their ability to re-enter the town was made by the officials of the Province of Alberta and the Town of High River.*

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS Q-541 (j)** The RCMP know the exact dates that High River residents were notified because they were keeping them out of town with roadblocks and spike belts. The Province and the Town may have made the decision but the RCMP implemented those decisions and "notified" the High River

residents who were behind the barricades screaming at them.

**MP SCOTT REID'S QUESTION Q-541 (k) what are the sources of the answers provided in (a) through (j)?**

**RCMP RESPONSE Q-541 (k)** *The source of information includes, but is not limited to, individual members' notes, various reports, including memoranda, briefing notes, minutes of meetings and e-mail correspondence. Other information sources such as records provided to the RCMP by the Province of Alberta, records provided to the RCMP by the Town of High River Emergency Operation Centre and records that were publicly accessible via the internet, were used.*

**FINAL COMMENTS:**

1. This quote is from a Jen Gerson's National Post article dated July 8, 2013. Greg Kvisle said: *"I just don't understand, in the areas where there are no people left and the houses were all high and dry, why were they going through houses two and three times and doing all this damage to homes? All it says is that next time this happens, I'm not leaving my home. I have to protect my home from police, now, as well as looters."*

2. Interview with High River Mayor Craig Snodgrass on News Talk 770 Radio - June 17, 2014.

**INTERVIEW EXCERPT:** *"It's something that happened. There's going to be lessons learned through it. That's all I've asked from the RCMP. When this report comes out and it's not the RCMP doing it - the independent report - as long as it's honest and there's lessons learned in there because my biggest worry is, if there isn't the lessons learned in there, if something like this happened again somewhere, anywhere in Canada, how would you do things differently. If we don't have that lessons learned, I'm very worried that if there's an evacuation order put anywhere and certain people locked down because of a loss of trust in any of that stuff, that it could possibly get somebody killed, right. So we got to be very honest about this stuff."*

3. Calgary Sun column by Lorne Gunter dated August 10, 2014. *"In a telephone poll of 444 residents of the small, foothills city, conducted earlier this week for the National Firearms Association (NFA), nearly half of High Riverites claimed next time they would not leave. To the question "Knowing what you know today, if High River had another flood would you obey an evacuation order?" 44 per cent answered "no," they would "disobey." Another 39 per cent insisted they would comply. If the undecideds are dropped out of the results, 53% now insist they would dig in their heels and ride out the raging waters."*

<http://www.calgarysun.com/2014/08/08/gunter-poll-shows-fallout-from-high-river-gun-grab-continues>

<https://nfa.ca/news/poll-high-river-residents-shows-dismal-lack-trust-rcmp>

Rebuilding the trust in the RCMP will require a complete and honest full accounting of what happened in High River during those 23 days in June and July 2013 - not excuses. It's time the voices of the people of High River were heard in this discussion. These are the people that had their doors kicked in, their houses searched, their privacy invaded and their property seized without warrant or even a justifiable reason. It may take a review by a Parliamentary Committee, a judicial enquiry or a class action law suit or all three but if the whole truth doesn't come out and the trust between the RCMP and the people is not rebuilt from the ground up, people are going to lose their lives when the next emergency is declared and people refuse to leave their homes. Those deaths will be on the heads of all those who participated in the refusal to fully disclose all the records in government hands.

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