

## **RCMP & STATISTICS CANADA ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT RESPONSES LICENSED GUN OWNER CRIME STATISTICS**

RCMP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT DATED: NOV. 14, 2011 RCMP FILE #: GA-3951-3-05584/11  
STATISTICS CANADA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT DATED: JAN. 10, 2012 FILE #: A-2011-00330

### **WORDING OF ORIGINAL ATI REQUEST SUBMITTED TO RCMP (July 22, 2011)**

In an article published Monday, October 5, 2009 by Northern News Services entitled, "*Unregistered guns part of life in NWT*", Chief Supt. Marty Cheliak, Director General of the RCMP Canadian Firearms Centre was reported as follows: *Cheliak says officers use this information when they're responding to calls, particularly domestic violence situations. He says if police find there is a gun registered to a home, they take special precautions. "Their response will be altered significantly," he said. "They may take steps to evacuate the neighbours in residences on both sides ... they'll take steps to ensure their own safety."* FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE IS AVAILABLE HERE: [http://nnsi.com/northern-news-services/stories/papers/oct5\\_09gun.html](http://nnsi.com/northern-news-services/stories/papers/oct5_09gun.html)

**This is just one example where it appears police overtly treat federally-licensed gun owners as more dangerous than prohibited gun owners, unlicensed gun owners and non-gun owners. Please provide the most recent copies available of documents, reports, analyses, audits, briefing notes, statistics, etc. that show that federally-licensed gun owners are more dangerous than prohibited gun owners, unlicensed gun owners and non-gun owners. We are looking for documents that show a comparison of homicide rates and violent crime rates between licensed gun owners, prohibited gun owners, unlicensed gun owners and non-gun owners.**

### **"NO RECORDS" REPLY FROM RCMP (Received December 9, 2011)**

*Please be advised that we were unable to locate any information relating to your request. In this case we suggest you file an Access to Information request with the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and/or Stats Canada.*

### **COMPLAINT FILED WITH THE INFO. COMMISSIONER (January 2, 2012)**

Please find attached a copy of my original request dated July 22, 2011 and a copy of the RCMP's "No Records" response dated December 19, 2011. I wish to file a complaint about this non-response.

Chief Supt. Marty Cheliak, then the Director General of the RCMP Canadian Firearms Centre, publicly extolled the virtues of the RCMP's policies and procedures when officers are responding to domestic violence calls where the location is known to be the home of a licensed owner of a registered firearm. It makes no sense for the RCMP not to have the reports requested that would justify these stated policies and procedures. This especially true because Chief Superintendent Cheliak's policies actually put officers at greater risk because, if followed, the front-line officers are being more cautious about approaching the home of a law-abiding gun owner than they would the home of a person who has not registered their firearms or in fact may be prohibited from owning firearms.

Statistically, licensed gun owners are between three and five times less likely to commit murder than the average citizen who does not have a firearms license. This statistic would indicate the officers should be more cautious about entering the home of a person who doesn't have a registered firearm. Logically, police officers should approach ALL domestic violence situations with an equal amount of caution and not place priority on whether a computer tells them there is a registered gun at that location or not.

It seems highly unlikely that the Commissioner of the RCMP did not demand reports with “evidence” justifying Chief Supt. Cheliak’s determination that law-abiding gun owners are a greater risk to officers and the public than the average citizen, known criminals and the more than 300,000 persons prohibited from owning firearms.

**WORDING OF ORIGINAL ATI REQUEST SUBMITTED TO STATSCAN (January 2, 2012)**

**Identical request as was sent to RCMP above with an added note to: See copy of the RCMP’s “no records” reply attached and their suggestion that we file an ATI request with Statistics Canada.**

**“NO RECORDS” REPLY FROM STATSCAN (January 12, 2012)**

*We regret to inform you that we are unable to find any information related to your request. Statistics Canada does not collect the information requested. Please note that “The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey does not collect information on licensing of either guns or gun owners related to the incidents of violent crime reported by police and “The Homicide Survey” does collect information on the registration status of the firearm used to commit a homicide if the firearm was recovered and if they were able to determine whether or not the firearm was registered. We do not collect information specific to those who own/do not own guns.*

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NOTE: Anyone wanting more information about this *Access to Information Act* request please contact: Dennis R. Young: [dhyoung@shaw.ca](mailto:dhyoung@shaw.ca)

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