

RCMP ACCESS TO INFORMATION RESPONSE
TRACING FIREARMS USING CANADIAN FIREARMS INFORMATION SYSTEM

RCMP ATI RESPONSE DATED: SEPTEMBER 15, 2011 RCMP FILE #: GA-3951-3-04012/11

WORDING OF ORIGINAL ATI REQUEST SUBMITTED TO RCMP (July 31, 2011):

The RCMP website states: *"The computerized, centralized CFIS makes it much easier for police to trace and locate the last known owner of these firearms."*

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/reg-enr/tool-utile-eng.htm>

Since the Canadian Firearms Information System (CFIS) became operational, please provide copies of reports showing the effectiveness of tracing firearms using CFIS; specifically, reports that show how *"much easier"* it was *"for police to trace and locate the last known owner of these firearms"* in Canada including:

- (a) the total number of attempted firearms traces using CFIS;
- (b) the total number of successful firearms traces using CFIS;
- (c) the total number of stolen firearms identified in traces using CFIS;
- (d) the total number of times the registered owner of the stolen firearm was charged with a crime as a result of the CFIS trace;
- (e) the total number of persons charged with the theft of the stolen firearms identified by the CFIS traces;
- (f) the total number of stolen firearms that were returned to their registered owner as a result of CFIS traces;
- (g) the total number of crimes that were solved because identifying the stolen firearm gave *"police a valuable starting point for their investigation"*;
- (h) the total number of court orders enforced using CFIS traces; and
- (i) the total number of registered and unregistered firearms seized as a result of the enforcement of these court orders using CFIS traces.

RCMP RESPONSE DATED SEPTEMBER 15, 2011 – OR “WHAT THE RCMP DOESN’T KNOW ABOUT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TRACING FIREARMS IN CANADA”:

Please find below response to Access request. Unless I hear otherwise, I will consider this file complete:

(a) the total number of attempted firearms traces using CFIS: In 2010, the CNFTC traced 1,959 firearms, of which 936 (48%) were non-restricted. In addition, CFIS recorded in excess of 111,000 queries directly related to the firearm (serial number or certificate-based) performed by front-line officers.

(b) of the traces conducted by CNFTC in 2010, 810 (42%) were successful. This includes all classes of firearms.

(c) This statistic is identified through CPIC/NCIC – directly.

The remainder – we do not collect stats.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre (CNFTC)

The Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre (CNFTC) assists all law enforcement agencies throughout Canada in tracing firearms and thereby advancing investigations. The origin of a crime gun is discovered through the tracing process which outlines the detailed history of the firearm. In 2009, there were 2,283 firearms traced in Canada. Through protocols established with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the two agencies can exchange trace information electronically. The result is a decreased error rate in tracing submissions and a significant improvement in the time required to receive trace results. The CNFTC also makes use of the CFP's Canadian Firearms Information System, the database of all legally registered firearms in Canada. As well, they are a member of INTERPOL and the Integrated Weapons and Explosives Tracking System.

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/rep-rap/2009-comm-rpt/sec3-eng.htm#h>

NOTE: Anyone wanting copies of the original RCMP response to my Access to Information request please contact: Dennis R. Young: dhyoung@shaw.ca
