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# COMMISSIONER OF FIREARMS

2010 REPORT



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **RCMP Canadian Firearms Program**

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R2

1 800 731 4000 (toll free)

1 613 825 0315 (fax)

Web site: **[www.rcmp.gc.ca/cfp](http://www.rcmp.gc.ca/cfp)**

Email: **[cfp-pcaf@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:cfp-pcaf@rcmp-grc.gc.ca)**

Media Desk:

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

1 613 843 5999

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# MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF FIREARMS

## Commissioner of Firearms - 2010 Report

As Commissioner of Firearms, I am pleased to present the Report for 2010 for the RCMP Canadian Firearms Program.

The Program plays a key role in the enforcement of Canada's firearms laws and in regulating firearms in Canada. It is committed to keeping Canadians safe, contributing to the RCMP's commitment to *A Safe and Secure Canada*.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, the Canadian Firearms Program screens individuals who apply for a licence to possess a firearm and, on an ongoing basis, updates information that might impact on their continued eligibility to own them. The Program also assists in firearms-related law enforcement investigations, to combat the criminal and unsafe use of firearms in Canada.

As this report outlines, in 2010 the Program delivered on these commitments and pursued new ways to promote firearms safety and address firearms crime.

When individuals seek firearms information or safety training, and when law enforcement agencies need help tracing or identifying a crime gun, preparing or executing a search warrant, or checking to see if someone considered to be a security threat might have access to firearms, they rely on the Canadian Firearms Program - Canada's centre for firearms expertise.



William J.S. Elliott  
Commissioner of Firearms and  
Commissioner of the RCMP

# INTRODUCTION

## ***Purpose of report***

This report describes events and performance measures for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Canadian Firearms Program (CFP) for the calendar year 2010. When responsibility for the CFP was assigned to the RCMP in 2006, the Commissioner of the RCMP became Commissioner of Firearms. As required by the *Firearms Act*, the Commissioner of Firearms Report is submitted to the Minister of Public Safety who presents it to Parliament.



## ***Program overview***

The Canadian Firearms Program has both enforcement and regulatory components and is represented by firearms experts across the country.

The office and staff of the Director General are located in Ottawa, as are the Firearms Management and Strategic Services Directorate, the Firearms Operations Support group, the Canadian Firearms Registry and a portion of the Firearms Investigative and Enforcement Services Directorate (FIESD).

FIESD is the CFP's main law enforcement component, coordinated through an office in Mississauga, Ontario. Other CFP FIESD representatives are co-located with municipal and provincial police services and RCMP contract divisions across the country.

Firearms licence and registration applications are received and processed at the national contact centre which is part of the Firearms Service Delivery site located in Miramichi, New Brunswick. The screening of applicants in order to verify their eligibility to possess and use firearms is also performed here.

Chief Firearms Officers, located within each province, are responsible for all licences and authorizations within their jurisdictions. Nunavut, Northwest Territories and Yukon are managed by the Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia CFOs, respectively.

Legal advice is provided by the Department of Justice in Ottawa, Edmonton and St. John's.

## ***CFP Mission, Values and Priorities***

The mission of the RCMP Canadian Firearms Program is to enhance public safety by helping reduce death, injury and threat from firearms. The CFP provides Canadian and international law enforcement organizations with operational support vital to the prevention and investigation of firearms crime and misuse. It also continuously screens individual firearm owners to confirm their eligibility to possess firearms and promotes responsible ownership, use and storage of firearms. In pursuit of its mission, the CFP:

- respects the lawful ownership and use of firearms in Canada and supports firearms clients with quality service, fair treatment and protection of confidential information;
- recognizes that the involvement of firearm owners and users, the provinces, other federal agencies, Aboriginal Peoples, police organizations, safety instructors, verifiers, businesses and public safety groups is essential for effective program delivery and achieving success;
- commits to ongoing improvement and innovation in order to achieve the highest levels of service, compliance, efficiency and overall effectiveness;
- informs and engages its clients and stakeholders in reviewing and developing policy and regulations and in communicating critical information on program requirements and results;
- manages its resources prudently to provide good value for money, and clear and accurate reporting of program performance and resource management;
- upholds the values and ethical standards of the Public Service of Canada and is committed to fair staffing, employee development and a work environment that encourages involvement and initiative.



## **CFP Strategic Priorities**

Aligned with both the Government of Canada and the RCMP's commitment to *A Safe and Secure Canada*, the CFP's goal is to protect and enhance public safety. The CFP is committed to several RCMP strategic priorities:

- **Serious and Organized Crime:** The CFP collaborates with other law enforcement groups in addressing firearms trafficking by organized crime groups. Working with domestic and international partners to dismantle criminal groups, experienced firearms investigators rely on firearms-focused analytical data produced by the CFP. This information helps disrupt organized crime by allowing investigators to observe illicit firearms patterns within a community, in a particular region or across the country.
- **National Security:** The CFP is actively involved in addressing firearms-related smuggling and cross-border issues, recognizing illegally obtained firearms as a potential tool for terrorists. Key international commitments include information sharing with U.S. firearms enforcement, contributions to Canada's efforts at the United Nations and work with INTERPOL to combat the trafficking of illicit firearms.
- **Youth:** Individuals younger than 18 are not permitted to own firearms. They may, however, obtain a licence which allows them to borrow non-restricted firearms for purposes such as hunting and target shooting. The CFP promotes the safe handling, use and storage of firearms for all owners and users and provides firearms safety training for youth.
- **Aboriginal Communities:** The CFP remains committed to engaging and financially supporting Aboriginal communities on firearms-safety-related projects at national, regional and local levels. Both individual and community safety are enhanced through the provision of firearms-safety education and training as well as verification, licensing and registration assistance. The CFP continues to research and pursue new initiatives and strengthen partnerships with Canada's Aboriginal communities.



# INTRODUCTION

## **CFP Partnerships**

The CFP collaborates with a variety of partner agencies in enforcing firearms laws and regulating firearms in Canada.

## **Canadian law enforcement agencies**

The CFP is responsible for the **administration and enforcement of Canada's firearms laws**. Working with and providing services and information to law enforcement groups across Canada, CFP firearms experts play a role in investigating and prosecuting persons involved in the illegal movement and criminal use of firearms. They can check to see if someone considered to be a security threat might have access to firearms, help to prepare and execute search warrants, provide firearms tracing, identification and disposal services and offer hands-on firearms training to law enforcement officials.

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) is a CFP partner dedicated to supporting and promoting efficient law enforcement and protecting and maintaining the security of Canadians. The CFP plays an integral role in the CACP's National Firearms Committee whose aim is to "prevent violent incidents related to firearms and contribute to community and police officer safety." In August 2010, this Committee adopted the National Firearms Policing Strategy which addresses five firearms law enforcement risk areas and outlines a process which will benefit Canadian law enforcement, the CFP, law-abiding firearm owners and the safety of all Canadians.

A large municipal police force contacted CFP NWEST for assistance in recovering obliterated serial numbers on two firearms seized in a robbery and kidnapping investigation. After the serial number of one of the guns was restored, NWEST used the CFP's Registry database to determine that the gun was registered to one of the suspects and had not been reported lost or stolen.

Meanwhile, in a separate street gang investigation, an additional five handguns were seized from a commercial locker. One of these five handguns was confirmed by NWEST to be registered to the same suspect. The serial number had been removed, but NWEST found a secondary serial number on it. This handgun, like the other one, had not been reported lost or stolen.

The primary investigators, in response to evidence these firearms were being advertised, bought and sold over the Internet, initiated and coordinated a joint forces

operation with participation from NWEST, a CFO, two municipal police forces and a provincial police group. The CFP Registrar of Firearms provided details of the suspect's inventory of registered firearms and helped NWEST to monitor subsequent firearm acquisitions.

An undercover police officer made contact with the suspect via the Internet and set up a meeting to buy a handgun illegally. The purchased firearm had all serial numbers obliterated.

There is a growing trend for police departments to become involved in firearm trafficking investigations which include undercover operations to buy or sell guns at "street level". NWEST provides support, information and guidance to these agencies concerning gun trafficking issues. NWEST also relies on the CFO and the CFP Firearms Registry to assist in these investigations.

The CFP tracks and gathers all firearm-related news stories from across Canada on a daily basis. They then make this compilation of articles and stories available for distribution to any law enforcement agency interested in receiving it, providing CFP partners with daily firearms updates.

## **International law enforcement**

The CFP works with international law enforcement agencies from the United States and other countries in preventing the illegal movement of firearms across borders.

Since 2006, when information-exchange protocols between the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) were established, the CFP has been able to exchange firearms trace information electronically. This reduces both the time required to send and receive trace results and the error rate in trace information submissions.

### CFP Participation in INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT Initiatives

Representatives of the CFP attended three international law enforcement conferences in 2010:

1. **New York City, USA - June, 2010**  
United Nations Fourth Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The CFP was part of the official Canadian delegation. Discussions included firearms marking and tracing treaties.
2. **Buenos Aires, Argentina - August, 2010**  
South American Conference on Interdiction and Regional Security of Small Arms and Light Weapons. The CFP presented on firearms identification, conventional firearms tracing and ballistic tracing.
3. **San Jose, Costa Rica - December, 2010**  
Organization of American States Regional Seminar: Firearms Marking. A CFP representative was the keynote speaker, presented on firearms markings and firearms tracing, and held a firearms marking and tracing workshop.

The CFP hosts an international firearms trafficking conference which draws law enforcement participants from across Canada and the U.S., and has attracted participants from Africa, Europe and Asia.

## **Public Safety Canada**

The Minister of Public Safety has overall responsibility for the Canadian Firearms Program. The Commissioner of the RCMP reports to the Minister of Public Safety and relies on Canadian Firearms Program staff to provide his office with accurate and up-to-date firearms-related policy advice and information. This advice and information is then passed on to the Minister and other senior government officials to assist them in carrying out their responsibilities. The CFP also works with Public Safety Canada staff and assists them in their portfolio coordination role.

## **Canada Border Services Agency**

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) assesses and confirms Non-resident Firearms Declarations (which serve as temporary licences and firearms registration certificates) for firearms being imported into Canada. They also collect the applicable fees, as prescribed by the *Firearms Act* and other relevant legislation, and confirm the firearm's destination and importation purpose as well as the eligibility of the importer. CBSA also ensures firearms are being transported safely and in accordance with the law when they cross the border.

# INTRODUCTION

**TABLE 1:**

CBSA FIREARMS SEIZURES 2010 (data provided by CBSA)

| Group                       | Type                    | Mode                | Atlantic  | Greater Toronto | Niagara/<br>Fort Erie | Northern Ontario | Pacific    | Prairie    | Quebec    | Windsor/<br>St. Clair | All Regions |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Non-Restricted              | Rifle                   | Highway             | 4         | 0               | 3                     | 14               | 32         | 18         | 1         | 2                     | 74          |
|                             |                         | Postal              | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 0          | 0          | 2         | 0                     | 2           |
|                             |                         | Marine              | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 3          | 0          | 0         | 0                     | 3           |
|                             | Shotgun                 | Highway             | 2         | 0               | 3                     | 2                | 16         | 4          | 8         | 5                     | 40          |
|                             |                         | Marine              | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 2          | 0          | 0         | 0                     | 2           |
| <b>Non-Restricted Total</b> |                         |                     | <b>6</b>  | <b>0</b>        | <b>6</b>              | <b>16</b>        | <b>53</b>  | <b>22</b>  | <b>11</b> | <b>7</b>              | <b>121</b>  |
| Restricted                  | Antique                 | Highway             | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 0          | 1          | 0         | 0                     | 1           |
|                             | Handgun                 | Highway             | 3         | 0               | 12                    | 2                | 9          | 18         | 6         | 0                     | 50          |
|                             |                         | Postal              | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 1          | 0          | 0         | 0                     | 1           |
|                             |                         | Courier             | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 0          | 8          | 0         | 0                     | 8           |
|                             | Pistol                  | Highway             | 0         | 0               | 1                     | 0                | 0          | 0          | 0         | 1                     | 2           |
|                             | Revolver                | Highway             | 2         | 0               | 10                    | 0                | 14         | 10         | 2         | 2                     | 40          |
|                             |                         | Marine              | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 3          | 0          | 0         | 0                     | 3           |
|                             | Semiauto Carbine        | Highway             | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 0          | 0          | 0         | 2                     | 2           |
|                             | Semiauto Pistol         | Highway             | 1         | 0               | 7                     | 3                | 10         | 10         | 2         | 7                     | 40          |
|                             |                         | Marine              | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 2          | 0          | 0         | 0                     | 2           |
|                             |                         | Postal              | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 0          | 0          | 1         | 0                     | 1           |
|                             | Semiauto Rifle          | Highway             | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 1                | 3          | 0          | 0         | 1                     | 5           |
|                             |                         | Postal              | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 1                | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0                     | 1           |
|                             | <b>Restricted Total</b> |                     |           | <b>6</b>        | <b>0</b>              | <b>30</b>        | <b>7</b>   | <b>42</b>  | <b>47</b> | <b>11</b>             | <b>13</b>   |
| Prohibited                  | Pistol                  | Highway             | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 0          | 1          | 0         | 0                     | 1           |
|                             | Handgun                 | Highway             | 1         | 0               | 12                    | 4                | 10         | 15         | 7         | 4                     | 53          |
|                             |                         | Postal              | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 1          | 0          | 0         | 0                     | 1           |
|                             | Revolver                | Highway             | 1         | 0               | 13                    | 4                | 16         | 8          | 5         | 5                     | 52          |
|                             | Assault Pistol          | Highway             | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 1          | 0          | 0         | 0                     | 1           |
|                             |                         | Marine              | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 1          | 0          | 0         | 0                     | 1           |
|                             | Semiauto Pistol         | Highway             | 6         | 0               | 10                    | 3                | 15         | 16         | 1         | 12                    | 63          |
|                             |                         | Marine              | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 1          | 0          | 0         | 0                     | 1           |
|                             | Full Auto Pistol        | Postal              | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 0          | 0          | 1         | 0                     | 1           |
|                             | Full Auto Rifle         | Highway             | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 0          | 3          | 0         | 0                     | 3           |
|                             |                         | Marine              | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 0          | 0          | 1         | 0                     | 1           |
|                             |                         | Postal              | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 3                | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0                     | 3           |
|                             | Shotgun                 | Commercial Aircraft | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 0          | 0          | 1         | 0                     | 1           |
|                             |                         | Highway             | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                | 0          | 1          | 0         | 0                     | 1           |
| Full Auto Shotgun           | Postal                  | 0                   | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 1                | 0          | 0          | 0         | 1                     |             |
| <b>Prohibited Total</b>     |                         |                     | <b>8</b>  | <b>0</b>        | <b>35</b>             | <b>14</b>        | <b>46</b>  | <b>44</b>  | <b>16</b> | <b>21</b>             | <b>184</b>  |
| <b>Grand Total</b>          |                         |                     | <b>20</b> | <b>0</b>        | <b>71</b>             | <b>37</b>        | <b>141</b> | <b>113</b> | <b>38</b> | <b>41</b>             | <b>461</b>  |

## ***Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade***

The CFP works with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) to ensure Canada's international commitments regarding firearms reflect the country's priorities as well as its capacity to implement them. DFAIT issues the permits required to export and import firearms under the *Export and Import Permits Act*. The CFP also collaborates with DFAIT to ensure importers are aware of their obligations under the *Firearms Act*.

## ***Department of Justice***

The Minister of Justice is responsible for the *Criminal Code of Canada*, including *Part III (Firearms and Other Weapons)*. Policy development on criminal law related to firearms requires close cooperation between the CFP and the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice also provides legal advice and services to the CFP.

## ***Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada***

The CFP works with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and advises Aboriginal land claims negotiators on firearms legislation and related issues.

## ***Provinces and Territories***

Firearms licensing and authorizations in every province and territory are managed by Chief Firearms Officers (CFO) who are part of the CFP. The provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia have appointed their own

CFOs under the *Firearms Act* and have entered into contribution agreements for operational funding from the Government of Canada. The CFOs responsible for Newfoundland and Labrador as well as Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are appointed federally and are employees of the RCMP CFP.

CFOs are responsible for issuing firearms licences to businesses and individuals. This is key to public safety, as the CFOs must assess the risk associated with possession of a firearm by every one of the 1.8 million Canadian firearm owners. The *Firearms Act* and associated Regulations authorize CFOs to refuse to issue a licence or to revoke a licence if a public-safety risk is identified. Within their jurisdictions, Chief Firearms Officers also oversee the delivery of safety training, approve shooting ranges and clubs, issue authorizations to transport and carry restricted and prohibited firearms, and conduct inspections to ensure firearms are being used, transported and stored safely.

All regions of Canada are further represented by police officers from the RCMP or various other police forces who work for the CFP Firearms Investigative and Enforcement Services Directorate (FIESD) National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST). These municipal, provincial and federal law enforcement officers are seconded to the RCMP and work to provide firearms enforcement support and services to all law enforcement groups who investigate firearms crimes and misuse.

# 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

## **Compliance Incentives**

In 2010, the Minister of Public Safety announced the extension of firearms legislation compliance incentives:

- A fee waiver for firearms licence renewals or upgrades from one type of licence to another;
- An amnesty that allows individuals who have expired firearms licences or possess unregistered non-restricted firearms the opportunity to come into compliance without risk of prosecution, providing they are taking steps to comply with firearms legislation; and

- The opportunity for eligible holders of expired Possession Only Licences (POL) to apply for a new POL.

## **Canada Safety Council Partnership**

In 2010, the CFP renewed a contribution agreement with the Canada Safety Council (CSC). The aim is to increase awareness of safety issues related to having firearms in the home, including unintentional shootings, suicides and firearms stolen for use in crime. The campaign also seeks to promote preventive measures, above and beyond the context of law enforcement.

## CANADA SAFETY COUNCIL

### 2010 Public Awareness Campaign: Firearms Safety in the Home

2010 was the second year of a three-year media-intensive campaign to address firearm safety in the home. This phase marked the full launch of the campaign, including two news releases dealing specifically with firearm safety in the home and firearm safety for hunters. In addition, posters and pamphlets were developed and distributed to further increase awareness of safe handling and storage of firearms. The campaign also presented firearm safety precautions, without reference to laws and regulations, and focused on Aboriginal and rural communities, where firearm ownership tends to be higher.

#### ACTIVITIES

1. **Re-distributed radio, television and print Public Service Announcements (PSA)** - TV and radio PSAs were sent out to **521 TV and radio stations** across Canada
2. **Produced Posters and Pamphlets** - **10,862 pamphlets** and **2,463 posters** distributed during November and December 2010
3. **Obtained campaign endorsements** from 10 organizations that expressed their support for firearms safety awareness and provided their logos for the pamphlet
4. **Published a full-length magazine article** about several aspects of firearms safety in the Fall issue of the CSC's *Living Safety* magazine
5. **Sent two releases to news media and other contacts** – August release addressed safe storage in the home; November release addressed safe handling for the hunting season. Releases went to over **2,100 contacts** in print, television and radio news media. The first release reached over **182,000 readers** during August through October. The second release reached over **122,000 readers** in November and December.
6. **Posted campaign material on the CSC website** and on some supporters' websites – more than **700 views** on CSC website in August through December, 2010.

#### SUMMARY

Phase 2 of the firearms safety public awareness campaign achieved its objectives in presenting and distributing safety information which was well received. With cooperation from the media and stakeholder organizations like the CFP, the Canada Safety Council was able to achieve exposure in excess of a comparable paid advertising campaign. Further expansion and greater awareness is anticipated in 2011, when Phase 3 of the campaign will be implemented.

# 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

## ***Geographical Firearms Statistical Information***

Historically, the CFP has been able to gather and provide only national and provincial firearms information. In 2010, the CFP Firearms Management and Strategic Services Directorate developed the capacity to combine data contained in the CFP Canadian Firearms Information System with data from Statistics Canada and other sources, in order to provide statistics for geographical areas the size of a city or town.

Geographical Firearms Reports provide law enforcement groups with firearms-related statistical information for

their jurisdictions. The goal is to give meaningful firearms information to senior law enforcement personnel so they can benefit from an awareness of the most accurate and relevant firearms statistics available.

The data contained in the reports are made available to police upon request. This type of factual and timely firearms data helps police address and counter gun violence and combat the illegal movement of firearms in their jurisdictions. It can also help them focus their investigative efforts as well as their planning in relation to firearms crime.



## **Firearms Investigative and Enforcement Services Directorate (FIEDS)**

FIEDS supports front-line law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting persons involved in the illegal movement and criminal use of firearms.

*Groups within and services offered by FIEDS include:*

### **National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST)**

With police representatives across Canada, CFP NWEST provides support, services and information to front-line police officers dealing with the illegal movement of firearms into and within Canada and their subsequent criminal use. This firearms-focused enforcement assistance and guidance includes:

- Service to law enforcement groups anywhere in Canada
- 24-hour availability
- Firearms information and guidance
- Firearms investigative advice
- Urgent hands-on firearms assistance
- Firearms identification and classification
- Assistance with firearms serial number recovery
- Firearms tracing services
- Development and execution of firearms-related search warrants
- Firearm seizures and exhibit organization
- Providing direction in determining firearm-related charges
- Firearms case law advice
- Firearm-related court preparation
- Affidavit preparation
- Expert witness services
- National and local firearm intelligence
- Firearm-related training and lectures
- Assistance with firearm amnesties and turn-in programs
- Destruction and disposal of firearms and ammunition

## **CFP NWEST assists RCMP Drug Section**

An RCMP Drug Section executed a warrant at a residence where drugs as well as a loaded prohibited assault rifle and two over-capacity magazines were recovered.

CFP NWEST was contacted and asked to review the file, identify the firearm and complete checks on the subject who was found to be in violation of a firearms prohibition order. The firearm, manufactured in a U.S. state close to the seizure location, was not registered. NWEST submitted the firearm for tracing and checked with the Canada Border Services Agency who confirmed the firearm was not declared upon entry into Canada. NWEST reviewed the criminal charges put forth by the Drug Section and recommended additional charges.

## **Unique firearm seized - specially designed for cold climates**

In the course of executing a drug search warrant, a Cobray machine gun, handmade at an armoury owned and operated by an outlaw motorcycle gang, was discovered and seized. This model of machine gun is unique in that the trigger guard is intended for winter climates and can be used while wearing gloves.

## ***Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre (CNFTC)***

The origin of a crime gun is discovered through the tracing process. Through firearms tracing, which outlines the detailed history of a firearm, the CFP CNFTC provides investigative support to Canadian and international law enforcement agencies.

In 2010, the CNFTC received and processed **1,946 firearms tracing requests**.

The CFP CNFTC can exchange trace information electronically with U.S. investigators. This enables a quicker and more accurate exchange of information. Other CNFTC affiliations include INTERPOL and the Integrated Weapons and Explosives Tracking System.

In July 2010, the CFP CNFTC reviewed and improved the trace delivery process by implementing the Firearms Trace Report (FTR). The FTR enhances both the portability and the readability of firearms trace information, allowing the client to quickly submit, access and retrieve the accurate and concise trace results.

## ***Specialized Firearms Support Services (SFSS)***

CFP SFSS includes the **Firearms Reference Table (FRT)**, a comprehensive and user-friendly computer-based tool, developed and maintained by the CFP. It currently includes **more than 140,000** firearms reference items and provides law enforcement users with a systematic and standardized method of identifying and describing firearms. The FRT improves accuracy in import-export controls and international communications involving transnational firearms crime. It also assists in firearms

tracing, record keeping and determining the legal classification of a firearm, as classified under the applicable *Criminal Code* definitions. The FRT database is made available to all police and regulatory agencies through a variety of technologies, and the FRT group is recognized as the centre of expertise in the identification of firearms, providing firearms technical advice and contributing to domestic firearms legislation when called upon. In 2010, the CFP SFSS group worked on updating the FRT for completion and distribution in 2011.

In 2010, the CFP distributed **7,524** copies of the Canadian version and **1,214** copies of the international version of the Firearms Reference Table on DVD. The FRT has also been placed on a network which makes it accessible to verifiers, law enforcement and CBSA agents. Interpol receives a special version of the FRT which they incorporate into their IT system in order to provide FRT access to member countries. This version is called the **IFRT (Interpol FRT)**.

In July 2010, a consultant from the Small Arms Survey\* requested and was given a tour of the Canadian Firearms Program's firearms collection, located at RCMP Headquarters in Ottawa. Along with the tour, he requested and was given a detailed demonstration of the Firearms Reference Table. He was grateful for this opportunity as he felt it was "interesting and useful for both [his] study and [his] personal knowledge."

The CFP FRT group continues to work with the Small Arms Survey group and is currently focused on developing a firearms-related teaching aid with international relevance.

*\*The Small Arms Survey is an independent research project located at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. It serves as the principal international source of public information on all aspects of small arms and armed violence and as a resource for governments, policy-makers, researchers and activists.*



# CFP LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Another part of SFSS is the **Mobile Service Delivery Vehicle (MSDV)** program. Here, trained RCMP firearms personnel, equipped with specially outfitted vehicles, stationed or travelling across the country, provide various firearms-focused services to law enforcement groups. When paired with the Mobile Ammunition Combustion System (MACS), MSDV services include on-site firearms and ammunition identification, examination, test-firing, destruction and disposal.

### ***Firearms Operations and Enforcement Support (FOES)***

The CFP FOES unit gathers and analyzes information on Canadian firearms trends and patterns, suspected

criminals and smuggling routes. The group then conveys this information to front-line law enforcement agencies to assist them in proactively combating illicit firearms and the impact these firearms have on public and police officer safety. It can also provide clients with an accurate, concise and current operational overview of firearms within their region or across Canada in order to assist them in investigating and prosecuting the illicit movement or trafficking of firearms.

CFP FIESD is also an integral component of the Investment to Combat the Criminal Use of Firearms, as described in the RCMP Departmental Performance Report.

**TABLE 2:**

Firearms seized in Canada\* (by Province/Territory) - 2010

| Province/Territory        | Number of Firearms |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 254                |
| Prince Edward Island      | 109                |
| Nova Scotia               | 864                |
| New Brunswick             | 313                |
| Quebec                    | 801                |
| Ontario                   | 3,964              |
| Manitoba                  | 299                |
| Saskatchewan              | 553                |
| Alberta                   | 982                |
| British Columbia          | 1,085              |
| Yukon                     | 3                  |
| Northwest Territories     | 0                  |
| Nunavut                   | 14                 |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>9,241</b>       |

\*these numbers represent only information reported to the CFP and do not necessarily reflect ALL firearms seized in Canada

**TABLE 3:**

Firearms seized in Canada\* (by Classification) - 2010

| Classification of Firearm | Number of Firearms |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Antique                   | 69                 |
| Deemed Non-Firearm        | 674                |
| Incomplete                | 185                |
| Non-Restricted            | 5,078              |
| Prohibited                | 1,578              |
| Restricted                | 1,657              |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>9,241</b>       |

\*these numbers represent only information reported to the CFP and do not necessarily reflect ALL firearms seized in Canada

### Public Agents Firearms Regulations (PAFR)

The *Public Agents Firearms Regulations* have been in effect since October 31, 2008. They obligate all public sector agencies, including law enforcement groups, to report all “agency” (owned by the agency) and “protected” (seized, turned in or found by police) firearms in their possession.

This firearm-reporting requirement supports Canada’s commitment to combat the trafficking of illicit firearms as it creates a comprehensive, centralized and accessible database containing firearm information from across

the country. Managed by the CFP Registrar of Firearms, PAFR data can be used to assist in investigations and has particular relevance in multi-jurisdictional cases as it helps monitor the location, movement and distribution of illicit firearms across Canada. This centralized database of protected firearms makes it easier for law enforcement officers to identify what types of firearms are being seized nationally and in their jurisdiction, and determine where these firearms may have originated.

**TABLE 4:**

Canadian Public Service Agencies\* in Possession of Firearms 2010

| Agency Type                | Number       |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Court                      | 120          |
| Federal Agency             | 239          |
| Municipal Agency           | 40           |
| Police Academy             | 6            |
| Police Agency/ Detachments | 1,013        |
| Provincial Agency          | 246          |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>1,664</b> |

\*The numbers represent **individual reporting agencies** in possession of firearms. In some instances, this can be an entire police force, while in other cases, it may represent a single detachment of a larger police force, such as the RCMP.

*Canadian Firearms Information System (CFIS)*  
*Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC)*  
*Canadian Firearms Registry Online (CFRO)*

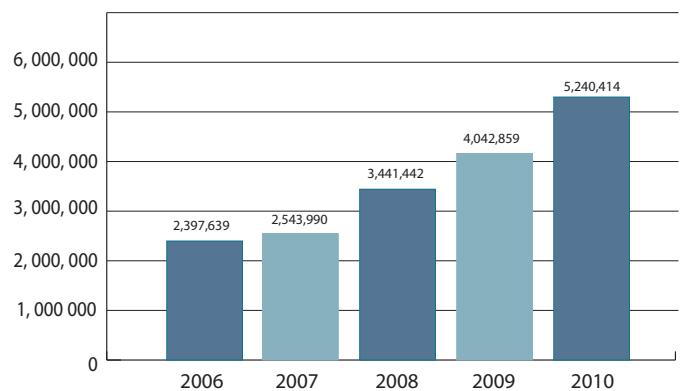
The Canadian Firearms Information System contains current firearms licence holder data. Licensed individuals and businesses are continuous-eligibility screened and, if a licence holder is the subject of a Canadian Police Information Centre incident report anywhere in Canada, a Firearms Interest Police (FIP) report is automatically created and sent to the CFP for further review and investigation. CFIS also contains descriptions and details of the seven million firearms registered in Canada. Whenever a firearm is reported lost, stolen or recovered in CPIC, a CPIC “event” is automatically generated and sent to the Canadian Firearms Registry for review.

A subset of the data contained in CFIS comprises the Canadian Firearms Registry Online, which law enforcement officers can query via CPIC, either automatically or manually. CFRO information helps police trace recovered firearms or anticipate the presence of firearms at a location prior to attendance.

Also, if a firearms licence is revoked and police are deployed to recover the firearm(s), they can query CFRO to determine the number of firearms associated to the individual, their descriptions and their serial numbers.

In 2010, Canadian law enforcement agencies queried the Canadian Firearms Registry Online an average of **14,357** times per day.

**CHART 1:**  
Annual Canadian Firearms Registry Online (CFRO) queries (2006 - 2010)



CFP NWEST was contacted by a provincial police force after a large amount of ammunition was discovered at a city-condemned residence. Along with 10,000 rounds of various types and calibers of ammunition, they found a locked gun safe.

NWEST provided advice and the authority to seize the twenty-one firearms (11 restricted handguns and 10 non-restricted long guns) which they examined and checked on CPIC and RWRS\*. They confirmed the handguns had previously been registered to the homeowner's son whose whereabouts were unknown. NWEST initiated trace requests on the remaining unregistered long guns and provided advice on how the police force could dispose of the firearms.

*\* The Restricted Weapons Registration System (RWRS) pre-dates the current, more comprehensive Canadian Firearms Information System.*

CFP NWEST was asked to assist in a shooting investigation. They confirmed, through the Canadian Firearms Information System, the firearm was one of seven registered to the same individual, and it had not been reported lost, missing or stolen.

RCMP investigators met with the registered owner who was able to account for only four of his seven firearms. The subject was interviewed in order to establish a possible link between him and the shooting suspects.

As a result of the interview, the owner's grandson was identified as one of the accused in the shooting, and all seven firearms were accounted for in the follow-up interview of the accused. Numerous firearms-related charges were laid in relation to this incident.

### *Firearms Internet Investigations and Enhanced Screening*

The Firearms Internet Investigations and Enhanced Screening (FIIES) unit is a full open-source investigative unit providing a range of Internet support services, both in the firearm applicant screening process and directly to front-line police officers. CFP FIIES gathers information from a variety of sites and, when criminal activities involving firearms are detected, the information is forwarded to the police of jurisdiction for further investigation.

In 2010, the CFP FIIES unit screened 2481 restricted firearms applicants.

They also responded to 40 direct requests for supplementary information on individuals, firearms businesses or organizations.

FIIES also contributed to 13 investigations by providing information found through various open source avenues including blogs, forums, social networking and other publicly accessible online sites.

CFP NWEST was asked to assist in a multi-provincial investigation involving the fraudulent sale of firearms over the Internet and the suspected use of a false Possession and Acquisition Licence. Follow-up revealed the suspect was also selling drugs over the Internet. NWEST drafted and executed a firearms search warrant and assisted in seizing evidence. The CFP FIIES unit provided follow-up assistance.

As part of the continuous eligibility firearms licence screening process, FIIES often reviews various social networking sites, looking for any possible evidence of risks to public safety. In one case, the publicly available online profile photo of a firearms licence holder showed the individual pointing a handgun at the camera. Prior police contact had found the individual in possession of a prohibited weapon. Online activities assist the CFP in evaluating potential risk to public safety.

FIIES also finds and provides online information in direct support of criminal investigations. They can identify individuals of interest by their usernames or their actual identities and provide critical location information to police. Working through CFP NWEST, this unit has received requests and referrals from various law enforcement agencies and provided them with key investigative information.

### *Affidavit Preparation*

In certain circumstances, the CFP provides affidavits in support of prosecutions of firearm-related offences.

## *Firearms Licensing*

In general, all individuals and businesses that possess or use firearms must be licensed. Similarly, all individuals or businesses who acquire firearms or ammunition must be licensed. There are four types of firearms licences available:

1. Possession Only Licence (POL)
2. Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL)
3. Minor's Licence
4. Business Licence

### **TABLE 5:**

Number of Licences Issued by Type (Including Renewals)

| <b>Licence Type</b>                | <b>Total Issued in 2010</b> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Possession and Acquisition Licence | 199,534                     |
| Possession Only Licence            | 144,639                     |
| Minor's Licence                    | 3,721                       |
| <b>Total Issued To Individuals</b> | <b>347,894</b>              |
| <b>Total Issued To Businesses</b>  | <b>1,626</b>                |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>349,520</b>              |

In 2010, the average processing time for a standard firearms licence application in which all requested information was provided and no follow up was required was **19 days**.

Because of the need for reference checks and deeper scrutiny of an applicant's background, the average processing time for a **new** Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL) was **41 days**, which includes a mandatory 28-day waiting period for all new PALS.

## Firearms Licence Renewals

Firearms licence holders, according to the *Firearms Act*, are responsible for renewing their licences prior to expiry. The CFP assists in the renewal process by sending out partially populated renewal application forms approximately 90 days before the current licence expires. Licence holders must advise the CFP of address changes in order to receive the renewal reminders and pre-populated application forms.

The CFP offers advantages to licence holders who renew their licences prior to expiry. One advantage is use of a streamlined renewal application form instead of the longer form which must be used by individuals who have no licence or whose licence has expired.

A second advantage involves the POL which is usually available only as a renewal\*. To maintain a POL and

continue owning and using firearms, individuals should renew their POL prior to expiry in order to avoid having to apply for a PAL, which requires safety training.

*\*The time-limited New POL exception noted above offers individuals with expired POLs the opportunity to apply for a new POL, providing they meet certain requirements. This exception is in effect until May 16, 2013.*

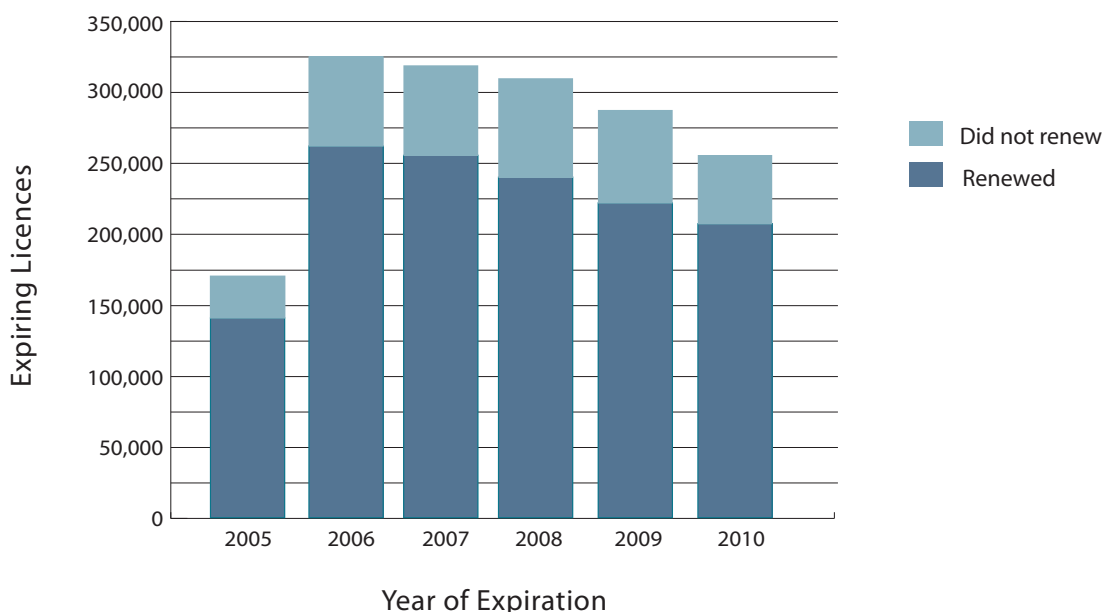
By renewing their licence prior to expiry, individuals can also avoid the risk of having their registration certificates revoked and permanently losing their grandfathered privilege to possess prohibited firearms.

Finally, licence holders can avoid the risk of penalties\* for unlawful possession of a non-restricted firearm if they renew their licence before it expires.

*\*As noted above, there is an amnesty in effect until May 16, 2013, which protects non-compliant owners of non-restricted firearms from criminal liability while they are taking steps to comply with the licensing and registration requirements of the Firearms Act.*

## CHART 2:

In 2010, a total of **257,071** licences (POL and PAL) for individuals in possession of firearms required renewal.



## *Firearms Business Support*

Organizations and businesses that manufacture, sell, possess, handle, display or store firearms or ammunition must have a firearms business licence. All of the employees who handle firearms for these businesses must also have firearms licences, and all firearms in a business inventory must be registered.

Businesses must submit to periodic inspections by a CFP firearms officer who confirms the safe and lawful business practices and storage of firearms.

As of December 31, 2010, there were **4,465 firearms businesses**, including carriers and museums, in Canada, licensed under the *Firearms Act*. Of these, **2,464** are licensed to sell **ammunition only**.

The CFP offers businesses the option of performing firearm registration and transfers through the Program's web-based services. An Internet transfer of a firearm from a business to an individual can be processed in a few minutes. The related paper registration certificate is sent through the mail and takes approximately two weeks for printing and delivery.

Safety standards for shooting clubs and ranges are set out in the *Firearms Act* in order to ensure the safety of members, visitors and the general public. The CFP has published guidelines for ranges, in the interest of promoting safe use. These clubs and ranges are also periodically inspected by CFP firearms officers.

## *Chief Firearms Officers (CFO)*

Chief Firearms Officers are responsible for the administration, decision making, management and delivery of key components of the *Firearms Act*. There is a CFO for each province and territory, and their authority includes:

- licensing individuals and businesses
- approving transfer of firearms
- approving shooting clubs and shooting ranges
- approving gun shows
- issuing Authorizations to Carry
- issuing Authorizations to Transport
- designating firearms officers
- designating firearms safety inspectors and
- designating instructors for firearms safety courses

This includes determining an applicant's eligibility to obtain or keep a firearms licence. The CFO can issue, refuse to issue, renew or revoke a licence or authorizations to transport, carry, transfer or sponsor, or set specific conditions on these documents.

## Firearm Registration / Registrar of Firearms

The Registrar of Firearms is responsible for the administration, decision making, management and delivery of other key components of the *Firearms Act*.

The CFP Registrar oversees the Canadian Firearms Registry (CFR) and is responsible for the following:

- Issuing or refusing to issue firearm registration certificates for businesses and individuals
- Revoking firearm registration certificates
- Issuing, refusing or revoking carriers' licences
- Administering the Public Agents Firearms Regulations, including assigning Public Agency Identification Number (PAIN) to all public service agencies

- Maintaining CFR data and ensuring both its quality and its availability for law enforcement, in accordance with applicable laws
- Training firearms verifiers and maintaining the Firearms Verifiers' Network.

The *Firearms Act* requires that all non-restricted, restricted and prohibited firearms in Canada be registered. The registration certificate number links each firearm to its licensed owner in the CFP's national database, the Canadian Firearms Information System, as outlined earlier in this report. A subset of this information, contained in the Canadian Firearms Registry Online, can then be accessed via the Canadian Police Information Centre, which law enforcement groups in Canada routinely use.

**TABLE 6:**

Firearms Registered to Individuals and Businesses (2009 and 2010)

| Firearm Classification | 2009             | 2010             | Difference     |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Non-restricted         | 6,781,698        | 6,943,621        | 161,923        |
| Restricted             | 471,718          | 501,079          | 29,361         |
| Prohibited             | 206,088          | 201,999          | -4,089         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>7,459,504</b> | <b>7,646,699</b> | <b>187,195</b> |

Linking a firearm to its owner contributes to public safety in three ways:

- It holds firearm owners accountable for their firearms;
- It assists in investigations involving firearms as it facilitates the tracing of a firearm to its last lawful owner; and
- It provides police officers with up-to-date firearms information and helps them anticipate when and where firearms may be present.

Registration applicants must be at least 18 years old and have a firearms licence allowing them to possess that class or category of firearm. When a firearm is borrowed, the registration certificate must accompany it. There is no fee for registering a firearm, and registration certificates have no expiry date. The only time a registration certificate needs to be replaced, other than when the firearm is transferred to a new owner, is when the firearm is modified in a way that changes its classification.



Before a firearm can be registered for the first time, it must be verified. Simply put, **verification** is the process used to confirm the classification of a firearm.

All firearms can be categorized into three different classifications:

- Non-restricted firearms: Most shotguns and rifles
- Restricted firearms: Most handguns
- Prohibited firearms\*: Mostly assault rifles and particular types of handguns

*\*Prohibited firearms cannot be newly imported into Canada by individuals. Only individuals "grandfathered" to have prohibited firearms are allowed to possess them.*

When a firearm is transferred to a new owner, the record must be changed to reflect both the de-registration from the original owner and the re-registration to the new owner. This transfer process, under most circumstances, can be completed quickly by telephone. In 2010, the processing time for a telephone transfer of a non-restricted firearm was typically **less than 15 minutes**, with the paper certificate sent through the mail and received by the owner within approximately two weeks.

**TABLE 7:**

Firearm Registrations (individual and business) by Region 2010

| Province/Territory        | Non-restricted Firearms | Restricted Firearms | Prohibited     | Total            |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 199,692                 | 3,835               | 1,590          | 205,117          |
| Prince Edward Island      | 21,557                  | 1,641               | 798            | 23,996           |
| Nova Scotia               | 285,870                 | 16,012              | 7,428          | 309,310          |
| New Brunswick             | 269,774                 | 11,566              | 5,371          | 286,711          |
| Quebec                    | 1,593,912               | 56,522              | 33,662         | 1,684,096        |
| Ontario                   | 2,067,406               | 182,179             | 84,726         | 2,334,311        |
| Manitoba                  | 334,437                 | 17,666              | 6,107          | 358,210          |
| Saskatchewan              | 397,901                 | 25,591              | 8,448          | 431,940          |
| Alberta                   | 882,790                 | 88,167              | 24,495         | 995,452          |
| British Columbia          | 812,060                 | 94,414              | 28,525         | 934,999          |
| Yukon                     | 23,180                  | 1,739               | 385            | 25,304           |
| Northwest Territories     | 18,273                  | 1,037               | 331            | 19,641           |
| Nunavut                   | 11,869                  | 156                 | 38             | 12,063           |
| Other                     | 24,900                  | 554                 | 95             | 25,549           |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>6,943,621</b>        | <b>501,079</b>      | <b>201,999</b> | <b>7,646,699</b> |

## *Firearms Assistance and Outreach to the Public*

The CFP makes every effort to share firearms safety information and communicate openly with the public. The goal is to improve public safety by informing the public and expanding awareness of and compliance with safe use, handling and storage of firearms, as outlined in the *Firearms Act* and associated Regulations. CFP outreach activities also inform the public on how the CFP works with and assists front-line police and other law enforcement agencies in gathering and processing evidence and investigating and prosecuting people and organizations involved in the illegal movement, unlawful possession and criminal use of firearms.

In 2010, the CFP maintained its commitment to partnerships with various Canadian law enforcement organizations. It participated in a number of annual police association meetings such as the Canadian Police Association and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. CFP representatives also attended hunting, outdoor and gun shows across the country, distributing firearms-safety materials and responding to requests for firearms information.

Throughout the year, several thousand CFP-produced firearms information brochures, cards and fact sheets were distributed to the public and to law enforcement offices across the country.

The CFP website is continually updated to provide accurate and current information regarding firearms safety, policies and client-service initiatives to a wide and varied audience.

Close to **840,000** individuals visited the CFP website in 2010.

The public, when seeking firearms-related information or assistance, is also encouraged to contact the CFP call centre, using the toll-free number (1-800-731-4000) or via e-mail (cfp-pcaf@rcmp-grc.gc.ca).

## **CFP Firearms Service Delivery group notes increase in positive feedback from clients**

*The majority of calls to the CFP toll-free number are received at the CFP Firearms Service Delivery centre in Miramichi, NB. Clients from across Canada and even a few from the United States have expressed their appreciation for the quality and efficiency of service they receive from the CFP. They comment on what a positive experience it is to deal with the CFP and how helpful and knowledgeable the CFP agents are. Perhaps most importantly, they acknowledge the value of contacting the references who licence applicants include on their applications. They see this as contributing to public safety and therefore both appreciate and support this effort.*

In 2010, the CFP call centre received **973,305 telephone inquiries** and approximately **14,000 e-mail inquiries** including firearms application status checks and requests for information and forms.

To enhance service to police, the CFP also has toll-free telephone lines and e-mail addresses designated for police-only assistance.

## CFP SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC

### *Outreach to Aboriginal Communities*

The CFP provides firearms services to Aboriginal people and their communities and is committed to continually improving the quality and variety of these services. In an effort to best meet these needs, the CFP's Research and Aboriginal Issues section has conducted research studies and helped to develop service-delivery programs.

In 2010, outreach to Aboriginal communities included the translation of the *Safely Storing, Transporting and Displaying Firearms* information brochure into Inuktitut after a need for this information in that language was identified. The brochure will be printed and distributed throughout Inuktitut-speaking communities.

The goal of these efforts is to increase public safety in Aboriginal communities by increasing safety awareness among those who have access to firearms.

In the months of October, November and December, 2010, the CFP assisted in providing safety training within a northern Ontario Aboriginal community. During that time period, 171 individuals within that community successfully completed firearms training certification. The CFP also helped with applications, registrations, verifications and general firearms information provision.



## *Firearms Safety Training*

As outlined in the *Firearms Act*, to be licensed to possess and acquire firearms in Canada, individuals must complete training in and demonstrate awareness of the principles relating to safe handling and use of firearms. The Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC) and the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course (CRFSC) are fundamental firearms-education and safety-training components of the CFP. Developed in partnership with the provinces and territories as well as organizations with an ongoing interest in hunter education and firearms safety, these courses provide instruction on the safe handling, use, transportation and storage of both restricted and non-restricted firearms.

The *Firearms Act* states that individuals who want to acquire non-restricted firearms must pass the CFSC

test, while individuals wanting to acquire restricted firearms must pass both the CFSC and the CRFSC tests. In 2010, there were **84,622** CFSC graduates and **23,246** succeeded at the CRFSC.

The RCMP CFP is responsible for the continued development, implementation, evaluation and revision of national firearms-safety standards, the CFSC and the CRFSC. Each province or territory is responsible for the delivery of the courses.

Since 2008, the CFP has had a Firearms Safety Education Coordinator who manages the national firearms safety education and awareness program. The coordinator also plans, designs, prepares and disseminates information and awareness material to firearms owners and other interested individuals.

**TABLE 8:**  
Firearms Safety Training

| Year | Canadian Firearms Safety Course | Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course |
|------|---------------------------------|--|
| 2005 | 55,908                          | 10,620                                     |
| 2006 | 62,612                          | 12,489                                     |
| 2007 | 72,421                          | 15,382                                     |
| 2008 | 83,225                          | 20,149                                     |
| 2009 | 83,287                          | 22,773                                     |
| 2010 | <b>84,622</b>                   | <b>23,246</b>                              |

## Enhanced Screening of Firearms-Licence Applicants

Since 2008, the CFP has been employing a more in-depth licence applicant screening process to reduce the possibility that individuals who pose a public safety risk acquire or have access to firearms. All first-time restricted firearms licence applicants undergo thorough security screening, including interviews of the applicants and their references.

In 2010, the CFP performed enhanced security screening on **30,851** firearms licence applicants. During the same year, there were **92,553** interviews completed of either applicants or their references. Both the enhanced screening and the interviews help the CFP determine if individuals who are applying to possess and/or use firearms might present a risk to public safety.

## Continuous Eligibility Screening of Firearms-Licence Holders

As previously outlined, all current firearm licences are recorded in the Canadian Firearms Information System, which automatically checks with the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) daily to determine if a licence holder has been the subject of a CPIC incident report anywhere in Canada. Any match generates a Firearms Interest Police (FIP) report which is automatically forwarded to the relevant Chief Firearms Officer for follow-up. Some of these reports are “excluded”, which means they require no further action, but some prompt a review of the individual’s firearms licence and may result in its revocation and the seizure of any firearms.

This daily continuous-eligibility screening reduces the likelihood that an individual who has been identified as a potential risk to public safety will be permitted to retain possession of firearms.

**TABLE 9:**

Number of FIP Events by Province  
(2010)

| Province/Territory        | 2010      |          |        |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|
|                           | Confirmed | Excluded | Total  |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 1,066     | 1,033    | 2,099  |
| Prince Edward Island      | 100       | 112      | 212    |
| Nova Scotia               | 1,562     | 2,229    | 3,791  |
| New Brunswick             | 1,824     | 1,981    | 3,805  |
| Quebec                    | 10,646    | 14,394   | 25,040 |
| Ontario                   | 17,046    | 10,180   | 27,226 |
| Manitoba                  | 3,518     | 3,251    | 6,769  |
| Saskatchewan              | 2,430     | 1,835    | 4,265  |
| Alberta                   | 4,965     | 4,805    | 9,770  |
| British Columbia          | 2,979     | 5,812    | 8,791  |
| Yukon                     | 382       | 195      | 577    |
| Northwest Territories     | 89        | 12       | 101    |
| Nunavut                   | 141       | 18       | 159    |
| Total                     | 46,748    | 45,857   | 92,605 |

## Firearms Licence Refusals and Revocations

Every individual who applies for a firearms licence is subject to a thorough background check which screens them for potential risks to public safety. They are then screened daily throughout the life of their licence to identify any public-safety risks that may arise through that time.

Chief Firearms Officers (CFO), as previously mentioned, play a key role in authorizing an individual to acquire or retain a firearms licence. Under the *Firearms Act*, CFOs are authorized to refuse an application for a licence or revoke a firearms licence, based on their assessment of the individual's risk to public safety.

In 2010, there were **570** firearms licence applications refused and **2,231** firearms licences revoked.

Firearms-licence refusals and revocations are recorded in the CFP's national Canadian Firearms Information System database. Individuals who have a licence refused or revoked, therefore, cannot evade this decision by moving from one jurisdiction to another.

**TABLE 10:**

Number of Firearm Licence Refusals and Revocations

| Year         | Refusal      | Revoked       |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2010         | 570          | 2,231         |
| 2009         | 515          | 2,085         |
| 2008         | 462          | 1,833         |
| 2007         | 440          | 1,748         |
| 2006         | 391          | 2,064         |
| 2005         | 345          | 2,286         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>2,723</b> | <b>12,247</b> |

**TABLE 11:**

Reasons for Firearms Licence Refusals and Revocations

| Reason                                | Refusals    | %   | Revocations   | %   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----|---------------|-----|
| Court Ordered Prohibition / Probation | 287         | 50% | 1,643         | 74% |
| Domestic Violence                     | 26          | 5%  | 73            | 3%  |
| Drug Offences                         | 20          | 4%  | 37            | 2%  |
| Mental Health                         | 63          | 11% | 200           | 9%  |
| POL Ineligible                        | 18          | 3%  | 2             | 0%  |
| Potential Risk to Others              | 163         | 29% | 384           | 17% |
| Potential Risk to Self                | 123         | 22% | 330           | 15% |
| Provided False Information            | 48          | 8%  | 26            | 1%  |
| Unsafe Firearm Use and Storage        | 34          | 6%  | 90            | 4%  |
| Violent                               | 56          | 10% | 117           | 5%  |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>570*</b> |     | <b>2,231*</b> |     |

\*Note: Because a refusal or revocation can be influenced by more than one factor, the totals are less than the sums of the individual reasons.

## *Firearms Registration Certificate Refusals and Revocations*

The CFP Registrar of Firearms revokes registration certificates and, if applicable, refuses firearm registration applications whenever a firearm owner's licence is revoked for public safety reasons. The Registrar also refuses firearms registration applications when the firearm owner's licence is administratively revoked as a result of a court-issued firearms prohibition order. Other reasons for registration revocations or refusals include expired firearms licences, individuals not having adequate licence privileges for a certain class of firearms or individuals failing to provide sufficient information to meet registration requirements.

In 2010, there were **311** firearm registration applications refused and **163,909** firearm registration certificates revoked.

Following the revocation of registration certificates and the refusal of registration applications, the Registrar monitors the disposition of the firearms and, if necessary, refers the matter to local law enforcement agencies for seizure.

**TABLE 12:**  
Number of Registration Refusals and Revocations

| Year  | Refused | Revoked   | Total     |
|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| 2006  | 735     | 293,896   | 294,631   |
| 2007  | 618     | 253,107   | 253,725   |
| 2008  | 747     | 191,208   | 191,955   |
| 2009  | 407     | 195,543   | 195,950   |
| 2010  | 311     | 163,909   | 164,220   |
| Total | 2,818   | 1,097,663 | 1,100,481 |

## *Firearms Prohibitions*

Courts must notify Chief Firearms Officers of all firearms prohibition orders in their jurisdiction. Firearms-licence applicant screening includes checking if an applicant is the subject of a prohibition order which would then lead to the refusal of a firearms licence.

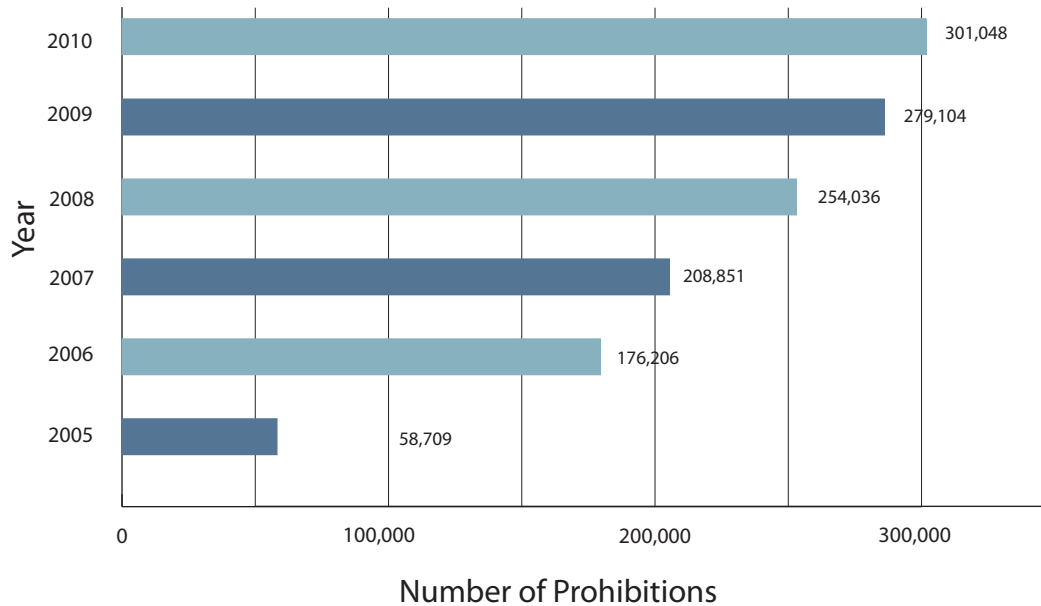
If an individual who has a firearms licence is the subject of a prohibition order, their licence is revoked and they are instructed by the court to turn in the licence and dispose of all firearms. When the Chief Firearms Officer is notified by the court, the individual's firearms licence is administratively revoked.

In these cases, the CFP Registrar of Firearms administratively revokes the associated registration certificates and provides the subject with instructions on how to dispose of the firearms. The Registrar also refuses any pending applications to register firearms, advises police of the revocation and follows up on the disposition of firearms.

Prohibition orders are recorded in the Canadian Police Information Centre Persons File and form part of the background and continuous-eligibility checks for firearms licences. Information from provincial and federal courts also helps to determine whether an individual is a potential threat to public safety. A match against a court order may result in the Chief Firearms Office conducting an investigation which could lead to a revocation or a change in licence conditions.

## CHART 3:

Firearms prohibitions (cumulative)  
(2005-2010)\*



\*The significant increase from 2005 to 2006 is the result of the CFP's use of the Canadian Police Information Centre system as the source of information for the number of persons prohibited from possessing firearms as of 2006. The variance is further explained by new mandatory prohibitions for certain drug offence charges and convictions which came into effect at that time.

### **Firearm-related Inspections**

Chief Firearms Officers are responsible for approving and performing inspections of shooting clubs and ranges within their jurisdictions to ensure safe operation and compliance with the *Firearms Act*. For community safety, they are also authorized to inspect firearms businesses and individuals who collect firearms to ensure safe storage and handling requirements are met.

### **Range Safety and Use-of-Force Coordinator**

The Range Safety and Use-of-Force Coordinator develops and implements initiatives to support CFP programs and criteria for the continuous improvement of shooting ranges throughout Canada. This includes:

- Developing and implementing range safety measures to support federal and provincial CFOs in the discharge of their legislated responsibilities,
- Reviewing range safety inspection reports to improve guidelines and procedures, and
- Conducting quality control checks on inspection reports and recommending or performing follow-up inspections if necessary.



## *1-800 Safety Line – Reporting Public Safety Concerns*

The CFP offers a toll-free line (1-800-731-4000) and urges those with non-emergency firearm-related public safety concerns to call and report them.

These reports about potential threats to public safety are routed to Chief Firearms Officers who respond by taking appropriate action. The CFP encourages people to call if they believe a person who owns firearms could be a danger to themselves or to others, or if they know of any valid reason why a person who has a firearms licence or has applied for one should not have such a licence.



The RCMP Canadian Firearms Program is Canada's centre for firearms expertise, committed to keeping our country safe from firearms crime and misuse.

In 2010, the CFP focused on helping law enforcement groups by finding ways to keep them safe and assist in their investigations involving firearms. It also maintained its commitment to private firearm owners and users, facilitating their compliance with Canada's firearms laws and making it easier for them to be and stay aware of firearms safety issues. The CFP also forged and strengthened partnerships with agencies such as the Canada Safety Council and with police groups such as the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

The Canadian Firearms Program remains focused on public and police officer safety and on sharing its comprehensive technical and legal firearms knowledge with the public and with investigators, in an effort to keep Canada safe.

**Investing in firearms safety is time well spent.**