



Royal Canadian Gendarmerie royale
Mounted Police du Canada

Security Classification / Designation
Classification / Désignation sécuritaire

DEC 3 0 2013

Mr. Dennis Young
1330 Ravenswood Dr. SE
Airdrie, Alberta
T4A 0P8

Your file Votre référence
043

Our file Notre référence
GA-1516-3-03996/13

Dear Mr. Young:

This is in response to your request under the Access to Information Act received on July 2, 2013, seeking a copy of the Gun Show Report.

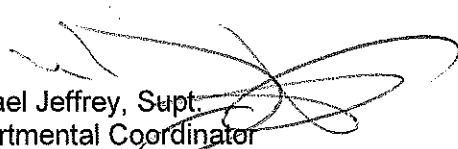
Enclosed is a copy of all the information which you requested.

Please be advised that you are entitled to complain to the Information Commissioner concerning the processing of your request within sixty days of the receipt of this notice. In the event you decide to avail yourself of this right, your notice of complaint should be addressed to:

Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada
Place de Ville, Tower B
112 Kent Street, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1H3

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, contact Ms. Crystal Holub at (613) 843-5216 or by writing to Crystal.Holub@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or the address below. For ease of reference, please quote the file number appearing on this letter.

Yours truly,


Michael Jeffrey, Supt.
Departmental Coordinator
Access to Information and Privacy Branch
Mailstop #61
73 Leikin Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0R2

Encl.

Canada

**Pages 1 to / à 2
are not relevant
sont non pertinentes**



QUESTIONS FOR CHIEF FIREARMS OFFICERS

Further to a commitment to the Governor in Council in November 2010, Public Safety Canada, in consultation with the Canadian Firearms Program (CFP), is consulting various stakeholders on the current, unproclaimed *Gun Shows Regulations*, with a view to explore:

- whether the regulations are necessary, given anecdotal evidence that the majority of gun show sponsors and exhibitors meet the safety requirements in the regulations and that most sponsors voluntarily inform law enforcement that a show is taking place;
- if the regulations are deemed necessary, whether any amendments are required, including whether sponsors need only inform, as opposed to secure the approval of, the Chief Firearms Officer (CFO); and,
- if the regulations continue to include CFO power to approve or deny sponsor status for gun shows, whether interpretive guidelines are required to assist CFOs in ensuring that decisions are consistent across jurisdictions.

We greatly appreciate you taking the time to respond to these questions. Your responses will be coordinated by the CFP and the results analyzed by Public Safety Canada, with an opportunity for a collective discussion with all CFOs at a later date. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Scott McDougall at (613) 843-5423 or by e-mail at scott.mcdougall@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

*** Denotes an estimated number because the actual figure cannot be accurately portrayed.**

Overview

1. How long have you been a CFO?

The responses varied from 1 to 10 years

2. What is your level of familiarity with gun shows?

The responses ranged from minimal to excellent

3. How many firearms businesses are currently operating within your jurisdiction?

Between all 5 Opt-out Provinces and Territories, there are a total of 2113 firearms businesses.

Alberta & Northwest Territories	618 of which 198 are Ammunition only 66 of which 11 are Ammunition only
British Columbia & Yukon	593
Manitoba & Nunavut	270 68
Saskatchewan	397 + 24 Museums
Newfoundland & Labrador	77



Gun Shows

4. How many gun shows are there in your jurisdiction annually?

Annually, there are between 0 and 30 gun shows depending on the province (Newfoundland and Labrador does not have any gun shows)

Alberta	24 to 30 *
British Columbia & Yukon	20 to 25 *
Manitoba & Nunavut	5 to 8 *
Saskatchewan	10 to 15 *
Newfoundland & Labrador	N/A

5. Please provide details on the nature of gun shows held within your jurisdiction.

- How would you describe their size (number of exhibitors)?

*** Should be noted that not all exhibitors sell firearms Some exhibitors may sell other items such as hunting accessories, camping accessories.

Alberta	Largest: 200 to 500 others: 50 to 150 *
British Columbia & Yukon	Largest: 200 to 480 others: 50 to 150 *
Manitoba & Nunavut	20 to 30 *
Saskatchewan	Largest: 150 to 200 others: 50 *
Newfoundland & Labrador	N/A

- What is the volume of attendees?

Manitoba did not keep metrics on attendees to gun shows. Newfoundland and Labrador did not have any numbers to report.

Alberta	Largest: 11,000 *
British Columbia & Yukon	Largest: 5,000 *
Manitoba & Nunavut	Unknown
Saskatchewan	Largest: 2000 to 6000 *
Newfoundland & Labrador	N/A

- Do they specialize or cater to specific firearm markets (i.e., class or types)?

- The primary focus is on sporting firearms and collectibles markets, with all classes of firearms being displayed. Non-restricted firearms are the most common at all gun shows. In Manitoba, prohibited firearms are also present.

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6. How many gun shows have you attended within your jurisdiction?

CFO staff attend two to three shows per year based, with the exception of British Columbia (B.C.), who attended 13 gun shows during 2009-2010; however, only attended 3 gun shows in 2010-2011.

7. Can you describe the nature of the clientele and exhibitors (e.g., full-time hunters and trappers, weekend sportsmen, collectors, firearms or sports businesses)?

All of the above. It was mentioned by both Alberta and B.C. that the majority of the exhibitors are not licensed firearms businesses.

8. Are you advised of gun shows by sponsors, or do you find out about them by other means? If the answer is both, please indicate for what percentage of gun shows you have received notification.

Some organizers will advise CFOs in advance, while others are known through public advertisements, or when clients begin requesting Authorizations to Transport (ATT) to attend. Manitoba is now requesting that organizers provide them with notifications of the events so they can assist with transfers on weekends.

9. What steps do you take when you are advised of a gun show in your jurisdiction?

All jurisdictions proceed with a pre-show walk through or random walk through during the gun show. CFOs provide the event sponsor(s) with a copy of the *Storage, Display and Transportation of Firearms and Other Weapons Regulations (Businesses and Individuals)* and make sure they fully understand and comply with the Regulations.

10. Are the police advised that gun shows will be taking place?

Saskatchewan does not notify the police, while the other provinces inform the police and/or NWEST. At larger shows, the Police are present. Alberta transfers this responsibility to the venue operator.

Alberta	Transfer the responsibility to the venue operator. Often advise Canadian Firearms Registry and the Central Processing Site of an increase in volume.
British Columbia & Yukon	The larger shows advise the police.
Manitoba & Nunavut	Police and NWEST are usually aware and monitor the events.
Saskatchewan	No
Newfoundland & Labrador	N/A

11. What measures are taken to ensure public safety at gun shows within your jurisdiction?

CFOs do not have the authority to act in an enforcement capacity; their only authority, with respect to gun shows, is to ensure compliance with the *Storage, Display and Transportation of Firearms and Other Weapons Regulations* (businesses

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and individuals) at gun shows. Alberta and B.C. rely on the organizers to provide security (private security firm or the staff of the organizer). Saskatchewan suggests bringing the Regulations into force.

12. In your opinion, are the precautions taken to ensure safety and security at gun shows in your jurisdiction sufficient?

Both Alberta and B.C. have witnessed failures to comply with the *Storage, Display and Transportation of Firearms and Other Weapons Regulations* (businesses and individuals) as well as firearms being left unattended (particularly when dealing with one man booths). The info is placed in CFIS for future reference. In Manitoba, charges have been filed under the *Firearms Act* and *Criminal Code* by the police of jurisdiction. Saskatchewan has never witnessed any issues; however, noted that there are always concerns.

Alberta	For the most part, they appear to be adequate except for the secure display provisions. Secure locking devices are sometimes not adequate or firearms are left unattended for brief periods, when there is only one person to staff the exhibitor's table. We cover these items under the <i>Storage, Display, Transportation and Handling of Firearms Regulations</i> for businesses and individuals when we do the walk around. We keep paper copies of who we briefed and what was discussed and this information is then placed into CFIS for future reference as required.
British Columbia & Yukon	For the most part, they appear to be adequate except for the secure display provisions. Firearms securing devices are sometimes not adequate or firearms are left unattended for brief periods when there is only one person to staff the exhibitor's table.
Manitoba & Nunavut	Yes. Previously incidents have resulted in some exhibitors being charged by the police of jurisdiction, under the <i>Firearms Act</i> and <i>Criminal Code</i> . We have taken steps to ensure that all exhibitors are aware of all their responsibilities while attending gun shows.
Saskatchewan	To my knowledge we have never had any incidents in regard to theft, violence or public safety violations outside of what is noted in Q. 14. Having stated that; whenever a large crowd of people are gathered in one place and firearms are on display, being sold, traded etc. there is always a potential for Public Safety concern.
Newfoundland & Labrador	N/A



13. Have you witnessed any security/public safety incidents at gun shows?

All provinces (except Newfoundland and Labrador) reported that they have witnessed safety incidents such as inadequate securing devices, firearms left unattended, ammunition in close proximity to the firearms, and ammunition too accessible. Some provinces reported witnessing shoplifting of non-firearms items. Manitoba relates a case of criminal charges against exhibitors related to trafficking and the unauthorized possession of firearms. Saskatchewan is recommending giving them the authority to shut down shows that have not been approved. As it is now, they can only submit their opinion to the exhibitors or report any violations to the police. The police are, in most cases, reluctant to take action unless there is an immediate threat to public safety.

Alberta	Firearms securing devices are sometimes not adequate or firearms are left unattended for brief periods when there is only one person to staff the exhibitor's table. There is also sometimes a tendency to have ammunition too close to the firearms and too accessible. Otherwise, there have only been reports of shoplifting (non-firearms items).
British Columbia & Yukon	Firearms securing devices are sometimes not adequate or firearms are left unattended for brief periods when there is only one person to staff the exhibitor's table. There is also sometimes a tendency to have ammunition too close to the firearms and too accessible. Otherwise, there have only been reports of shoplifting (non-firearms items).
Manitoba & Nunavut	There have been incidents that have led to criminal charges against exhibitors related to trafficking and unauthorized possession of firearms.
Saskatchewan	See next answer
Newfoundland & Labrador	N/A



14. Have you seen or heard of exhibitors who have not secured their firearms or ammunition? If so, please provide details.

All provinces (except Newfoundland and Labrador) have heard of exhibitors who have not secured their firearms or ammunition. In both Alberta and B.C., exhibitors have been using 'zap straps' (plastic strips). CFO staff provided them with proper trigger locks and the issue was resolved.

Alberta	Exhibitors have been found using plastic strips, or so-called 'zap straps', in the place of trigger locks. When found, employees explain the definition of secure locking device and in the past would give the exhibitor one of the CFP's trigger locks.
British Columbia & Yukon	Exhibitors have been found using plastic strips, or so-called 'zap straps', in the place of trigger locks. When found, employees explain the definition of secure locking device and in the past would give the exhibitor one of the CFP's trigger locks.
Manitoba & Nunavut	We have corrected this by providing them with a copy of the <i>Storage, Display, Transportation and Handling of Firearms Regulations</i> .
Saskatchewan	We have observed exhibitors who were not in compliance; in these cases our choices are limited, we do not have any authority to shut down shows that we do not approve, our options are to bring it to the attention of the sponsors and request they bring their exhibitors into compliance or report the violation to the police. The police are in most cases reluctant to take action unless there is immediate threat to the public peace.
Newfoundland & Labrador	N/A

15. Do you think that the *Gun Shows Regulations* are necessary?

All provinces agree that the Regulations are necessary.

16. What impact does the repeal of the requirement to register non-restricted firearms have on the proposed regulation of gun shows? Would there be a need post-registry?

The repeal of the requirement to register non-restricted firearms could lead to an increase in firearms sales between unlicensed individuals because it will become optional to verify licence information in a transaction between individuals.

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Firearms exhibitors could potentially sell firearms, not knowing whether the firearms were obtained lawfully because there will be no way of verifying if the non-restricted firearm was lost, stolen or used in the commission of a crime.

17. What would be achieved with the implementation of the regulations?

Regulations would provide the authority to CFOs, assisting them in their duties to promote and ensure public safety at gun shows. As you know, only the *Storage, Display and Transportation of Firearms and Other Weapons Regulations* (businesses and individuals) are in place. Bringing the Gun Show Regulations into force, will contribute to the promotion of public safety by regulating venue security, proper display and employee security, and provide the CFOs the tools required to ensure the safety standards are met at gun shows. It would also provide increased accountability for sponsors and exhibitors.

18. Is there another way to achieve the goal of public safety at gun shows, other than through regulation?

Bringing the Regulations into force would set and measure minimum safety standards are met and enforced. In addition, some provinces have suggested that police presence at events and more of an emphasis on education by police would assist. Further, an increased presence and the visibility of CFO employees at shows could help promote public safety at these events, if they are provided with the authority to enforce minimum safety standards.

19. What are your views towards the *Gun Shows Regulations* as currently drafted?

Would you like to see amendments? If so, what amendments and why?

Both Alberta and B.C. have received complaints that the display provisions, if implemented, would be too onerous on exhibitors; however neither B.C. nor Alberta were able to provide specific reasons as to why.

The application and communication process could be streamlined (i.e., a copy of the approved application could be sent to a law enforcement agency rather than have the sponsor notify the agency 7 days prior)

20. Do you think that CFOs should have the discretion to approve, disallow and/or revoke the sponsoring of gun shows, or would it be sufficient that a sponsor notify the CFO of the time and place of an upcoming gun show? Please explain.

All provinces agree. CFO's already have to find out about most gun shows on their own, and can attend as many events as operationally feasible. CFOs are supported by the *Storage, Display and Transportation of Firearms and Other Weapons by Businesses Regulations* but cannot act in an enforcement related capacity. If lapses in display or security are identified, then CFOs and/or their staff can only educate attendees as to the proper display and storage requirements. If the Gun Shows Regulations were in force, the CFOs could ensure that minimum safety standards



are met and that irresponsible sponsors and vendors face consequences for any violations.

21. If there were guidelines with respect to approvals of gun show sponsorship, for the purpose of consistency across jurisdictions, what topics would be helpful to include in the guidelines?
- Guidelines to review sponsors' and exhibitors' display and sale
 - Guidelines for sellers to guarantee that the buyer has a valid licence;
 - Guidelines for the transfer of restricted/prohibited firearms;
 - Guidelines for the sale of ammunition; and
 - Guidelines to ensure the security of the exhibition location.

Only Alberta and British Columbia responded to this part of the survey

QUESTIONS FOR CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM

Impact on the Program

1. What would be the financial/human resources, operational and policy impacts on the Canadian Firearms Program of the following scenarios or activities:
 - a. Implementation of the *Gun Show Regulations* as they are currently written?
If properly implemented in CFIS, there would be no measureable increase in FTE requirements above baseline. If they are implemented as a series of manual processes and spreadsheets, then there would be an increased HR cost.
 - b. Preparation of interpretive guidelines to assist Chief Firearms Officers (CFO) in ensuring that decisions are consistent across jurisdictions?
If automated, there would be minimal policy impacts.
 - c. Implementation of amended regulations in which sponsors are required to notify CFOs, but not obtain their approval?
CFOs already hear about gun shows through other means.

Gun Shows Regulations – SEE ABOVE

2. Do you think that the *Gun Shows Regulations* are necessary?
3. What impact does the repeal of the requirement to register non-restricted firearms have on the proposed regulation of gun shows? Would there be a need post-registry?



4. Is there another way to achieve the goal of public safety at gun shows, other than through regulation?
5. What are your views towards the *Gun Shows Regulations* as currently drafted? Would you like to see amendments? If so, what amendments and why?
6. Do you think that CFOs should have the discretion to approve, disallow and/or revoke the sponsoring of gun shows, or would it be sufficient that a sponsor notify the CFO of the time and place of an upcoming gun show? Please explain.
7. If there were guidelines with respect to approvals of gun show sponsorship, for the purpose of consistency across jurisdictions, what topics would be helpful to include in the guidelines?

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE FIREARMS INVESTIGATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE (FIESD)

The Survey for the most part is CFO specific, with some general requests to the CFP on the third page. My comments attached below are from a general "law enforcement" perspective.

A gun show is an event or occasion that includes the display, offering for sale or sale of firearms, whether or not as part of a larger event or occasion. There are generally many vendors, and many purchasers.

This sets the stage for a situation where there will be large quantities of firearms at one location. Additionally, due to the nature of the event, those attending will be gun enthusiasts, collectors, hunters, target shooters, etc. There is no reason to doubt that these events may also draw members of the criminal element.

With the pending repeal of the "non-restricted" firearm registry, which has been used as a "safety net" to ensure proper transactions are being conducted, gun shows may become a focal point for the purchase and subsequent stockpiling of non restricted firearms for criminal use. As for businesses, gun shows should be held to a higher standard of accountability than transactions between individuals.

Therefore items such as CFO approval, should remain a requirement for these activities.

In any case, FIESD make the following observations/comments:

1. Most exhibitors are reportedly meeting the terms of the Regulations. If so, proclaiming the Regulations will not add any burden to the exhibitors. It will also bring into line the remainder of exhibitors who are not following the protocols of the

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Regulations. It is non-compliant exhibitors who pose the greater risk and the only way to ensure cooperation and compliance is to impose the Regulations.

- 2. A gun show creates a focal point that brings together buyers and sellers. Non-restricted firearms sales would not be tracked in future and steps ought to be taken to prevent gun shows from becoming a distribution point for illicit sales.**
- 3. At the very least, the CFOs should be informed of gun shows in advance and have the option of disallowing the event if there are significant risks over security of firearms or illicit transactions. It could work much the same way as a refusal or revocation under the Firearms Act operates now, with appeals possible, and the legal test being reasonableness.**
- 4. Absent of the Regulations, or enactment with reduced scope, there must be an industry code of conduct for gun shows.**