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COMMISSIONER OF FIREARMS

2013 REPORT

THE RCMP CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM
CANADA'S AUTHORITY ON FIREARMS



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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER



While the Canadian Firearms Program's (CFP) primary function is firearms regulation and safety, it also works directly with law enforcement organizations to address firearms crime and misuse.

The CFP is committed to firearms safety through licensing of all firearm owners, which includes several levels of security screening for licence holders and applicants. In 2013, the CFP worked to enhance firearms safety through a northern firearms safety outreach initiative. On the enforcement front, the CFP provides vital guidance to police and other partners in the fight against firearms crime not only in Canada, but also internationally. The CFP shared its leading-edge firearms identification technology with INTERPOL at several key meetings in 2013.

This year's report, the seventh under the stewardship of the RCMP, summarizes the CFP's public-safety efforts and contributions, in many locations, on the ground, across Canada. The CFP is a key contributor to the RCMP's commitment to *A Safe and Secure Canada*.

Commissioner Bob Paulson
Commissioner of Firearms
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Report

The Commissioner of Firearms report summarizes the activities of the Canadian Firearms Program (CFP) for 2013. As required by the *Firearms Act*, the report is submitted annually to the Minister of Public Safety for tabling in Parliament.

Program Overview

The CFP reports to the Commissioner of Firearms, who is responsible for the administration of the *Firearms Act*.

The CFP is delivered by firearms experts across the country and comprises five specialized groups:

- the Firearms Regulatory Services (FRS) Directorate
- the Firearms Service Delivery (FSD) Directorate
- the Firearms Investigative and Enforcement Services Directorate (FIESD)
- the Firearms Management and Strategic Services (FMSS) Directorate
- the Firearms Business Improvement (FBI) Directorate

The FRS Directorate includes the CFP's Chief Firearms Officers (CFO), located across the country, and the Canadian Firearms Registry (CFR), located in Ottawa. The CFOs are responsible for all firearms licences and authorizations within their jurisdictions, and the CFR is responsible for registration of restricted and prohibited firearms.

The FSD Directorate, located in Miramichi, New Brunswick, is responsible for the CFP Central Processing Site, which includes the national contact centre.

The CFP's law enforcement component, FIESD, provides specialized firearms investigation and support services to law enforcement. It has representatives located in Ottawa and others working with municipal and provincial police services and RCMP contract divisions across the country.

Located in RCMP National Headquarters, FMSS provides firearms-related policy advice, strategic planning, business intelligence, performance measurement and analysis, client outreach, and several corporate management functions.

The FBI Directorate oversees the development and administration of the CFP's automated systems, databases and web portals, and manages the CFP's operational business requirements.

INTRODUCTION

Canadian Firearms Program Mission, Values and Priorities

The mission of the Canadian Firearms Program is to enhance public safety by helping to reduce the risk of harm from firearms. The CFP provides Canadian and international law enforcement organizations with specialized services vital to the prevention and investigation of firearms crime and misuse. It also screens individual 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, firearms businesses, law enforcement organizations, the provinces, the territories, other federal agencies, Aboriginal peoples, safety instructors and firearms verifiers is essential for effective program delivery;
- commits to ongoing improvement and innovation to achieve the highest levels of service, efficiency and overall effectiveness;
- engages its clients and stakeholders in reviewing and developing policy 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; and,
- 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.



INTRODUCTION

Canadian Firearms Program Strategic Priorities

Aligned with both the Government of Canada's 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 the following RCMP strategic priorities:

Serious and Organized Crime

CFP firearms investigators work collaboratively with Canadian and international law enforcement partners to dismantle organized criminal groups who traffic firearms, using CFP firearms-focused data. This information helps disrupt organized crime by allowing investigators to observe patterns in firearms-related data within a community, a region or across the country.

National Security

The CFP is actively involved in addressing the smuggling of firearms and other cross-border issues, recognizing illegally obtained firearms as a potential tool for terrorists. Key international commitments include information sharing with U.S. law enforcement, contributions to Canada's efforts at the United Nations and work with INTERPOL to combat the trafficking of illicit firearms.

Youth

While individuals younger than 18 are not permitted to own firearms, they may obtain a minor's firearms licence which allows them to possess non-restricted firearms for purposes such as hunting and target shooting. The CFP promotes the safe handling, use and storage of firearms and provides firearms safety training and information for youth.

Aboriginal Communities

Committed to engaging and supporting Aboriginal communities on firearms safety-related projects at national, regional and local levels, the CFP enhances both individual and community safety by providing firearms safety education and training, as well as verification, licensing and registration assistance. Through the pursuit of new safety and training initiatives, the CFP continues to strengthen its partnership with Canada's Aboriginal communities.

INTRODUCTION

Canadian Firearms Program Partners

Canadian law enforcement agencies

Providing firearm-related services and information to domestic law enforcement, the CFP helps investigators and prosecutors address the illegal movement and criminal use of firearms. The CFP can verify whether someone who is considered a public safety risk has registered firearms, or help to prepare and execute search warrants. The CFP also provides firearms tracing, identification and disposal services and offers hands-on firearms training to law enforcement officials.

International law enforcement

The CFP works with law enforcement agencies from the United States and other countries to prevent the illegal movement of firearms across borders. It electronically exchanges firearms trace information with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and has a strong working relationship with INTERPOL. In addition, the CFP hosts an annual international firearms trafficking conference, and has on many occasions sent representatives to other countries in order to provide or participate in firearms-related training.

Public Safety Canada

The Commissioner of Firearms, who reports to the Minister of Public Safety, relies on CFP staff to provide accurate and up-to-date firearms-related policy advice and information. This information is then passed on to the Minister and other senior government officials.

Canada Border Services Agency

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) assesses and confirms Non-resident Firearms Declarations (which serve as temporary licences and, for restricted firearms, as registration certificates) for firearms being imported into Canada, processes commercial firearm imports and inspects firearm shipments to confirm admissibility. They confirm the firearms' destinations as well as the purpose for importation and eligibility of the importer. The CBSA also ensures firearms crossing the border are being transported safely and in accordance with Canadian law.



INTRODUCTION

Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada

The CFP works with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) to ensure Canada's international commitments regarding firearms reflect the country's priorities, as well as its capacity to implement them. DFATD issues the permits required to export and import firearms.

Department of Justice Canada

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, whose RCMP Legal Services Unit provides legal advice to the CFP.

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

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

Provinces and Territories

Firearms licensing and authorizations in every province and territory are managed by CFOs. 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.

Responsible for issuing firearms licences to businesses and individuals, CFOs must assess the possible safety risks that may be associated with possession of firearms among the more than 1.9 million Canadian firearms licence holders. 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. As described in more detail in the *Licensing* section of this report, within their jurisdictions, CFOs also oversee the delivery of safety training, approve shooting ranges and clubs, approve firearm transfers and issue authorizations to transport and carry restricted and prohibited firearms. They also conduct inspections to ensure firearms are being used, transported and stored safely.

All regions of Canada are further supported by police officers who work for the CFP Firearms Investigative and Enforcement Services Directorate's (FIESD) National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST). These officers are members of, or seconded to, the RCMP and provide specialized firearms enforcement support services to all law enforcement groups who investigate firearms crimes and misuse.

2013 HIGHLIGHTS

Changes to Firearms Legislation: Bill C-19

Bill C-19, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Firearms Act*, also referred to as the *Ending the Long-gun Registry Act*, came into effect on April 5, 2012. This Act removed the legislative requirement for individuals and businesses to register non-restricted firearms, but allows the CFP to confirm the validity of a transferee's firearms licence for the transferor of a non-restricted firearm.

The legislative framework for the registration and transfer of restricted and prohibited firearms remains in effect, and all owners of firearms (non-restricted, restricted or prohibited) must still be licensed.

The *Ending the Long-gun Registry Act* also required the deletion of all non-restricted firearms registration records held by the RCMP and CFOs. The Province of Quebec launched a legal challenge, seeking non-restricted firearms registration data pertaining to Quebec residents. In October 2012, the RCMP deleted all (except those of Quebec) electronic records identified as being related to the registration of non-restricted firearms in the Canadian Firearms Information System.

In October 2013, the Supreme Court of Canada agreed to hear Quebec's challenge to Bill C-19. Until further notice, residents of Quebec are still required to register non-restricted firearms with the CFP.

Compliance Incentives

In 2006, the Government of Canada introduced incentives to increase firearms legislative compliance:

- 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 and non-restricted firearms the opportunity to come into compliance without risk of prosecution; and

In 2008, the Government of Canada announced a third incentive, allowing eligible holders of expired Possession Only Licences (POL) the opportunity to apply for a new POL.

In September 2012, the Government ended the waiver of fees for renewals of restricted or prohibited firearms licences. In May 2013, the waiver of fees for renewals of non-restricted firearms licences was ended as well, so individuals who renew their Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL) or POL are now required to pay the renewal fee.

The amnesty and new POL compliance incentives remain in effect.

2013 HIGHLIGHTS

Northern Firearms Safety Strategy

The CFP continued to develop and expand its Northern Firearms Safety Strategy, intended to increase levels of firearms licensing and improve firearms and community safety in northern Canada.

In 2013, activities included:

- outreach visits, including licensing assistance and the provision of firearms safety guidance, in six northern communities: Gjoa Haven, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Kugaaruk, Nain and Taloyoak
- delivery of firearms safety training through the RCMP Summer Student Program in Nunavut; safe firearms use and storage presentations at high schools in Hall Beach and Igloolik
- training and ongoing assistance for police officers providing Canadian Firearms Safety Course instruction throughout communities in the North
- developing partnerships with Territory of Nunavut Conservation Officers to provide safety training and firearms application assistance to residents in remote communities
- ongoing talks with Government of Nunavut Department of Health officials to establish a territory-wide firearms safety campaign, including the distribution of firearms safety locks and information brochures
- participation in City of Iqaluit and Hall Beach council meetings to discuss firearms safety strategies with the Mayors and Council members



CFP Firearms Officer in Nunavut and RCMP aircraft

Between August and December 2013, the CFP also sponsored safety training in northern Ontario Aboriginal communities. During this period, 30 firearms safety courses were delivered and 436 individuals successfully completed firearms safety-training certification. As part of these safety-training outreach initiatives, the CFP also helped with licence applications, firearm registrations and verifications, and general firearms information.

2013 HIGHLIGHTS

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



CFP representatives delivering firearms safety training in a remote northern community

CFP – INTERPOL Partnership

INTERPOL relies on the CFP's Firearms Reference Table (FRT) as the basis for its INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table (iFRT) - an interactive online tool available internationally to authorized users via INTERPOL's restricted website, enabling investigators to obtain or verify the details of a firearm. More information about the FRT is provided on page 12 of this report.

CFP firearm experts met with INTERPOL several times in 2013:

In May 2013, CFP representatives participated in the INTERPOL Firearm Forensics Symposium Meeting to review national and international trends in firearms violence; explore advances in firearm forensics analysis and investigations; and recommend international best practices to combat the threat of firearms crimes.

Members of INTERPOL's Firearms Programme visited the CFP in July 2013 to perform a functional study on the FRT and the CFP's Public Agency Web Services (PWS) programs, as well as to discuss the future of the CFP-INTERPOL partnership.

At the beginning of 2013, INTERPOL launched iARMS (Illicit Arms Records and tracing Management System) - an information technology system which facilitates information exchange and cooperation between law enforcement agencies by providing a centralized global system for law enforcement to report and query lost, stolen, trafficked and smuggled firearms. The iARMS system also facilitates the submission of, and response to, international firearms trace requests. In the first nine months of 2013, iARMS recorded 176,931 iFRT searches by 351 unique users located in 98 different countries.

In October 2013, a member of the CFP's FIESD participated in the 4th iARMS Advisory Group Meeting to discuss the next phase of the project which will integrate the iFRT into iARMS, significantly broadening its uses.

SPECIALIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

The CFP **Firearms Investigative and Enforcement Services Directorate (FIESD)** supports the investigation and prosecution of persons involved in the illegal movement and criminal use of firearms.

National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST)

The National Weapons Enforcement Support Team provides specialized enforcement support services and information to front-line police officers who combat the illegal movement of firearms in Canada, and their subsequent criminal use. Assistance from NWEST includes the following services:

- Firearms information, guidance and investigative advice
- Urgent and immediate hands-on firearms assistance
- Firearms identification and tracing
- Assistance with firearms serial number recovery
- Assistance with development and execution of firearms-related search warrants
- Assistance with firearms seizures and exhibit organization
- Assistance in determining firearms-related charges
- Firearms case law information and advice
- Firearms-related court preparation
- Assistance with affidavit preparation
- Expert witness services
- Firearms-related training
- Assistance with firearms amnesties and turn-in programs
- Assistance with destruction and disposal of firearms

2013 CFP NWEST Cases of Interest

Members of CFP NWEST identified firearms and advised on firearms-related-charges after an eight-month operation which resulted in a large seizure of items including 159 firearms, 155 high-capacity magazines, 18 “silencers” and a half tonne of explosives. The items were intercepted as they were being moved from one location to another within the same Quebec city.



After stopping a vehicle and finding illicit drugs as well as two loaded handguns, one of which was within arm’s reach of the driver, municipal police force investigators in New Brunswick contacted CFP NWEST for assistance. The NWEST members examined and identified both prohibited firearms and confirmed through database queries that neither was registered in Canada. They then initiated trace requests through the CFP Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre and determined that both firearms were linked to U.S. firearms businesses, which suggested that both had been smuggled into Canada. As a result of NWEST involvement, several charges were laid – Careless Use of a Firearm; Unsafe Storage contrary to Regulations; Possession of a Weapon for a Dangerous Purpose; Possession of a Firearm Knowing it is Unauthorized; Possession in a Motor Vehicle and Possession of a Loaded Prohibited Firearm.

SPECIALIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre (CNFTC)

The origin and history of a firearm can be discovered through the tracing process. Since the firearm itself is a critical piece of physical evidence in a gun-related crime, tracing the firearm to a source individual or criminal organization strengthens the case for the Crown and opens up new leads for the investigation of other criminal activity. The CFP CNFTC provides this service to Canadian and international law enforcement agency investigators. They can also share trace information electronically with U.S. investigators, enabling a quick and accurate exchange of information.

In 2013, the CNFTC received and processed 2,014 firearms tracing requests.

Specialized Firearms Support Services (SFSS)

The CFP's Specialized Firearms Support Services section is responsible for the Firearms Reference Table (FRT), a comprehensive and user-friendly computer software tool which provides law enforcement users in 98 different countries with a systematic and standardized method of identifying and describing firearms. Containing 149,812 firearms records and 42,660 images, and available through a variety of technologies, 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 class of a firearm, as outlined under the applicable *Criminal Code* definitions.

Recognized as a centre for firearms expertise in Canada, SFSS provides direct technical support to law enforcement groups and regulatory agencies on a daily basis. They also deliver training in firearms safety and identification and provide expert testimony pertaining to firearms identification and class determination.



The CFP Specialized Firearms Support Services section provides firearms-related training and information sessions to police groups and partner agencies. In 2013, they held multiple sessions on Firearms Examination and Identification, Canadian Firearms Safety Course, Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course, and Weapons Familiarity and Handling.

SPECIALIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES



Members of CFP SFSS provided firearms technological assistance to Canada Border Services Agency officials during the seizure of a large shipment of full-automatic “machine” guns which had been reported as deactivated.

Firearms Operations and Enforcement Support (FOES)

The CFP Firearms Operations and Enforcement Support unit receives and analyzes information on trends and patterns in illicit firearms in Canada. This information is then shared with law enforcement agencies to help combat the trafficking of firearms and mitigate the impact these firearms have on public and police officer safety. FOES can provide law enforcement partners with assistance during investigations and prosecutions.

The CFP’s NWest, CNFTC and FOES groups are also integral components of the Investment to Combat the Criminal Use of Firearms (ICCUF), as described in the RCMP Departmental Performance Report.

Firearms Internet Investigations Support (FIIS) Unit

The Firearms Internet Investigations Support (FIIS) Unit provides a range of Internet support services, both in the firearm applicant screening process and directly to front-line police officers. The CFP FIIS gathers information from a variety of open sources and, when potentially criminal activities involving firearms are detected, the information is forwarded to the police of jurisdiction for further investigation.

In 2013, the CFP Firearms Internet Investigations Support Unit:

- Screened 2,736 restricted firearms licence applicants; 59 resulted in supplemental files identifying potential public safety risks to CFP Chief Firearms Officers
- Received 78 requests for Internet screening from Chief Firearms Officers or Firearms Officers, for continuous eligibility issues of licensed clients
- Received 23 requests for Internet investigation via the CFP Police Support Line and Canadian Firearms Registry
- Received 100 requests for Internet investigation from CFP NWest or other police forces
- Generated 27 police criminal investigation files via open-source inquiries

SPECIALIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Public Agents Firearms Regulations (PAFR)

The *Public Agents Firearms Regulations*, in effect since 2008, require public service agencies and public agents, including police forces, to report all agency (owned by the agency) and protected (seized, turned in or found by police) firearms in their possession. An online tool, Public Agency Web Services, has been developed to facilitate the reporting process. The Regulations are administered by the Canadian Firearms Registry.

TABLE 1 - Canadian Public Service Agencies*	
Reporting Possession of Firearms 2013	
Agency Type	Number
Court	126
Federal Agency	252
Municipal Agency	49
Police Academy	5
Police Agency/Detachments	1,032
Provincial Agency	240
Total	1,704
<i>*The numbers represent individual agencies reporting 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.</i>	

TABLE 2 - Firearms Seized by Public Service Agencies (by location) 2013	
Newfoundland and Labrador	213
Prince Edward Island	1
Nova Scotia	1,396
New Brunswick	761
Quebec	10,229
Ontario	7,746
Manitoba	1,102
Saskatchewan	786
Alberta	2,841
British Columbia	5,676
Yukon	84
Northwest Territories	6
Nunavut	36
Total	30,877

TABLE 3: Firearms Seized by Public Service Agencies (by class) 2013	
Non-restricted	24,546
Restricted	4,347
Prohibited	1,977
Unknown	7
Total	30,877

SPECIALIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

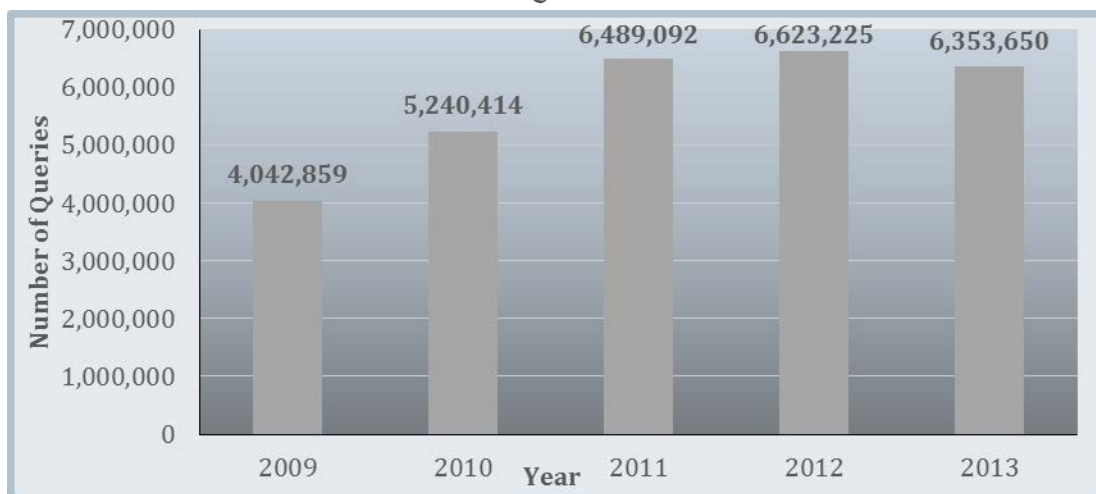
This firearm-reporting requirement supports Canada's commitment to combat the trafficking of illicit firearms as it creates a comprehensive, centralized and accessible database containing seized-firearm information from across the country. PAFR data can be used to assist in investigations and have particular relevance in multi-jurisdictional cases as they help monitor the location, movement and distribution of illicit firearms across Canada. This centralized firearms database makes it easier for law enforcement officers to identify the types of firearms being seized both nationally and in their respective jurisdictions.

Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC)

Law enforcement officers can access some of the CFP's licensing and registration information via CPIC. This 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 the CFP database, via CPIC, to determine the number of registered firearms associated with the individual, their descriptions and their serial numbers.

In 2013, Canadian law enforcement agencies queried the CFP database an average of 17,407 times per day regarding firearms.

CHART 1 – Annual CFP Queries from Law Enforcement



CFP Geographical Firearms Reports

The CFP Firearms Management and Strategic Services group is able to provide police with jurisdiction-specific firearms-related statistical information, upon request. Using the CFP's business intelligence software, FMSS integrates data from the CFP's Canadian Firearms Information System, CPIC, Statistics Canada geomatics, and other sources. Reports are then prepared with current firearms data relevant to specific geographical areas. This accurate and timely firearms information can help police address and counter gun violence, combat the illegal movement of firearms in their jurisdiction and focus their investigative efforts and planning in relation to firearms crime.

KEEPING CANADA SAFE - LICENSING

Licensing of Firearm Users

Individuals who possess or use firearms must be licensed. Similarly, all individuals who acquire firearms or ammunition must be licensed. There are three types of firearms licences available to individuals in Canada:

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

TABLE 4: Individual Firearms Licences by Type and Province/Territory (as of December 31, 2013)

Province/Territory	Possession and Acquisition Licence	Possession Only Licence	Minor's Licence	Total Licences
Newfoundland and Labrador	49,140	24,127	288	73,555
Prince Edward Island	3,480	2,764	21	6,265
Nova Scotia	37,257	35,246	1,090	73,593
New Brunswick	35,881	34,882	177	70,940
Quebec	347,800	149,688	44	497,532
Ontario	374,658	171,690	4,459	550,807
Manitoba	61,163	23,309	452	84,924
Saskatchewan	69,469	26,489	221	96,179
Alberta	193,607	53,538	1,762	248,907
British Columbia	176,452	66,009	612	243,073
Yukon	5,625	920	49	6,594
Northwest Territories	4,587	456	35	5,078
Nunavut	2,899	32	2	2,933
TOTAL	1,362,018	589,150	9,212	1,960,380

TABLE 5: Number of Licences Issued 2013 (Including New and Renewals)

Licence Type	Total Issued in 2013
Possession and Acquisition Licence	319,153
Possession Only Licence	106,995
Minor's Licence	4,934
Total	431,082

Firearms Safety Training

As outlined in the *Firearms Act*, to be licensed to use or possess firearms in Canada, individuals must demonstrate awareness of the principles relating to the 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. To be eligible for a non-restricted firearms licence, an individual must successfully complete the CFSC. In order to be eligible for a restricted firearms licence, they must successfully complete both the CFSC and the CRFSC.

Year	Canadian Firearms Safety Course	Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course
2009	83,287	22,773
2010	84,622	23,246
2011	86,740	26,509
2012	110,317	39,878
2013	85,392	31,356

The CFP is responsible for the continued development, implementation, evaluation and revision of national firearms-safety standards, the CFSC and the CRFSC. As noted previously, each CFO is responsible for the delivery of the courses within their jurisdiction.

Enhanced Screening of Firearms Licence Applicants

Enhanced screening is performed on new firearms licence applications and involves contacting the applicant or their references. This process assists the CFO in determining the client's eligibility to acquire a new firearms licence.

In 2013, the CFP performed enhanced security screening on 62,088 firearms licence applicants and interviewed 186,264 applicants or their references.

KEEPING CANADA SAFE - LICENSING

Chief Firearms Officers (CFO)

As noted previously, each province and territory has a CFO who is responsible for the administration and delivery of key components of the *Firearms Act*:

- licensing individuals and businesses
- approving transfers of restricted and prohibited firearms
- approving shooting clubs and shooting ranges
- issuing Authorizations to Carry
- issuing Authorizations to Transport
- designating Firearms Officers and
- designating instructors for firearms safety courses

This also 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 authorization to transport or carry, or set specific conditions on these documents.

Firearms Licence Application Refusals

Under the *Firearms Act*, CFOs are authorized to refuse an application for a licence, based on their assessment of the individual's risk to public safety.

In 2013, there were 886 firearms licence applications refused for various public safety reasons. (This total does not include applications withdrawn by applicants subsequent to questioning but prior to a potential application's refusal by a CFO.)

Year	Refusals
2009	515
2010	570
2011	520
2012	670
2013	886
Total	3,161

Reason	Refusals
Court-Ordered Prohibition / Probation	333
Domestic Violence	32
Drug Offences	22
Mental Health	92
POL Ineligible	11
Potential Risk to Others	434
Potential Risk to Self	353
Provided False Information	47
Unsafe Firearm Use and Storage	22
Violent	80
Because a firearms licence application refusal can be influenced by more than one factor, the sum of refusal reasons will exceed the annual total of firearms licence applications refused.	

KEEPING CANADA SAFE - LICENSING

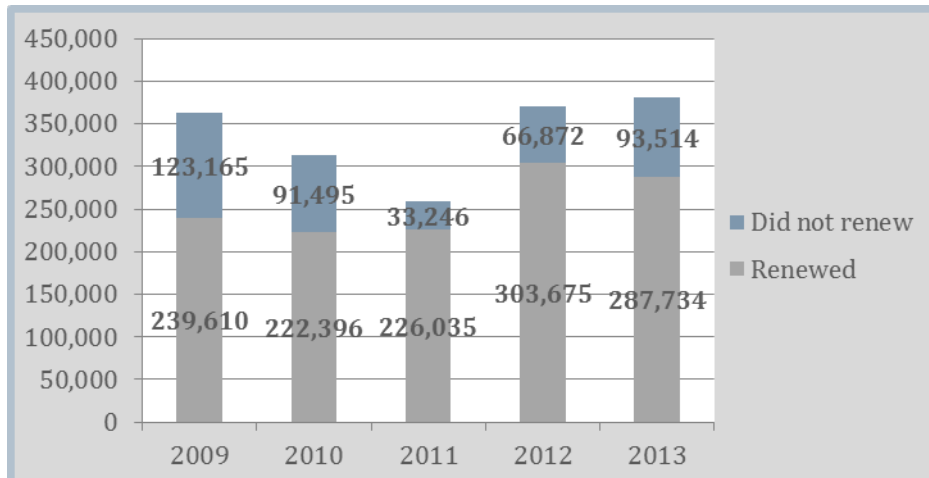
Firearms Licence Renewals

As stated in the *Firearms Act*, firearms licence holders are responsible for renewing their licences prior to expiry. The CFP facilitates this by sending out populated renewal application forms approximately 90 days prior to the expiry of the current licence.

As a condition of their licence, licensees are legally required to advise the CFP of any address changes. This also helps ensure they receive these renewal reminders and pre-populated application forms.

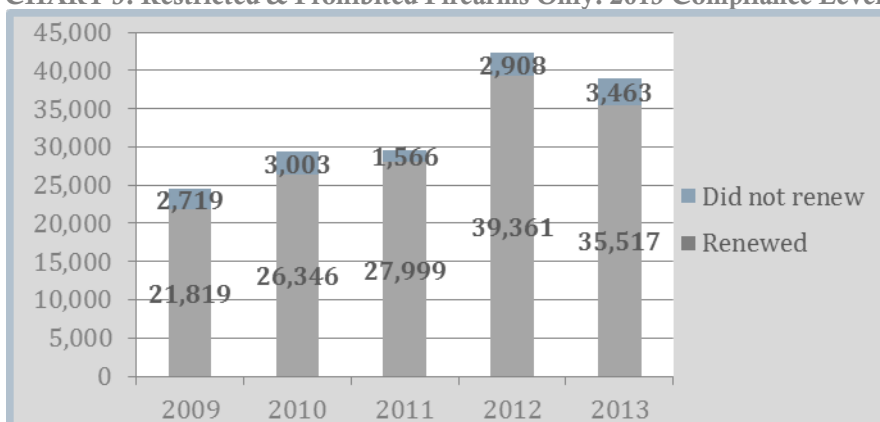
In 2013, a total of 381,248 individual licences (POL and PAL) expired.

CHART 2: Firearms Licence Renewals* (POL & PAL)



*Annual totals reflect all individual firearms licences that expired and all that were renewed. Since non-restricted firearms are not registered, the CFP can only assess whether individuals are in possession of restricted or prohibited firearms. Individuals who did not renew their licences may not be in possession of firearms; therefore, non-renewal does not necessarily mean non-compliance.

CHART 3: Restricted & Prohibited Firearms Only: 2013 Compliance Levels



KEEPING CANADA SAFE - LICENSING

Continuous Eligibility Screening of Firearms Licence Holders

The Canadian Firearms Information System (CFIS), the CFP's main database, contains current and historical firearms licence-holder data. If a licence holder is involved in an event involving violence (or other offences specified in Section 5 of the *Firearms Act*) reported via the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC), a Firearms Interest Police (FIP) report is automatically generated and sent to the relevant CFO for review.

Province/Territory	Total
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,203
Prince Edward Island	288
Nova Scotia	4,480
New Brunswick	4,934
Quebec	33,585
Ontario	38,553
Manitoba	7,200
Saskatchewan	2,651
Alberta	6,428
British Columbia	15,308
Yukon	220
Northwest Territories	16
Nunavut	12
Total	115,878

Firearms Licence Revocations

Under the *Firearms Act*, CFOs are authorized to revoke a firearms licence based on their assessment of the licence holder's risk to public safety. In 2013, there were 2,497 firearms licence revocations. This number is increasing annually, possibly as a result of greater judicial and prosecutorial awareness regarding criminal offences, which require firearm prohibitions and licence revocations.

Year	Revocations
2009	2,085
2010	2,231
2011	2,365
2012	2,421
2013	2,497
Total	11,599

Reason	Revocations
Court-Ordered Prohibition / Probation	1,744
Domestic Violence	53
Drug Offences	24
Mental Health	292
POL Ineligible	9
Potential Risk to Others	537
Potential Risk to Self	556
Provided False Information	6
Unsafe Firearm Use and Storage	45
Violent	86
Because a firearms licence revocation can be influenced by more than one factor, the sum of revocation reasons will exceed the annual total of firearms licence revocations.	

KEEPING CANADA SAFE - LICENSING

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

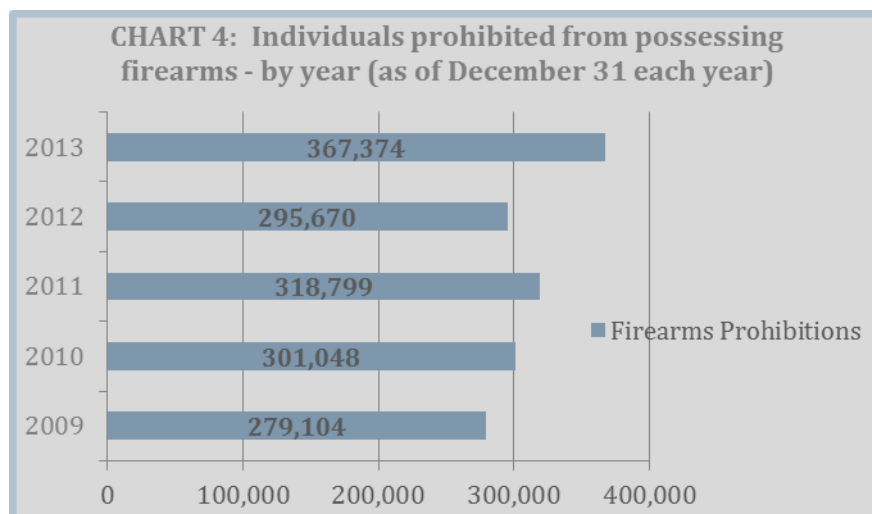
Firearms Prohibitions

Courts must notify CFOs of all firearms prohibition orders in their jurisdiction. Firearms-licence applicant screening includes checking if an applicant is subject to a prohibition order. This would result in the refusal of a firearms licence application, unless a court specifically orders one to be issued for certain purposes such as sustenance hunting.

If an individual who holds a firearms licence is subject to a prohibition order, the CFO is notified by the court, and their licence is revoked. They are instructed by the court to turn in their licence and dispose of all firearms.

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

Prohibition orders are recorded in the Canadian Police Information Centre and form part of the background and continuous-eligibility checks for firearms licences. Information from municipal, provincial and federal courts also contributes to the assessment of an individual's potential threat to public safety. A match against a court order may result in the CFO conducting an investigation that could lead to a revocation or a change in licence conditions.



Note: Data courtesy of CPIC

KEEPING CANADA SAFE - LICENSING

Firearms Businesses

Organizations and businesses that manufacture, sell, possess, handle, display or store firearms or ammunition must have a firearms business licence.

As of December 31, 2013, there were 4,619 firearms businesses in Canada licensed under the *Firearms Act*, not including carriers and museums. Of these, 2,384 are licensed to sell ammunition only.

Employees who handle firearms for these businesses must also have firearms licences, and all restricted and prohibited firearms in a business inventory must be registered. Chief Firearms Officers perform periodic business inspections to confirm safe and lawful business practices and firearms storage.

The CFP offers businesses the option of performing firearms registrations and transfers through the Program's web-based services.

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*. They are also authorized to inspect firearms businesses and individuals who collect firearms, where they feel it is warranted, to ensure safe storage and handling requirements are met and ultimately ensure public safety.

Shooting Clubs and Ranges

Standards set out in the *Firearms Act* are intended to ensure the safety of members, visitors and the general public in relation to shooting clubs and ranges. CFP-published range guidelines and periodic inspections by the CFP's Firearms Officers promote safety at these locations.

The CFP's Range Safety and Use-of-Force Advisor office develops and implements initiatives to support the continuous improvement of Canadian shooting ranges. They develop and implement range safety measures and review range safety inspection reports to improve guidelines, procedures and forms used by firearms officers for shooting range inspections. They also review range applications, conduct quality control checks, provide feedback on inspection reports and request or conduct follow-up inspections as required.

As of December 31, 2013, there were approximately 1,350 shooting ranges in Canada.

KEEPING CANADA SAFE - REGISTRATION

Registrar of Firearms / Canadian Firearms Registry

The CFP Registrar of Firearms (the Registrar) is responsible for maintaining the Canadian Firearms Registry. These responsibilities include:

- issuing, refusing to issue or revoking firearm registration certificates for businesses and individuals
- issuing, refusing to issue or revoking carrier licences
- administering the *Public Agents Firearms Regulations*
- maintaining the Firearms Verifiers' Network

All firearms can be categorized into one of three classes:

- **Non-restricted** firearms, typically shotguns and rifles
- **Restricted** firearms, predominantly handguns
- **Prohibited** firearms*, mostly assault rifles, particular types of handguns and fully automatic firearms

*Prohibited firearms cannot be newly imported into Canada by individuals.

All restricted and prohibited firearms in Canada must be registered. Before a firearm can be registered for the first time, it must be verified. Verification is the process of confirming the identification and class of a firearm.

Firearm Class	2012	2013
Restricted	576,847	659,387
Prohibited	190,910	188,552
Total	767,757	847,939

Registration applicants must have a firearms licence allowing them to possess that class or category of firearm. There is no fee for registering a firearm and registration certificates have no expiry date. When a registered firearm is transferred to a new owner, the Registrar will issue a new registration certificate. The record must be changed to reflect both the cancellation of registration from the original owner and the new registration to the new owner.

The registration certificate number links a firearm to its licensed owner in the CFIS database. As with firearms licences, a subset of this information can then be accessed by law enforcement agencies via the Canadian Police Information Centre.

KEEPING CANADA SAFE - REGISTRATION

TABLE 13: Firearm Registrations (individual and business) - by Region 2013

Province/Territory	Restricted firearms	Prohibited firearms	Total
Newfoundland and Labrador	5,354	1,500	6,854
Prince Edward Island	2,056	743	2,799
Nova Scotia	18,426	6,872	25,298
New Brunswick	13,786	4,645	18,431
Quebec	64,942	30,480	95,422
Ontario	233,727	79,301	313,028
Manitoba	24,941	5,687	30,628
Saskatchewan	34,977	7,848	42,825
Alberta	134,010	24,530	158,540
British Columbia	122,986	26,134	149,120
Yukon	2,156	374	2,530
Northwest Territories	1,180	313	1,493
Nunavut	306	38	344
Other	540	87	627
Total	659,387	188,552	847,939

Firearms Registration Application Refusals and Certificate Revocations

The Registrar revokes registration certificates and, if applicable, refuses firearms registration applications whenever a firearm owner's licence has been revoked or has expired.

In 2013, there were 134 firearm registration applications refused and 70,027 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 further action.

TABLE 14: Number of Registration Refusals and Revocations

Year	Applications Refused	Certificates Revoked	Total
2009	407	195,543	195,950
2010	311	163,909	164,220
2011	181	89,805	89,986
2012	163	54,222	54,385
2013	134	70,027	70,161
Total	1,196	573,506	574,702

Note: For 2012 and 2013, numbers include non-restricted firearms for Quebec, but not for other provinces.

Firearms Assistance and Outreach to the Public and Police

The CFP is committed to communicating with the public and distributing firearms safety information through a variety of media. The goal is to improve public safety by expanding awareness of, and compliance with, the safe use, handling and storage of firearms.

Outreach activities by the CFP also serve to inform the public on how the Program works with and assists front-line police and other law enforcement agencies in their fight against the criminal use of firearms. In 2013, the CFP maintained its commitment to partnerships with various Canadian law enforcement organizations by distributing firearms-related information in bulletin, brochure, card and fact-sheet formats to facilitate the enforcement of firearm-related crimes. To enhance service to police, the CFP has also designated toll-free telephone lines and e-mail addresses exclusively for police.

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. In 2013, the CFP portion of the RCMP website received 5,137,000 “unique page views” – individual page viewings, not including multiple viewings within the same session.

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

In 2013, the CFP call centre received 1,026,270 telephone inquiries and approximately 20,974 e-mail inquiries, including firearms application status checks and requests for information and forms.

CFP representatives also attended hunting, outdoor and gun shows across the country, distributing firearms-safety materials and responding in person to requests for firearms information.

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. 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.

These reports about potential threats to public safety are routed to CFOs for appropriate action.

Outreach to Aboriginal Communities

The CFP provides firearms services to Aboriginal people and their communities. As described on pages 9 and 10, the CFP is committed to continually improving the quality and variety of these services through partnerships and agreements with Aboriginal organizations.

COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The Canadian Firearms Program is focused on the responsible and safe use of firearms. Through safety training, licence applicant screening and continuous licence eligibility checks, the CFP helps to ensure the safe use and possession of firearms.

The CFP also provides a comprehensive suite of specialized firearms services to law enforcement partners across Canada, to help prevent and investigate firearm-related crimes. When investigators need help tracing or identifying a firearm, preparing or executing a search warrant involving firearms or organizing firearm exhibits for courts, they can rely on the knowledge and experience of CFP firearm experts.

The Canadian Firearms Program, Canada's centre for firearms expertise, is committed to firearms safety and combatting firearms crime.

