

**RCMP ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT RESPONSE**  
**HOW THE RCMP FINALLY FOUND 3,000 PAGES OF RECLASSIFICATION DOCUMENTS**  
**OR HOW TO HIDE RECORDS FROM THE PUBLIC FOR MORE THAN A YEAR**

RCMP Acknowledgment letter dated: JULY 24, 2012 RCMP FILE #: A-2012-04323

**WORDING OF ORIGINAL ATI REQUEST SUBMITTED TO RCMP (July 04, 2012)**

*From January 1, 2011 to present, please provide copies of all correspondence, e-mails, policies, proposals, directives, memoranda, reports, papers, briefing notes and advice to the Minister, regarding the classification and reclassification of firearms originating from the office of Murray A. Smith, Manager, Specialized Firearms Support Services, Firearms Investigative and Enforcement Services Directorate, Canadian Firearms Program, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.*

**INFO COMMISSIONER'S RESPONSE TO MY DELAY COMPLAINT - JANUARY 14, 2013**

*On September 21, 2012, you complained to our office that the RCMP had failed to respond to your access request within the time frames set out by the Act and was therefore deemed to have refused access. Our investigation found that delays were evident throughout the processing of your request. For instance, the RCMP acknowledged receipt of your request and initiated records retrieval on July 24, 2012 - 15 days after having received your request. Subsequently, it appears there no appreciable work was performed in processing your request until at least mid-November. We finally learned from the institution on December 13, 2012 that a response was being prepared and would be provided to you shortly.*

**RCMP'S FIRST NON-RESPONSE - DECEMBER 13, 2012 (Received January 4, 2013)**

*Based on the information provided, a search for records was conducted with the Canadian Firearms Program. Please be advised that we were unable to locate any information relating to your request.*

**MY COMPLAINT TO INFORMATION COMMISSIONER - JANUARY 13, 2013**

*Please find attached a copy of my original request dated July 4, 2012 and the RCMP's "no records" reply dated December 13, 2012 but was not received until January 4, 2013. I wish to complain about the unbelievable assertion by the RCMP that they were unable to locate any information relating to my request. Mr. Smith is one of the RCMP's foremost experts on firearms and it is inconceivable that he would not be consulted on new firearms classifications and reclassifications.*

**RCMP'S SECOND NON-RESPONSE - MARCH 27, 2013**

*Please be advised that we have conducted a second search and were unable to locate any information related to your request.*

**COMPLAINT FOLLOW-UP WITH INFORMATION COMMISSIONER - AUGUST 28, 2013**

*Reference is being made to the four Access to Information Act requests I have filed with the RCMP searching for information with regards to the classification and reclassification of firearms. So far my*

requests have yielded no results. The RCMP file numbers are: **A-2012-04323, A-2013-00409, A-2013-02743, A-2013-03751**. I have attached a copy of an excellent article that appeared in the July-August issue of the *Canadian Firearms Journal* published by the National Firearms Association. This article, particularly Table 1 and the screen shots of a Secret RCMP memo dated May 12, 2013, demonstrate the kind of information that the RCMP has but is failing to provide in response to my requests.

### **RESULTS OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER'S INVESTIGATION - SEPT 24, 2013**

*Our investigation revealed that the RCMP's interpretation of your request was limited to records originating from Murray Smith sent to the Minister's Office. Although Mr. Smith contributed to briefing notes and other correspondence to the Minister, he did not directly correspond with the Minister. This, the RCMP was of the view that it had no records relevant to the request. However, our office did not agree with the RCMP's narrow interpretation of the request. As a result, we asked the RCMP to conduct another search that was not limited to records that was not limited to records originating from Mr. Smith to the Minister's Office. The RCMP agreed and confirmed there are more than 3,000 pages of records deemed relevant to your request. The RCMP is now processing these records in order to respond to your request.*

NOTE: A copy of the letter is available here:

<http://share.pdfonline.com/96dcc11697fa40b3907837f9404ffe50/Letter%20From%20Carmen%20Garrett.htm>

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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)