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REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FIREARMS ACT
TO THE SOLICITOR GENERAL
BY THE REGISTRAR

CANADIAN
FIREARMS
REGISTRY



A NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE
OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE



Royal Canadian
Mounted Police

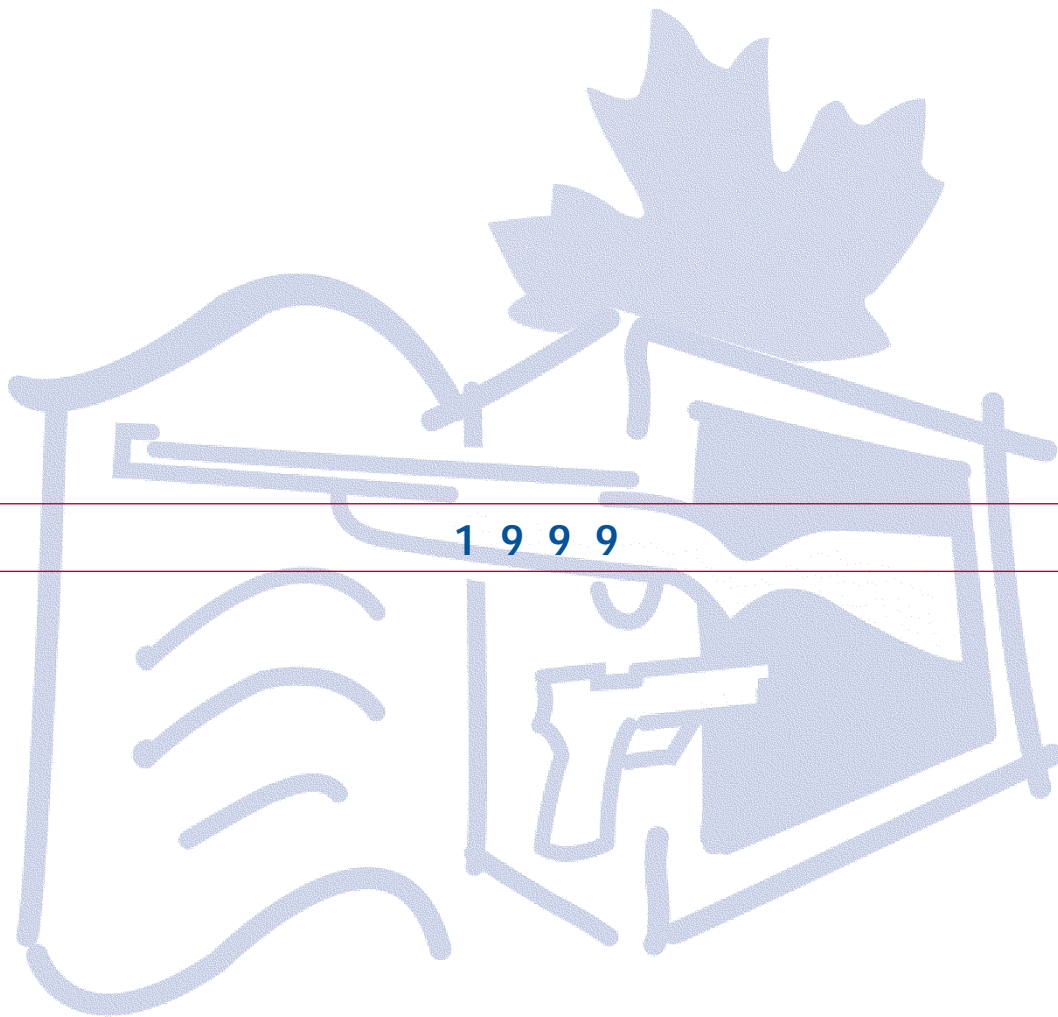
Gendarmerie royale
du Canada

Canada

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Commissioner's Foreward

As we enter the new millennium, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian Firearms Registry (CFR) is proud to continue to serve the Canadian law enforcement community and all Canadians. The RCMP endorses the Firearms Program through the CFR, which provides support to all users of the Canadian Firearms Registration System.

The *Firearms Act* requires the registration of all firearms in Canada by January 1, 2003. The RCMP CFR oversees the accurate identification and registration of these firearms for the Canadian public. The RCMP believes that the new legislation will contribute to the enhancement of police officer and public safety through the prevention of offences, the ability to deter crime and the additional accountability that emanates from the added registration requirements.

We are confident that, in working with our federal and provincial partners, we are ensuring our commitment to safe homes and safe communities is met.




J.P.R. Murray
Commissioner



From the Registrar of the Canadian Firearms Registry

As the Registrar of the Canadian Firearm Registry (CFR), it is my responsibility to provide an Annual Firearms Report to the Solicitor General of Canada. The statistics found in this Report relate only to the administration of the *Firearms Act* and not to firearms used in criminal acts. Statistics Canada compiles information regarding firearms used in criminal activity.

The CFR is maximizing the use of leading edge technology to facilitate the registration process. The Canadian Firearms Registration System (CFRS) is pivotal to the accuracy of records for registered firearms in Canada. As in any new process, the CFR and the Department of Justice (DOJ) has introduced several modifications within the last year to enhance the efficiency of this system. In addition, the Firearms Reference Table (FRT) — an electronic firearm encyclopedia — continues to expand with the acquisition of more data and images.

The National Verifiers Network has seen an increase of 124 per cent in volunteers over the past year. This means that more volunteers are available to assist individuals and businesses across Canada in registering their firearm(s). The volunteers verify the firearm(s) and ensure that the description of the firearm(s) is accurate.

The “Outreach Program” is designed to help firearm owners complete their registration applications and to reduce the error rate on submissions. The CFR is committed to this Program and, in cooperation with the DOJ and Chief Firearms Officers, has already held many events to inform the public on registering their firearms.

As more Canadians register their firearms, I am working closely with my provincial and federal partners to continue providing support to the Firearms Program.

I take great satisfaction in knowing that our CFR employees remain committed to providing quality service to our clients and that they are proud to work toward the improved safety of the Canadian public.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J.A.J. Buisson'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

J.A.J. Buisson, Superintendent
Registrar
Canadian Firearms Registry



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1. Introduction

Canada has recently made substantial revisions to federal firearm legislation to ensure better control of the availability, use and misuse of firearms. This year's annual report outlines the results of these legislative changes which have affected the way individuals are licenced, firearms are registered, and licences and authorizations are issued. Bill C-68 entitled "*An Act Respecting Firearms and Other Weapons*" but more commonly referred to as the *Firearms Act* came into effect on December 1, 1998. This new *Act* amends Part III of the *Criminal Code* and other statutes including the *Criminal Records Act*, *Customs Tariff Act*, the *Explosives Act*, *Export and Import Permit Act*, the *National Defence Act* and the *Young Offenders Act*.

Because of these changes, this year's annual report is different from previous years. The statistical focus of this year's report reflects the administration of the *Act* since its inception. While the issues surrounding the examination of new legislation may be relatively clear, it is important to note that the statistics presented in this report reflect data that was not previously measured, or measured in a different way. In consequence, it is difficult and in some cases impossible to compare data from this annual report to that of previous reports.

Legislative Changes: The *Firearms Act*

The *Firearms Act* establishes a licencing system for the possession and acquisition of firearms, controls authorizations for transporting, carrying, importing and exporting firearms, and governs the universal firearms registration system. While licencing provides information on firearm owners, registration data supplies information on the firearms. Under the new legislation, individuals must apply for a licence as well as register all firearms. Individuals may apply for both the licence and registration certificate at the same time, but the registration cannot be processed until the licence has been issued.

Licences

The *Firearms Act* requires individuals to have a licence to acquire and possess all firearms. Firearm licences became available on December 1, 1998. Individuals are required to

obtain a licence by January 1, 2001 for the firearms they possess or wish to acquire. Licences must be renewed every five years. Until they expire, valid Firearm Acquisition Certificates (FAC) are deemed to be licences under the *Firearms Act*.

There are five types of individual licences:

- licences for possession only (current adult owners);
- licences to acquire and possess firearms (adults);
- Possession Licences for minors;
- licences to obtain crossbows (adults); and
- Non-Resident 60-day Possession Licences (Non-Restricted only) for visitors (adult) to Canada.

Registration

The registration of all firearms began on December 1, 1998. Previous legislation required only restricted / prohibited firearms (mostly grandfathered handguns) to be registered. The new legislation requires that all firearms have to be registered. To register a firearm, owners need either a valid Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC), or a licence that covers the class of the firearm being registered. By January 1, 2003 all firearms have to be registered and all restricted and prohibited firearms (with grandfathered rights) must be re-registered.

Authorization to Transport/Authorization to Carry

Authorizations are required to carry, transport and store firearms. Under the *Firearms Act* former 'Permits to Carry', 'Permits to Convey' and 'Permits to Transport' have been replaced by 'Authorizations to Carry' and 'Authorizations to Transport'. Authorizations to Transport and Carry are only required for restricted or prohibited firearms and can only be issued by the Chief Firearm Officer of each province or territory.

Data sources

The majority of statistics presented in this report were collected from the previous database, the Restricted Weapons Registration System (RWRS), the new database, the Canadian Firearms Registration System (CFRS) and the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system.

RWRS/CFRS

Under previous legislation the Restricted Weapons Registration System (RWRS) was used to store information on restricted / prohibited firearms and owners. Legislative changes required a database that would incorporate additional requirements. As a result, the Canadian Firearms Registration System (CFRS) was developed.¹

CPIC

The Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) System uses computerized files and telecommunications technology to store, retrieve and communicate information. The CPIC system provides the law enforcement community with four data banks of operational information: The Investigative, Identification, Intelligence and Ancillary Data Banks.

Reference Period

This report covers the period from December 1, 1998 to December 31, 1999 — 13 months. This period allows for an overview of the Program since its inception.

¹ Currently there is no data available for Nunavut Territory on either RWRS or CFRS. At present the CFRS directs Nunavut Territory postal codes to Northwest Territories.

2. History of the Registration of Firearms

Firearm legislation in Canada has changed over the past century to address public safety concerns. Controls on firearms have been part of the *Criminal Code* since 1892. For example, people were first required to have permits for carrying handguns outside of their homes in 1913. The first registration requirement concerning handguns was implemented in 1934. In 1951, the registration system for handguns was centralized under the Commissioner of the RCMP.

The categories of “firearm”, “restricted weapon” and “prohibited weapon”, were created between 1968-1969. This minimized the confusion over specific types of weapons and allowed the creation of specific legislation for each of the new categories.

In 1977, Bill C-51 (*The Criminal Amendment Act*) passed in the House of Commons. The two biggest additions were requirements for Firearms Acquisition Certificates (FAC) and requirements for Firearms and Ammunition Business Permits. These changes introduced a form of licencing for the first time.

Bill C-17 (*An Act to Amend the Criminal Code and Customs Tariff in Consequence Thereof*) was introduced in 1992. This bill introduced a mandatory requirement for safety training and expanded the application form so that applicants would provide more background information. The bill implemented rules for safe handling and safe storage of firearms, and required a more detailed screening check of FAC applicants.

In 1994 Bill C-68 (*An Act Respecting Firearms and other Weapons*) was introduced and received Royal Assent on December 5, 1995. The Bill called for these major changes:

- *Criminal Code* amendments providing harsher penalties for certain serious crimes where firearms are used;
- the creation of the *Firearms Act*, taking the administrative and regulatory aspects of the licencing and registration system out of the *Criminal Code*;

- a new licencing system to replace the FAC system; and
- registration of all firearms, including long arms.

The phase-in of the *Firearms Act* and regulations began on December 1, 1998. This legislation strikes a balance between the interests of firearm owners and the objective of increased public safety across Canada.

3. The New Firearms Program and Its Partners

The *Firearms Act*, which came into force on December 1, 1998, establishes a licencing system for the possession and acquisition of firearms and a universal firearms registration system.

The Chief Firearms Officer, for each province and territory is responsible for the decision making and administrative work related to the issuance of licences.

The Registrar is responsible for the decision making and administrative work related to the issuance of registration certificates.

To handle incoming data in the new program, centralized processing sites were established in two locations. One is in Miramichi, NB, which processes licences and registrations. The other is in Montreal, QC and processes licences for that province. There are also three call centers, the main branch located in Miramichi, NB, one in Montreal, QC and one in Victoria, BC.

Individuals must obtain a licence by January 1, 2001. This licence must be renewed every five years. Owners will be able to hold either a “possession-only” licence or a “possession and acquisition” licence. There are separate licence categories for minors, non-residents and for those (adults only) who wish to acquire a crossbow.

The registration of all firearms began on December 1, 1998. At that time businesses had to register their previously recorded, restricted and prohibited firearms; however they have until January 1, 2003, to register their non-restricted firearms. Individuals have until January 1, 2003, to register all their non-restricted firearms and re-register their previously registered restricted / prohibited firearms. Newly acquired or imported firearms must be registered upon transfer or import.

In support of the *Firearms Act*, the Canadian Firearms Registration System (CFRS), a computerized data base system, was created. The CFRS is a fully integrated, automated information system that provides administrative and enforcement support to all partners involved in the licencing of firearm owners, the registration of firearms, and the issuance

of authorizations related to restricted / prohibited firearms. This data is made available to all policing agencies through the Canadian Police Information Center (CPIC).

The Registrar of Firearms is responsible for establishing, administering and maintaining the CFR, as well as meeting the day-to-day operational needs. The Registry is responsible for the issuing of all registration certificates, as well as maintaining and supporting this collection of data. The CFRS replaced the Restricted Weapons Registration System (RWRS) which was a registry of restricted / prohibited firearms. During the transitional period (pre 2003), the CFR will continue to support work required under the previous legislation.

The CFR is also responsible for:

- the Issuance of International / Inter-provincial Carrier Licences;
- the Development and the management of the Firearms References Table (FRT);
- the National Firearms Verifier Network — the verification of details on each firearm;
- responding to queries on firearms and firearms registration related matters and providing certified copies / affidavits of this information;
- the refusal or revocation of Registration Applications / Certificates; and
- providing information / guidance to individuals, businesses as well the policing community.

The Registrar will also be responsible for the issuance of Authorizations to Import / Export (Commercial), and will maintain the inventories of Public Service Agencies (Police Agencies, Government Departments), when these provisions are brought into force.

4. Mission

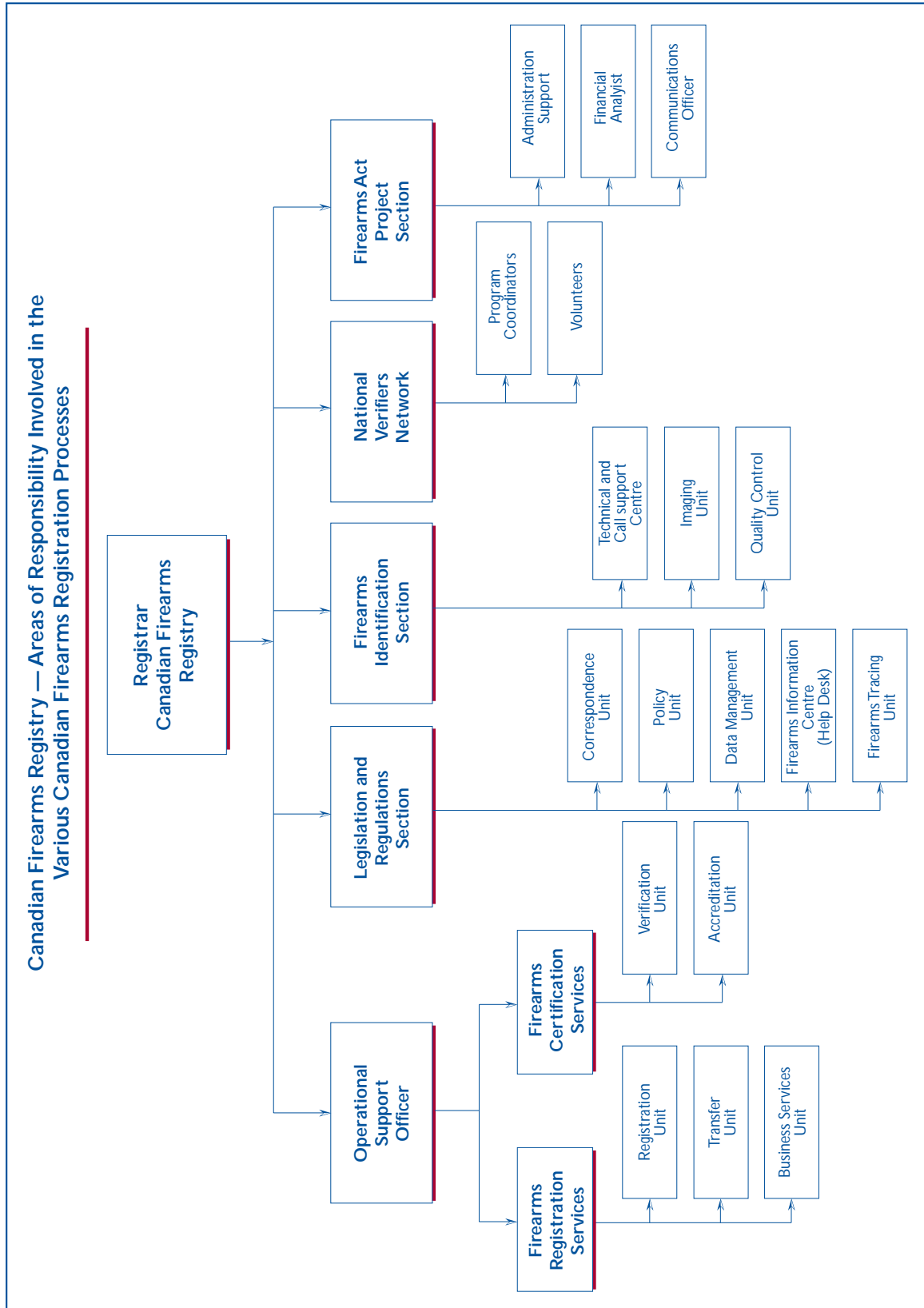
The Canadian Firearms Registry is dedicated to the enhancement of public safety through the accurate identification and registration of firearms in partnership with all Canadians.

Mandate

As part of the National Police Services, the Canadian Firearms Registry is mandated to:

- establish, administer and maintain Canada's Firearms Registry;
- issue business authorizations to import and export firearms;
- issue international and inter-provincial firearm carrier licences;
- assist the law enforcement community in tracing firearms including those used in the commission of crime;
- support the law enforcement community in curtailing the illegal movement of firearms;
- establish, administer and maintain a national network of firearms verifiers to accurately identify firearms;
- work with the law enforcement community to prevent persons who pose a threat to public safety from possessing or having access to firearms;
- develop and maintain the Firearms Reference Table to enhance the accuracy of identifying firearms and other regulated items; and
- provide an Annual Report to the Solicitor General of Canada on the administration of the *Firearms Act*.

5. An Overview of the Registry and Processes



Organization Chart

See previous page.

Registration Services

Registration Services is comprised of the Registration Unit, the Transfer Unit and the Business Services Unit. These units determine if a firearms registration certificate or a carrier licence will be issued.

Also, upon commencement date, they will be issuing Import/Export licences for firearms.

- **The Registration Unit** staff is responsible for the carrying out of the pre-Bill C-68 legislation as it relates to registration of restricted/prohibited firearms. They also perform quality assurance checks on firearm applications under the current legislation, prior to approving and issuing a firearm registration certificate.
 - *The Certificate Amendment sub unit* was created within the Registration Unit to investigate discrepancies and make modifications to registration certificates when required.
- **The Transfer Unit** provides an expedited firearm registration “telephone transfer” service to members of the general public in partnership with Federal/Provincial associates, private/public organizations and police agencies.
- **The Business Services Unit** is comprised of three sub units as follows:
 - *The Client Services sub unit* – provides initial firearm registration services to a vast array of clients such as firearms business dealers, policing agencies, museums, interdepartmental and provincial partners, private/public agencies in order to expedite the process.

- *The Import/Export sub unit* – is responsible for the various processes related to the approval and issuance of authorizations to import/export firearms, when legislated to commence. Staff will be working closely with our federal/provincial partners to ensure compliance.
- *The Carrier Licences sub unit* – is responsible for the issuance of Firearms Carrier Licences for International and Inter-Provincial carriers. Before they issue a licence to a company, this unit conducts a full investigation of the carrier and those individuals who have a direct relationship to the company, or who may have access or control over the shipment/storage of firearms. The carriers include airlines, couriers and moving/general transportation companies.

Certification Services

There are two units in Certification Services: the Verification Unit and the Accreditation Unit.

- **The Verification Unit** reviews all firearm applications from individuals that have not met eligibility checks within the Canadian Firearms Registration System (CFRS). These checks apply to the physical firearm description; its validity, and potentially its association with the previous legislation (re-registration). When they find errors or omissions, they analyze them for cause and take appropriate action to ensure proper processing of the application.
- **The Accreditation Unit** is responsible for performing Canadian Police Information Center (CPIC) queries on all individuals who have made an application to acquire or possess a firearm. An automated application known as the Accreditation System assists in determining whether the applicants applying for a Licence for Possession or for Possession and Acquisition are eligible. The system conducts these queries in a “Batch” mode, which is checked against the CPIC database. All information that is red-flagged is returned to the Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) of the respective applicant, who analyses it further and makes a determination.

Legislation and Regulations Section

The Legislation and Regulations Section is comprised of five units: the Correspondence Unit, the Policy Unit, the Data Management Unit, the Firearms Information Centre and the Firearms Tracing Unit.

- **The Correspondence Unit** makes recommendations regarding amendments to, the *Criminal Code*, Firearm Legislation and Regulations, and the RCMP Operational, Administration and CPIC manuals as they pertain to firearms. This unit is also called on to refuse ineligible registration, transfer and carrier applications, as well as revoke certain registration certificates and carrier licences. This unit also responds to queries from the public, federal departments, police agencies, Chief Firearms Officers and other RCMP sections.
- **The Policy Unit** is responsible for ensuring that all CFR policies and procedures clearly reflect the provisions of the *Firearms Act*, *Criminal Code* and Regulations and are consistently followed. As well, the unit makes recommendations regarding amendments to, the *Criminal Code*, Firearms Legislation and Regulations. The Policy Unit also provides support to crown counsel in reference hearings.
- **The Data Management Unit** provides data management support to the operational units within the CFR. The staff in this unit also issues Public Agency Identification Numbers (PAIN), runs off line queries, (such as information that users could not obtain through regular channels), compiles statistics for a variety of firearm activities, prepares maps for the National Verifiers Network and prepares the Annual Report for the Solicitor General.
- **The Firearms Information Centre** works as a Reception Desk for incoming firearm inquiries to the Registry. This unit also answers questions over the telephone from the general public, and law enforcement agencies in relation to legislation and other relevant issues.

- **The Firearm Tracing Unit** traces firearms, prepares affidavits for court appearances, and researches and analyses firearms-related matters for law enforcement agencies.

Firearms Identification Section

The Firearms Identification Section has three Units: the Technical and Call Support Centre, the Imaging Unit and the Quality Control Unit.

- **The Technical and Call Support Centre** provides technical identification information on firearms, ammunition and prohibited devices to the Canadian Firearms Program, police agencies, businesses and the National Verifiers Network. This section also helps with the verification process of firearm applications and is responsible for the development, maintenance and quality control of the information in the Firearms Reference Table (FRT).
- **The Imaging Unit** is responsible for enhancing raw digital photographs of firearms following established procedures and standards for the FRT.
- **The Quality Control Unit** ensures that the technical content of FRT records meet the set standards.

National Verifiers Network (Special Acknowledgement)

The **National Verifiers Network** brings together operational and administration services for Provincial and Regional Coordinators, to support, manage and maintain a system of volunteer verifiers.

- The National Verifiers Network serves the public, and provides an accurate means of quality control. The duties of an Approved Verifier are to confirm the existence of a firearm, compare the existing firearm description to the Firearms Reference Table (FRT) and ensure that the information on the registration application is identical to the description provided in the FRT.

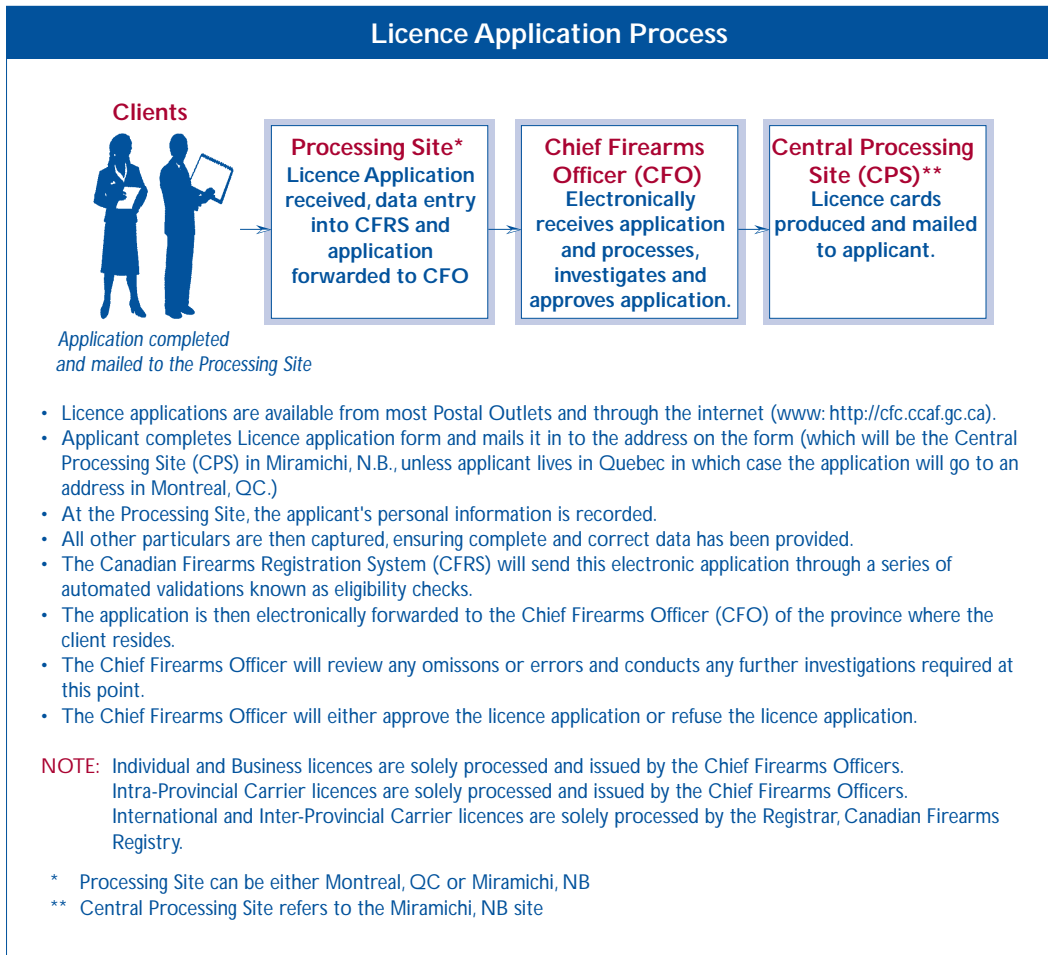
- As of December 1, 1998, restricted and prohibited firearms in a business inventory must be verified and registered. All firearms newly imported by businesses or individuals must go through the verification process when they enter the country. After January 1, 2003, all firearms have to be verified before they are transferred for the first time.
- The National Verifiers Network, at present, consists of a National Coordinator, 13 office personnel, 9 Provincial Coordinators, 16 Regional Coordinators, 13 Zone Coordinators (Ontario only) and approximately 3400 volunteer verifiers across Canada. When they successfully complete the training program, the Registrar issues the volunteers Approved Verifiers certificates that are recognized by all partners in the Firearms Program. The success of the Verifiers Network and the accurate registration of firearms are due in a large part to the successful contribution of these volunteers. They provide valuable assistance to the public while increasing the efficiency and accuracy of information that is entered into the Canadian Firearms Registration System.

Firearms Act Project Section

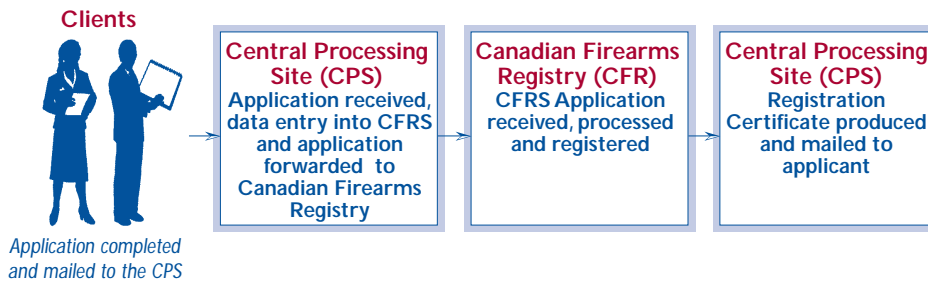
The **Firearms Act Project Coordinator** is responsible for liaison with various departments within the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Department of Justice, to ensure that the Firearms Project, as it relates to the RCMP, is progressing according to plan.

The Firearms Act Project Section is comprised of an Administrative Support Section, Financial Analyst and a Communications Officer.

- **The Administrative Support Section and Financial Analyst** perform a multitude of administrative tasks, and provide forecasting, budgeting, contracting and procurement services to the Canadian Firearms Registry.
- The **Communications Officer** is responsible for preparing information packages and other products to encourage better understanding of the *Firearms Act*.

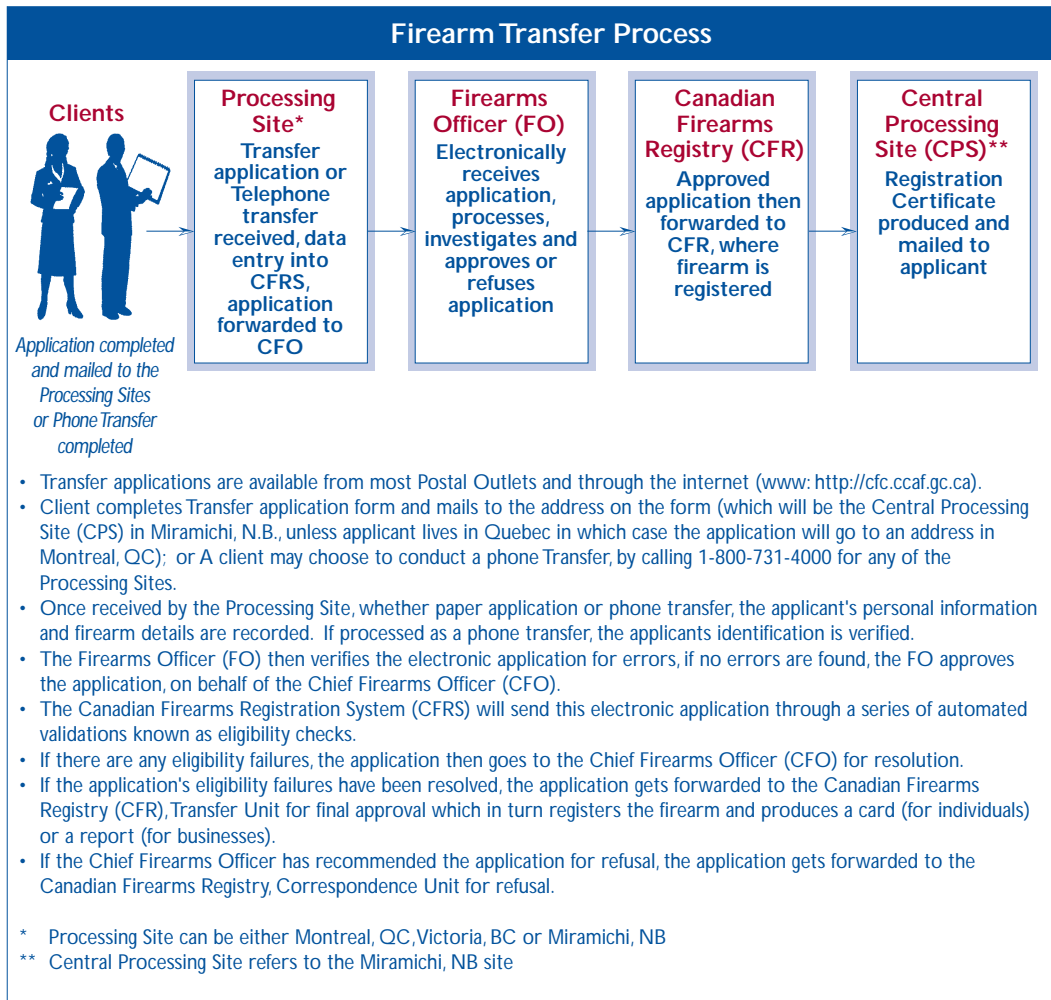


Firearm Registration Process



- Firearm Registration applications are available from most Postal Outlets and through the internet ([www: http://cfc.ccaf.gc.ca](http://cfc.ccaf.gc.ca)).
- Applicant completes Firearm application form and mails it in to the address on the form (which will be the Central Processing Site (CPS) in Miramichi, N.B.
- At the Processing Site, the applicant's personal information is recorded.
- All other particulars are then captured, ensuring complete and correct data has been provided.
- The Canadian Firearms Registration System (CFRS) will send this electronic application through a series of automated validations known as eligibility checks, also verifying the firearm description against the Firearms Reference Table (FRT) for completed or partial matches.
- The system will then forward this electronic application to the Canadian Firearms Registry (CFR) where it will either forward any eligibility check failures to the Verification Unit for analysis and / or correction; or it will forward applications that pass eligibility to the Registration Unit for approval, which in turn registers the firearm and produces a card (for an individual) or report (for a business). As a result of failed eligibility the application may be forwarded to the Correspondence Unit for refusal.

NOTE: Firearm Registration applications for businesses are solely processed and issued through the Canadian Firearms Registry.



Focus 1999: Firearms Tracing

The Canadian Firearms Registry became involved in tracing firearms in 1985. The Tracing Program was developed to help law enforcement agencies in investigating crimes involving firearms, by providing information on the current and previous owners of these firearms.

Firearm tracing is the process of tracking the chronological history of a firearm that comes into the possession of a law enforcement agency during an investigation. The weapon can be tracked from the manufacturer/importer to a firearm dealer and potentially to the individual purchaser. Firearms are traced only at the request of a law enforcement agency. There are two types of traces: *urgent* and *routine*.

- A trace is considered *urgent* when the firearm was used in a crime of violence such as a homicide, assault, or armed robbery. The information is essential for police to apprehend or hold a suspect and/or if they require the information to obtain a search warrant.
- A trace is considered *routine* when a firearm is the subject of a less serious matter, for example if someone finds a firearm and turns it in to police custody.

There has been a significant increase in tracing requests since a Core Group (made up of federal/provincial law enforcement community) was formed in 1997 to increase awareness of the illegal movement of firearms. The group traveled the country, making presentations, to sensitize members of the law enforcement community to the illegal movement of firearms and the benefits of tracing. Law enforcement agencies across Canada have recently increased their requests for firearm tracing.

The information obtained from traced firearms, provides valuable information on the illegal movement of firearms. Investigators and data analysts will have a better understanding of illegal firearms movement in Canada through tracing firearms and analyzing the results. The more unregistered firearms that are traced, the better informed we are on the types of firearms that are being used by criminals and being seized by law enforcement agencies across Canada.

Traced firearms can provide the following information:

- Elapsed time between date of purchase and date of seizure:
This indicates the time it takes a firearm to be bought and resold for criminal purposes. In years past the time of seizure of a firearm was on the average 3 to 4 years. In recent years the time of seizure has been as little as 5 days from the date of purchase.
- History of firearm to first retail sale:
Shows the geographic movement of a firearm and identifies source origins.
- Previous number of traces attributed to these dealers:
Would identify possible suspect dealers. For example, if multiple firearms are traced back to the same dealer, this would indicate they may be a source of illegal firearms.
- Name of first individual owner:
Would identify possible suspect suppliers or importers of illegal firearms into Canada.
- Multiple purchase information:
Would identify firearms smuggled or distributed illegally into Canada.

When a trace request comes in, the first step is to determine whether the firearm in question is **registered** or **unregistered**.

- **Registered in Canada:** Through the Restricted Weapons Registration System (RWRS), Canadian Firearms Registration System (CFRS) and the microfilm collector, restricted and prohibited firearms can be traced back from the present registrant to the first time the firearm entered the system. The requester is provided the registration information on the firearm.
- **Not Registered in Canada:** If the firearm was manufactured or imported through the United States, it can be traced through the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (BATF). A Request for Tracing Firearms Outside Canada form is completed and submitted to The National Tracing Center. The BATF does not have an automated registry of firearm owners at their disposal; therefore in order to trace

a firearm, members of BATF have to contact the manufacturer or importer to establish the firearm's buyer. When they receive the reply, they send a copy of the Firearms Trace Summary to the requesting agency.

- **Not Registered in Canada/Not Manufactured or Imported through the U.S.:** If the firearm was manufactured outside of North America and not imported through the United States it can be traced through Interpol back to the country in which it was manufactured.

In 1997 the Tracing Unit of the Canadian Firearms Registry initiated Project Cyclone. This was a project where firearms seized between 1996 and 1999 by Canada Customs and Revenue Agency would be traced, and the information from these traces would be used to determine the types of firearms being illegally brought into Canada, as well as the source of these firearms. A large number of trace requests in 1999 can be directly attributed to Project Cyclone. Some of these firearms have been seized within days of being purchased outside of Canada.

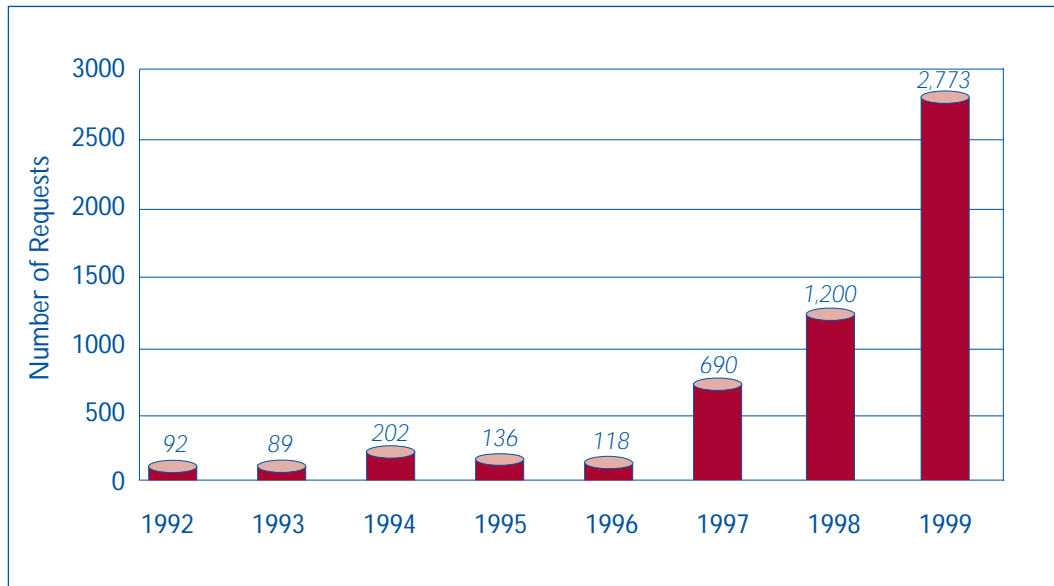
Police Agencies have found many benefits in having a Firearm Trace done through the Tracing Unit of the Canadian Firearms Registry.

These benefits include:

- direct access to all Canadian Firearms Data Bases;
- assistance in identifying seized firearms using our qualified Firearms Technicians, our Firearms Reference Table and our Central Forensic Firearms Lab;
- up-to-date information on the types of firearms used by criminals in Canada, and on illegal movement of firearms; and
- provides leads to investigators and affidavits of the firearms in question for court purposes.

Chart 1 presents the number of requests for tracing received from 1992 until 1999.

Chart 1: Tracing Requests Received 1992-1999



Source: Canadian Police Information Center (CPIC)

In 1992, the firearms tracing unit received 92 requests to trace a firearm. Between 1996 and 1997 the number of trace requests increased from 118 to 690. The main reason for this rise was that in 1997, a Core Group was formed to sensitize the law enforcement community to the illegal movement of firearms and the benefits of tracing. Due to heightened awareness of the program, there was a 131% climb in the number of requests since 1997 with a continued rise in 1998 and 1999. There were 660 of the 2773 trace requests in 1999 that can be directly attributed to Project Cyclone and are also partly responsible for the increase.

Fact: The main reasons for unsuccessful tracing of firearms is because they either have no serial number or because a manufacturer did not keep records.

Data Sources Used by Tracing Unit

Include RWRS, CFRS, CPIC, BATF, INTERPOL

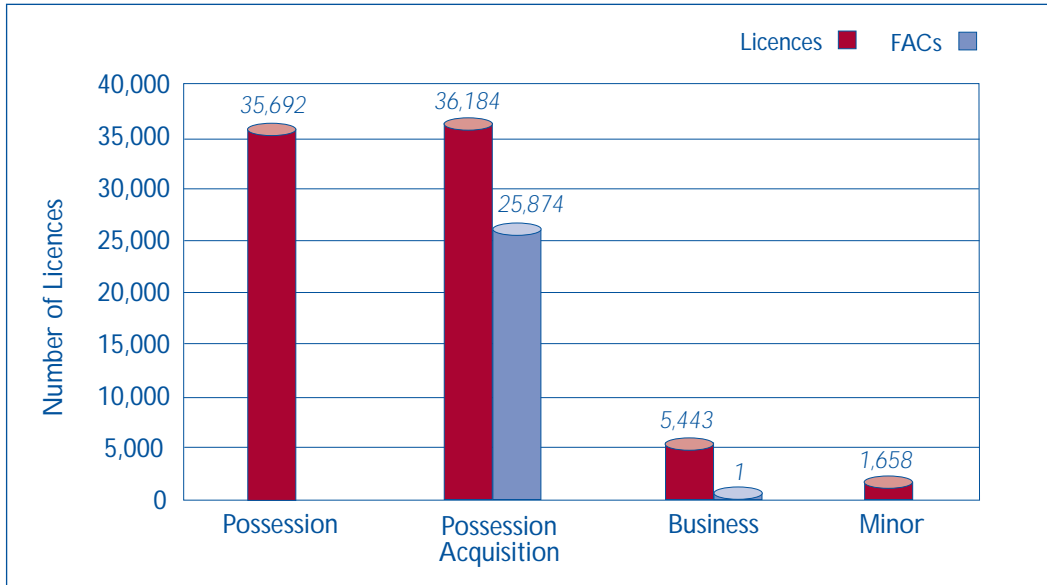
6. The Year in Review

This section presents a statistical overview of a proportion of the work performed by the Canadian Firearms Program since the inception of the *Firearms Act*. The first section presents an overview of licences issued, refused and revoked, including a breakdown of licence types. The second section presents an overview of firearm registrations, as well as information on registrations that have been refused and/or revoked. The third section presents data in the Restricted Weapons Registration System (RWRS) and the fourth section presents Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) System data.

Licences

As previously stated, under new legislation all individuals are required to obtain a licence to possess and/or acquire firearms by January 1, 2001. A licence is valid for a period of five years. Until the implementation of the *Firearms Act* is complete and previous Firearm Acquisition Certificates expire, Firearm Acquisition Certificates are to be deemed a Possession Acquisition licence under the *Firearms Act*.

Chart 2 presents a breakdown of licences issued by Type, between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999.

Chart 2: Breakdown of Licences issued by Type

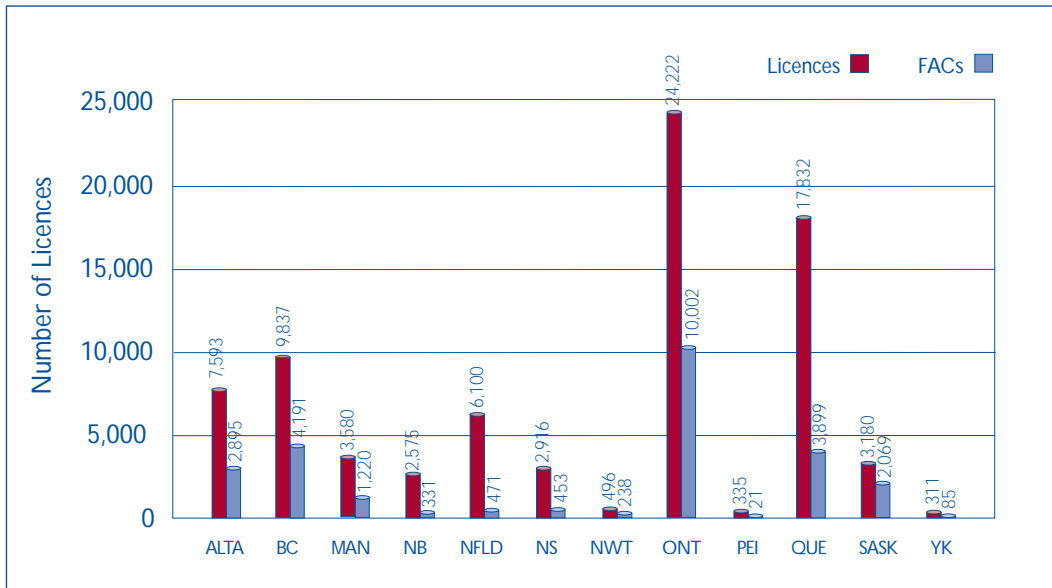
Source: Canadian Firearms Registration System (CFRS)

There were a total of **104,852** Licences (including FACs) issued between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999. The majority of licences issued (69%) were issued under the *Firearms Act* while the remaining 31% were Firearm Acquisition Certificates received prior to December 1, 1998 but processed and issued after December 1, 1998. Of the licences issued under the *Firearms Act* the majority were Possession and Acquisition licences (36,184), and Possession licences (35,692). The remaining licences were Business / Museum licences (5,443) and Minor licences (1,658). Of the FACs issued, all but one (business licence) were individual licences (25,874).

NOTE: All FAC applications were received prior to December 1, 1998. A proportion of these FAC applications were processed after this date as backlog.

Chart 3 presents a provincial breakdown of all licences, based on licences issued (includes Possession, Possession and Acquisition, Minors and Business/Museum) under the *Firearms Act* and FACs (Bill C-17) between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999.

Chart 3: Provincial Breakdown by Licences and FACs



Source: Canadian Firearms Registration System (CFRS)

The above chart shows that the majority of licences were issued in Ontario (24,222) and Quebec (17,832), while Prince Edward Island (335), Yukon (311) and North West Territories (496) issued the fewest licences. Ontario also had the highest number of FACs issued (10,002), while Prince Edward Island and Yukon issued the fewest FACs.

Fact: Minors

Under the new legislation a minor (an individual aged 17 and under) can apply for a Minor's Possession licence. In the past year a total of 1,658 Minor's Possession licences were issued.

Business Activity

Table 1 presents a breakdown of business activities based on the 5,443 licences issued between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999.

**Table 1: Provincial Breakdown of Business Activities
Based on 5,443 Business Licences Issued**

| Activity | ALTA | BC | MAN | NB | NFLD | NS | NWT | ONT | PEI | QUE | SASK | YK |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| Retail/Wholesale | 153 | 177 | 85 | 105 | 82 | 93 | 97 | 446 | 11 | 507 | 151 | 11 |
| Manufacturing | 2 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Possession | 29 | 24 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 21 | 1 | 294 | 5 | 46 | 8 | 1 |
| Auction | 5 | 11 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 23 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Entertainment | 3 | 66 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 26 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Pawned firearms | 17 | 17 | 13 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 9 | 20 | 0 |
| Museum | 5 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| Showing firearms | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Ammunition | 481 | 416 | 244 | 269 | 389 | 208 | 89 | 959 | 30 | 1145 | 426 | 15 |
| Gun-smith | 71 | 94 | 30 | 38 | 22 | 57 | 4 | 246 | 6 | 214 | 50 | 5 |
| Storing Weapons | 35 | 51 | 24 | 4 | 5 | 15 | 10 | 145 | 5 | 93 | 23 | 4 |
| Other | 43 | 74 | 20 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 254 | 3 | 112 | 33 | 0 |
| Total | 844 | 957 | 443 | 432 | 509 | 413 | 212 | 2451 | 64 | 2147 | 719 | 36 |

Source: Canadian Firearm Registration System (CFRS)

Note: For an explanation of business activities, see Appendix B.

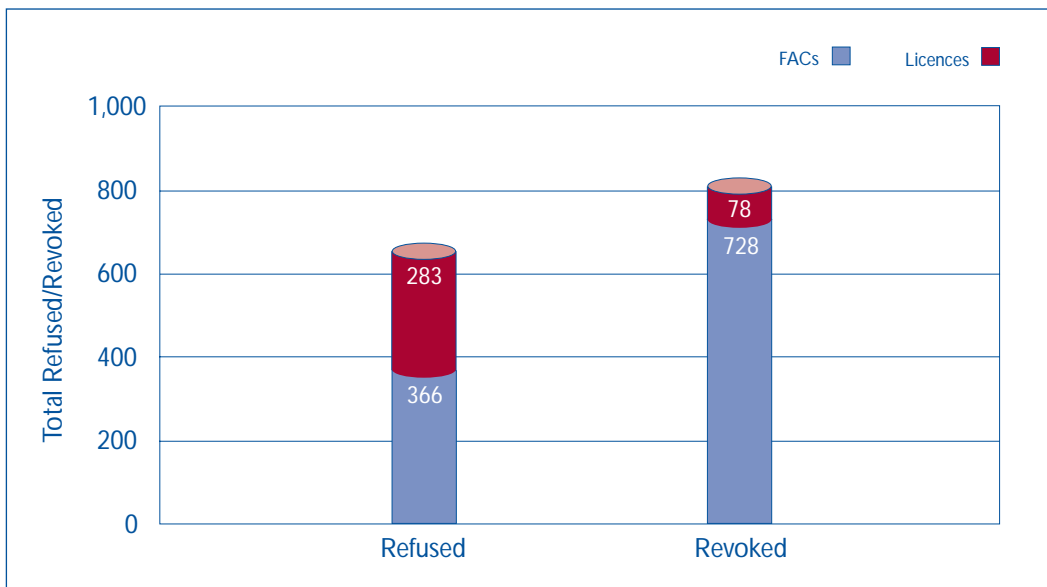
A business licence may cover multiple activities. Table 1 shows that between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999 there were a total of **9,227** business activities based on the 5,443 business licences issued.

Licences Refused and Revoked

A licence application can be refused if the applicant does not meet the conditions set forth in the *Firearms Act*. A licence is revoked if the holder contravenes any condition attached to it, or if the holder is no longer eligible to hold the licence. A Chief Firearms Officer may revoke a licence for any good and sufficient reason according to the *Firearms Act*.

Chart 4 presents the number of applications refused or licences/FACs revoked between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999. For the purpose of this chart, “Licences” refers to all licence types including Possession, Possession and Acquisition, Minors, Business/Museum. “FACs” refers to Individuals but also includes Businesses under the previous legislation (C-17).

Chart 4: Licences/FACs Refused and Revoked

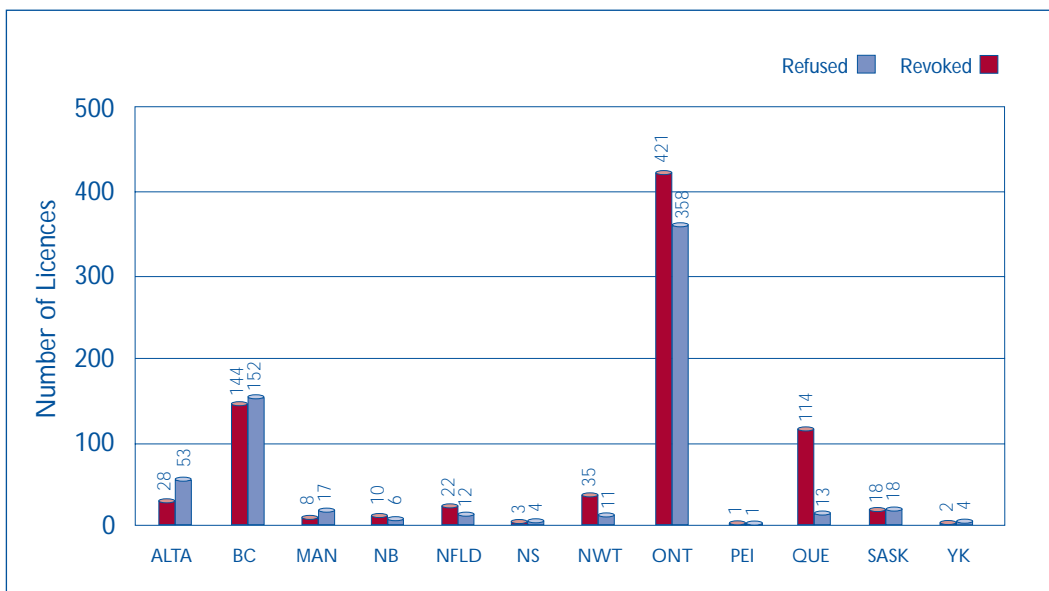


Source: Canadian Firearms Registration System (CPIC)

Between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999 there were a total of 1,455 Licence and FAC applications refused or revoked. All of these, including FACs, took place after December 1, 1998 under the new legislation. A total of 806 licences/FACs were revoked and 649 applications were refused. Of the 649 applications refused, 283 were licence applications while 366 were FAC applications. Of the 806 licences/FACs revoked, 78 were licences and 728 were FACs revoked.

Chart 5 provides a provincial breakdown of Licences refused and revoked between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999.

Chart 5: Provincial Breakdown of Licences/FACs Refused and Revoked



Source: Canadian Firearms Registration System (CFRS)

As shown in the above chart, Ontario had the highest number of licences refused (358) and revoked (421). British Columbia had the second highest number of licences refused (152) and revoked (144). Nova Scotia and Yukon had the least amount of refusals and revocations. The number of refusals compared to the revocations were consistent throughout the provinces and territories except for Quebec where the incidence of revocations were much higher than refusals (114 vs. 13).

Carrier Licences

Carrier Licences allow a transportation business to carry firearms or regulated items under the Act.

Between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999 there were a total of 173 carrier licences issued; 115 were for International licences, 46 for Inter-provincial licences, and 12 were issued for Intra-provincial licences. One carrier licence was refused.

Authorizations to Transport / Authorizations to Carry

As previously mentioned under the new *Act*, Authorizations to Transport have replaced the previous Permits to Transport and Permits to Convey. Authorizations to Carry have replaced Permits to Carry. Authorizations to Transport allow restricted and prohibited firearms to be transported between two or more specific places. The Authorization to Transport may be valid for up to three years (for target shooting), and may be renewed by telephone. Authorizations to Carry allow individuals to carry restricted firearms and certain handguns for the purposes of protection of life and lawful occupation/profession, if the individuals meet the parameters set out in the relevant regulations.

Revoking Authorizations to Transport / Authorizations to Carry

Authorizations to Transport or Carry are revoked if the licence to possess any of the firearms referred to in the authorization is revoked, expires, or the licence holder's physical or mental state changes and the individual becomes a danger to themselves or to others. The one significant difference between these two types of authorizations, is that when a person's Authorization to Carry, is refused or revoked, they do not have the automatic right to argue the case in Provincial Court.

Table 2 presents a provincial breakdown of the number of Authorizations to Transport issued, refused and revoked.

Table 2: Authorizations to Transport from December 1, 1998 to December 31, 1999

| Province | Issued | Refused | Revoked |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Alberta | 6838 | 1 | 50 |
| British Columbia | 5938 | 1 | 0 |
| Manitoba | 1760 | 2 | 22 |
| New Brunswick | 1118 | 1 | 0 |
| Newfoundland | 330 | 1 | 7 |
| North West Territories | 225 | 0 | 8 |
| Nova Scotia | 1263 | 0 | 0 |
| Nunavut | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Ontario | 18863 | 2 | 50 |
| Prince Edward Island | 209 | 0 | 1 |
| Quebec | 5879 | 5 | 0 |
| Saskatchewan | 2077 | 1 | 54 |
| Yukon | 281 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 44792 | 15 | 192 |

Source: Department of Justice (Canadian Firearms Centre — CFC)

As shown in Table 2, between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999 there were a total of 44,792 Authorizations to Transport issued, 15 refused and 192 revoked. Ontario had the highest number of Authorizations to Transport (18,863) while Prince Edward Island and the Territories had the lowest numbers.¹ Quebec had the highest number of refusals for Authorizations to Transport while Saskatchewan had (54), Alberta (50), and Ontario (50) had the highest number of Authorizations revoked.

¹ Nunavut became a Territory April 1, 1999 consequently issued numbers are very low for the previous two tables.

Table 3 presents the number of Authorizations to Carry issued, refused and revoked between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999.

Table 3: Authorizations to Carry from December 1, 1998 to December 31, 1999

| Province | Issued | Refused | Revoked |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Alberta | 746 | 0 | 6 |
| British Columbia | 864 | 0 | 1 |
| Manitoba | 64 | 3 | 0 |
| New Brunswick | 167 | 0 | 0 |
| Newfoundland | 36 | 0 | 0 |
| North West Territories | 19 | 1 | 0 |
| Nova Scotia | 264 | 1 | 0 |
| Nunavut | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ontario | 3056 | 6 | 13 |
| Prince Edward Island | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Quebec | 660 | 6 | 1 |
| Saskatchewan | 119 | 0 | 1 |
| Yukon | 39 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 6054 | 18 | 22 |

Source: Canadian Firearms Centre (CFC)

As indicated in Table 3 there were 6,054 Authorizations to Carry issued between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999, there were 18 Authorizations refused and 22 revoked. Over fifty percent (3,056) of the total were issued in Ontario, while Prince Edward Island and the North West Territories had the lowest number of Authorizations to Carry issued (20 and 19). Ontario and Quebec each had 6 refusals and Ontario had the highest number of Authorizations revoked (13).

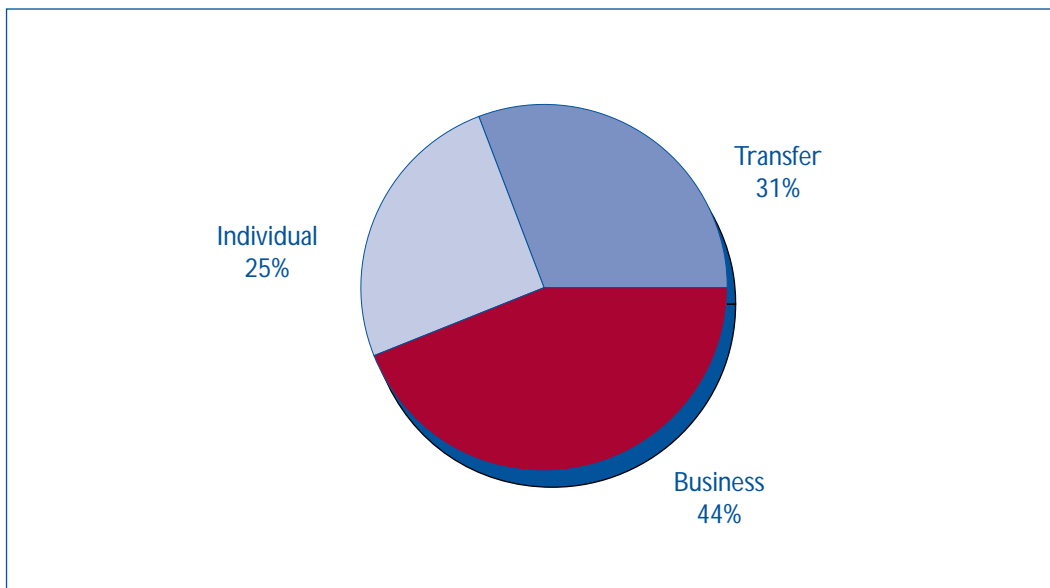
Registrations

As previously stated, due to legislative changes all firearms must now be registered. Also, in order to register a firearm, an owner needs either a licence that covers the class of the firearm being registered or a valid Firearms Acquisition Certificate. Individuals have until January 1, 2003 to register all firearms and re-register previously registered restricted/prohibited firearms that they possessed on December 1, 1998.

- Between December 1, 1998 (when the new *Act* became law) and December 31, 1999 there were a total **298,516** registration certificates issued. This figure represents the total number of registration certificates issued including multiple registrations for the same firearm, such as Transfers.

Chart 6 presents a breakdown of registration certificates by application type between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999.

Chart 6: Breakdown of Registration Certificates by Application Type

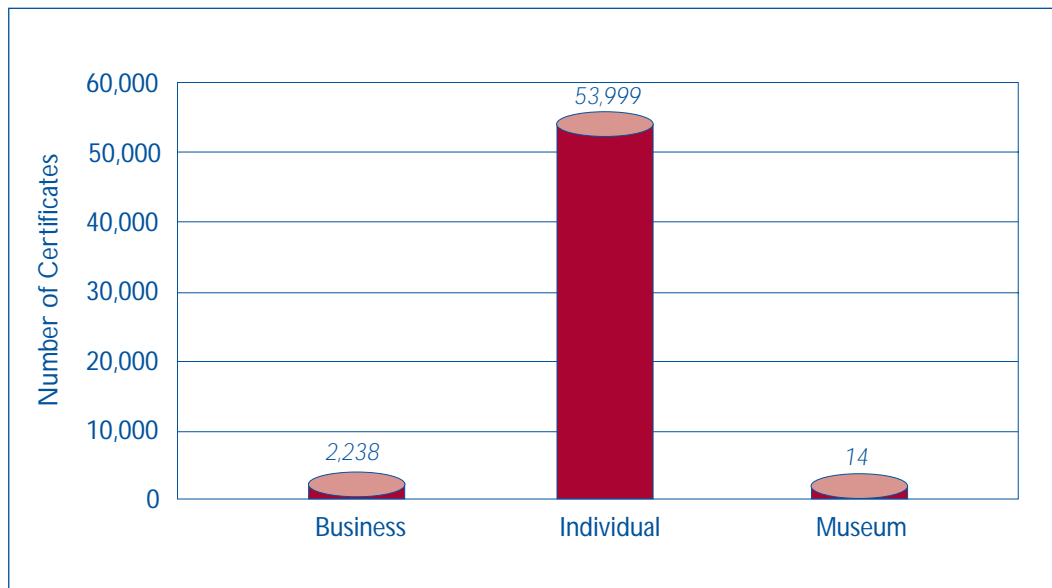


Source: Canadian Firearms Registration System (CFRS)

As indicated above, almost half of the registration certificates 44% were issued for businesses, 31% for transfer of firearms and 25% for individual registrations. Firearm description changes accounted for less than 1% of the total registration certificates issued.

Chart 7 presents a breakdown of type of licenced clients to whom a registration certificate was issued between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999.

Chart 7: Registration Certificates by Client Type



Source: Canadian Firearms Registration System (CFRS)

NOTE: Each figure is a unique count. If an individual or a business has been issued more than one certificate, the individual / business will only be counted once.

There were a total of 56,251 licenced clients to whom a registration certificate was issued between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999. Almost 96% of the certificates were issued to individuals (95.8%), 4% to businesses and less than one percent to museums.

- Between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999 there were a total of **246,143** actual firearms on CFRS with registration certificates issued. This figure does not include firearms that pass through the system several times as a result of transfers, change to firearm descriptions, etc. *An example of this would be a single firearm passing through several owners as a result of transfers.*

Between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999 there were a reported total of 89 firearms with a status of deactivated, 60 firearms with a status of destroyed and 595 with a status of exported.

Between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999 there were a reported total of 49 applications for restricted firearms imported by individuals.

Refusal to Issue and Revoking a Registration Certificate

The Registrar has a broad discretionary authority to revoke a registration certificate for any good and sufficient reason as per to the *Firearms Act*.

Upon being informed of a transfer that has not been authorized by a Chief Firearms Officer, the Registrar must also refuse to issue a registration certificate.

In some circumstances, the Registrar has no choice but to revoke a registration certificate.

When a person wants to renew licences to possess restricted firearms and prohibited handguns, it is mandatory that the applicant continue to use the restricted firearm or prohibited handgun for the specific purpose for which the licence was originally granted. If the Chief Firearms Officer determines that the firearm is no longer being used for that purpose, they must inform the Registrar. The Registrar must revoke the registration certificate for that firearm.

The Registrar must revoke a registration certificate if its holder violates any conditions attached to it. Violations might include:

- not reporting certain modifications to the Registrar within a set time period; and
- a firearm that does not bear a sufficiently distinctive serial number must bear its firearm identification number.

There are two situations in which a registration certificate is automatically revoked, by operation of law, without any decision being made by the Registrar:

- an individual who possesses a converted-automatic firearm must describe the manner in which the firearm has been altered in his or her application for a registration certificate. The registration certificate is automatically revoked when any further change is made to that alteration; and
- when a prohibition order takes effect against an individual, the registration certificate of any firearm that the individual is prohibited from possessing is automatically revoked.

Between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999 there were a total of 158 firearm transfers refused and 18 applications to register a firearm refused.

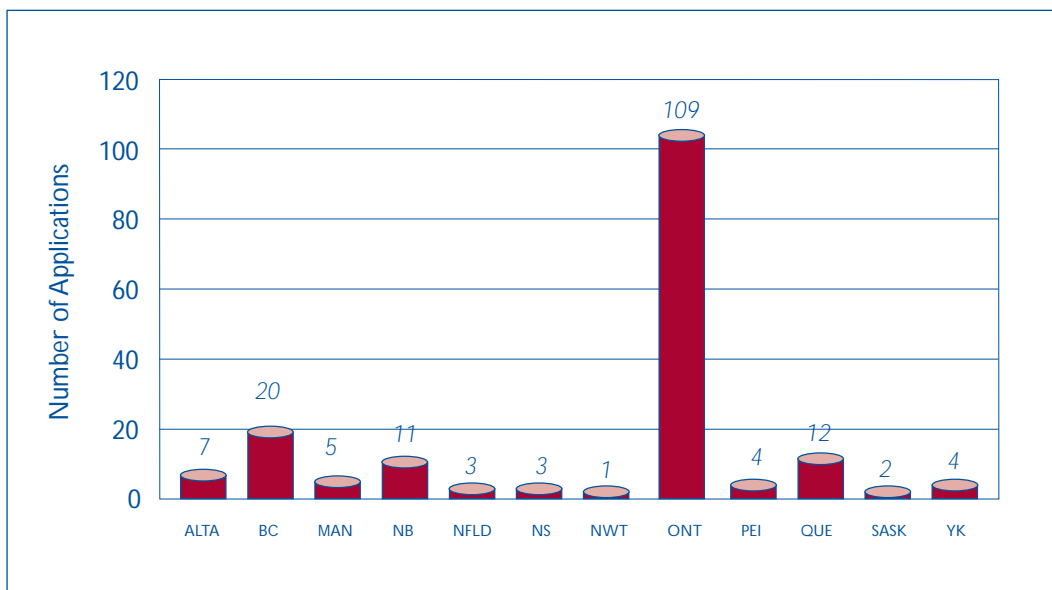
Amnesty

Between December 1, 1998 to December 31, 2000, The *Order Declaring an Amnesty Period* provides limited immunity, from certain offences under the *Criminal Code* relating to the simple possession of unregistered restricted firearm. These firearms must now be registered in accordance with the provisions of the *Criminal Code*. Individuals and businesses may turn in unregistered restricted firearms to a police officer or firearms officer for destruction or other disposal. Individuals who obtain a licence under the *Firearms Act* for the acquisition of restricted firearms may be allowed to register them.

Under the terms of the Amnesty, any new business that did not hold a business permit under the former Part III of the *Criminal Code*, will also be allowed to register previously unregistered restricted firearms as part of their business inventory, as long as they hold a valid business licence under the *Firearms Act*.

Chart 8 provides a provincial breakdown of the Amnesty Firearm applications received between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999.

Chart 8: Applications Received under Amnesty



Source: Canadian Firearms Registration System (CFRS)

Between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999 there were a total of 181 applications made under Amnesty. The majority of these applications (60%) were from Ontario. The remaining provinces and territories received less than 20 applications per province or territory.

Restricted Weapons Registration System (RWRS) (Information Stored in the Former Database)

Because the reference period of this report reflects the implementation stages of the new database (CFRS) and the *Firearms Act* is being phased in over a period of years, the previous database (RWRS) still holds a significant amount of information on restricted/prohibited firearms. In addition, applications received under the former legislation (C17) were still being entered into RWRS.

- As of December 31, 1999 there were still a total of 556,616 actual owners registered on RWRS.

Table 4 provides a breakdown of the owners registered on RWRS.

Table 4: Number of Actual Owners still Registered in RWRS

| Owner Type | Number |
|----------------------|---------|
| Individuals | 520,669 |
| RCMP Members | 18,236 |
| Dealers (Businesses) | 13,680 |
| Museums | 154 |
| Agencies | 3,877 |
| Total | 556,616 |

Source: *Restricted Weapons Registration System (RWRS)*

Note: This total represents the number of owners still registered on RWRS as of December 31, 1999 and dating back to 1934.

- As of December 31, 1999 there were 1,137,402 actual firearms (this figure does not include multiple registrations for the same firearm) and an overall total of 1,148,823 firearm registrations on RWRS (this figure represents the total number of registration certificates issued, including multiple registrations for the same firearm such as transfers).

Table 5 provides a breakdown of the firearms registered on RWRS as of December 31, 1999.

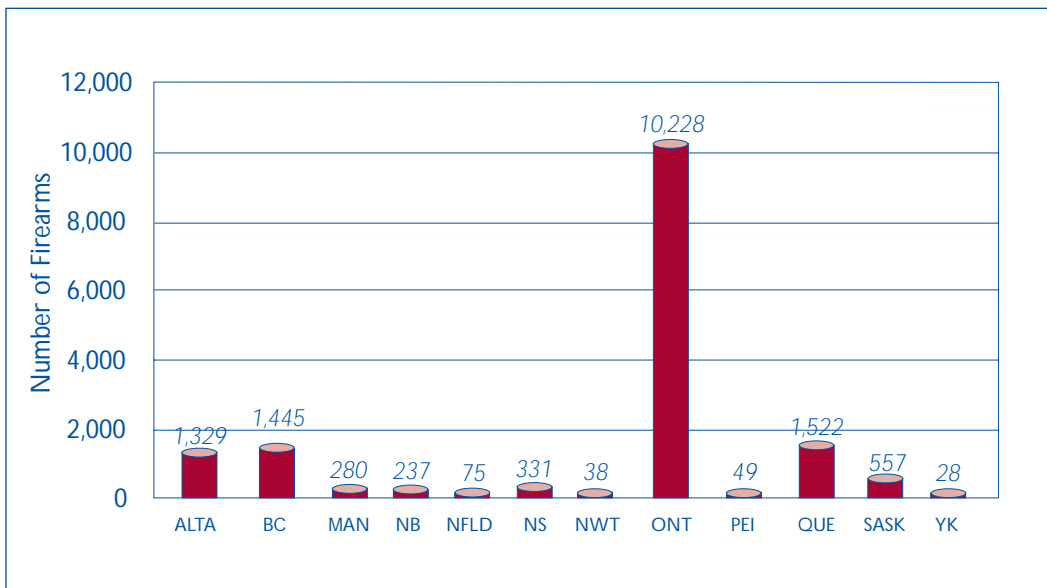
Table 5: Number of Actual Firearms still Registered on RWRS

| Owner Type | Number |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Individuals | 965,660 |
| RCMP Members | 4,557 |
| Dealers (Businesses) | 52,669 |
| Museums | 4,263 |
| Agencies | 121,674 |
| Total | 1,148,823 |

Source: Restricted Weapons Registration System (RWRS)

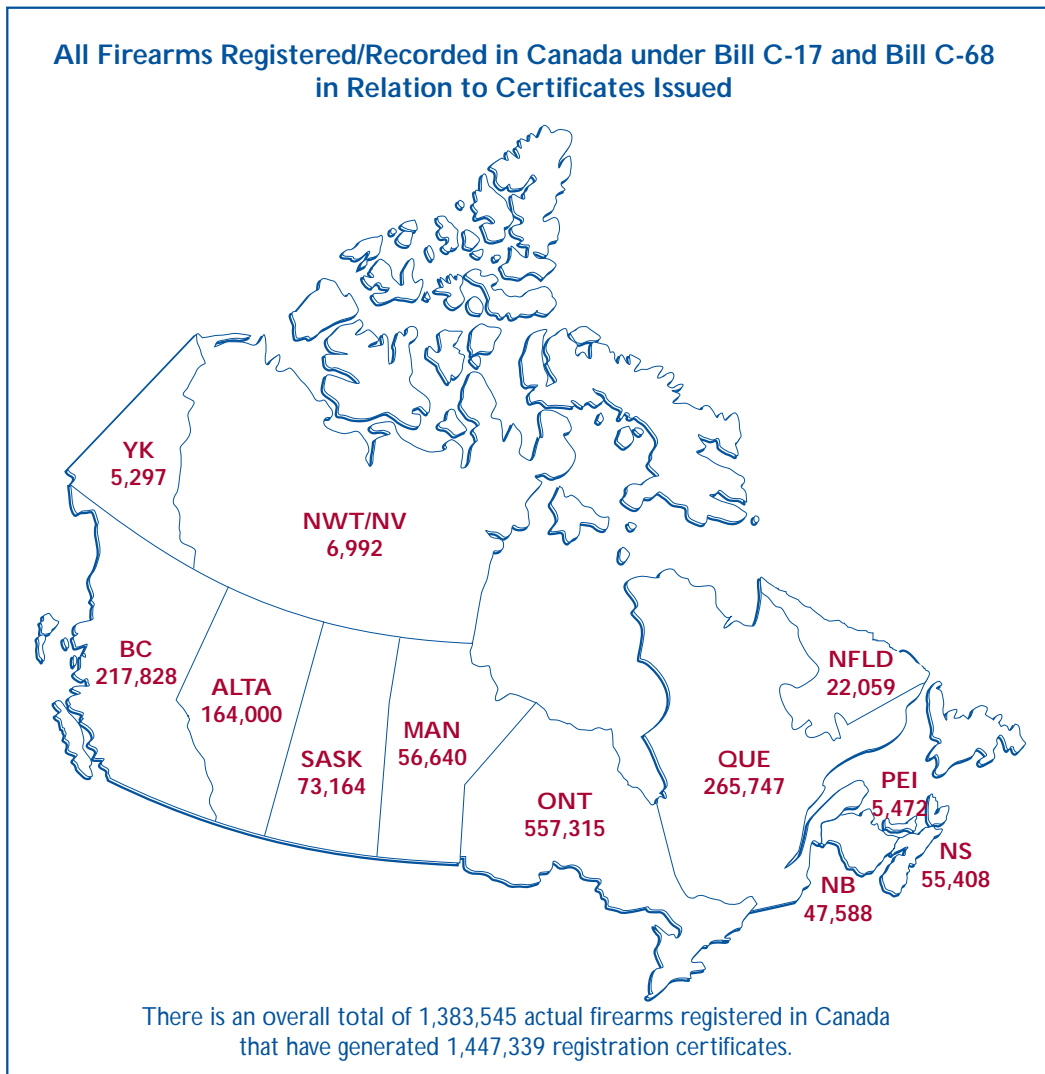
Chart 9 provides a provincial breakdown of the number of firearms registered in RWRS under the previous legislation (C-17) between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999.

Chart 9: Firearms Registered on RWRS after December, 1998



Source: Restricted Weapons Registration System (RWRS)

Between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999 there were a total of 16,119 firearms registered onto RWRS. As shown in Chart 9, Ontario had the highest number of 10,228 firearms registered in RWRS, while Yukon had the fewest firearms registered (28). The majority of these firearms were entered on RWRS during the first few months of 1999, as a backlog of applications were submitted under C-17 just before the implementation of C-68.



Produced by Data Management, Canadian Firearms Registry

Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) Data

The Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system uses a complex computer network to transmit information to accredited law enforcement agencies across the country. CPIC provides information on missing, stolen, pawned and/or loaned firearms as well as recovered firearms. CPIC also provides information on persons prohibited from having firearms.

Table 6 presents a provincial breakdown of the number and proportion of firearms reported stolen, missing and/or recovered.

Table 6: Number of Firearms Reported Stolen, Missing and Recovered

| Province | Stolen | | Missing | | Recovered | |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Alberta | 295 | 8.7 | 241 | 11.1 | 92 | 5.7 |
| British Columbia | 680 | 20.1 | 281 | 13.0 | 87 | 5.4 |
| Manitoba | 244 | 7.2 | 93 | 4.3 | 19 | 1.2 |
| New Brunswick | 95 | 2.8 | 91 | 4.2 | 4 | 0.2 |
| Newfoundland | 23 | 0.7 | 8 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.1 |
| North West Territories | 51 | 1.5 | 7 | 0.3 | 2 | 0.1 |
| Nova Scotia | 107 | 3.2 | 42 | 1.9 | 2 | 0.1 |
| Ontario | 860 | 25.5 | 1270 | 58.6 | 1122 | 69.2 |
| Prince Edward Island | 2 | 0.1 | 5 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.1 |
| Quebec | 780 | 23.1 | 80 | 3.7 | 273 | 16.8 |
| Saskatchewan | 233 | 6.9 | 40 | 1.8 | 18 | 1.1 |
| Yukon Territory | 8 | 0.2 | 8 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.1 |
| Total | 3378 | 100 | 2166 | 100 | 1622 | 100 |

Source: Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC)

- **Stolen:** the firearm is entered onto the system as stolen
- **Missing:** the firearm is lost or missing (this includes firearms that must be located by police agencies for investigative or other operational purposes). It should also be noted that the “missing” category includes “whereabouts unknown” because the owner moved and did not update his/her address.
- **Recovered:** the firearm has been recovered/found or seized.

The above table shows that there were a total of 3,378 firearms reported stolen, 2,166 reported missing and 1,622 recovered (found or seized) in 1999. Ontario had the highest number of incidents in each of the three categories. Ontario’s higher rates of reporting are also correlated with the higher number of firearms registered in Ontario.

Police statistics indicate that in 1999 there were more firearms reported stolen than missing in each province and territory except for Ontario and Prince Edward Island where there were a higher number of firearms reported missing than stolen.

Ontario has the highest number of firearms reported stolen (860) while Prince Edward Island and Yukon Territory have the lowest reporting 2 and 8 respectively. Over two thirds of the firearms reported stolen (68.7%) were stolen from Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. Ontario and Quebec have the highest number of firearms reported stolen (25% and 23%), followed by the Western provinces, and the Atlantic provinces and the Territories have the lowest rates of less than 3%.

The regional trend differs slightly with respect to firearms reported as missing. Ontario had the highest number of firearms reported missing (58.6%), while the Atlantic provinces and Territories had the lowest reported numbers of less than 1%. The number of firearms reported as missing for the remaining provinces were less than 10%, except for British Columbia (13%) and Alberta (11.1%).

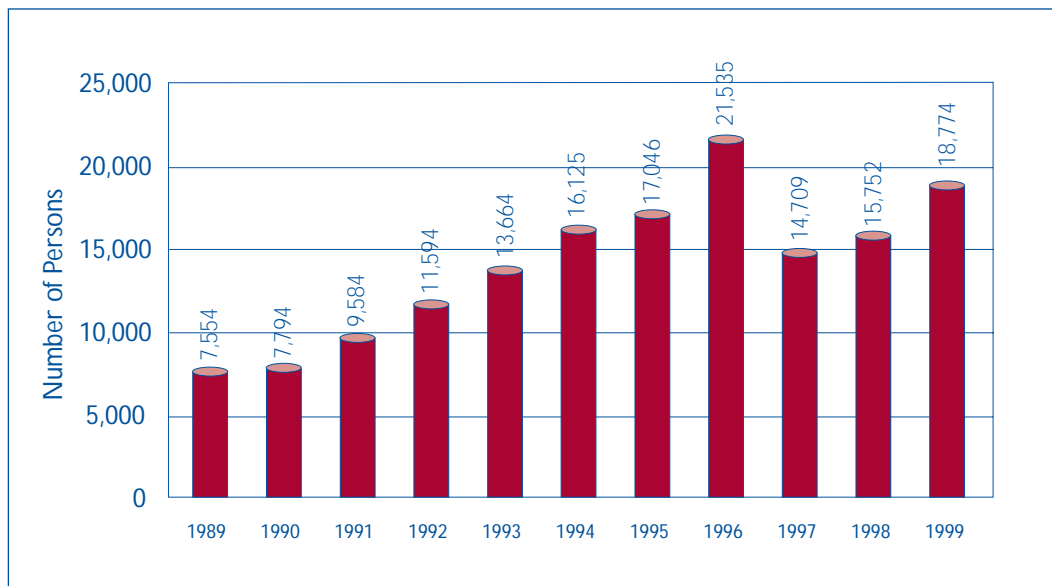
Persons Prohibited

Firearm prohibitions are entered onto CPIC based on the outcome of court hearings, probation decisions or pending a hearing. Knowledge of persons prohibited from possessing a firearm enhances the security of law enforcement officers as well as the overall community. The Chief Firearms Officers must also be advised of Prohibitions as per the *Firearms Act*. All of this contributes to the objective of safe home and safe streets.

A 'Prohibition' entry includes both a start date and an expiry date. When a prohibition order on CPIC comes to its expiry date, the entry is automatically removed. Expiry dates can be extended when additional information is received from the courts. In such cases, the agency that originally entered the prohibition order on CPIC modifies the entry. For CPIC system purposes, a prohibition order cannot be longer than a probation period. If this happens, a separate entry must be made under 'prohibited firearms' category.

Chart 10 shows the number of persons prohibited from possessing a firearm each year between 1989 and 1999. This chart represents yearly totals only, not cumulative totals.

Chart 10: Persons Prohibited from Possessing a Firearm 1989-1999

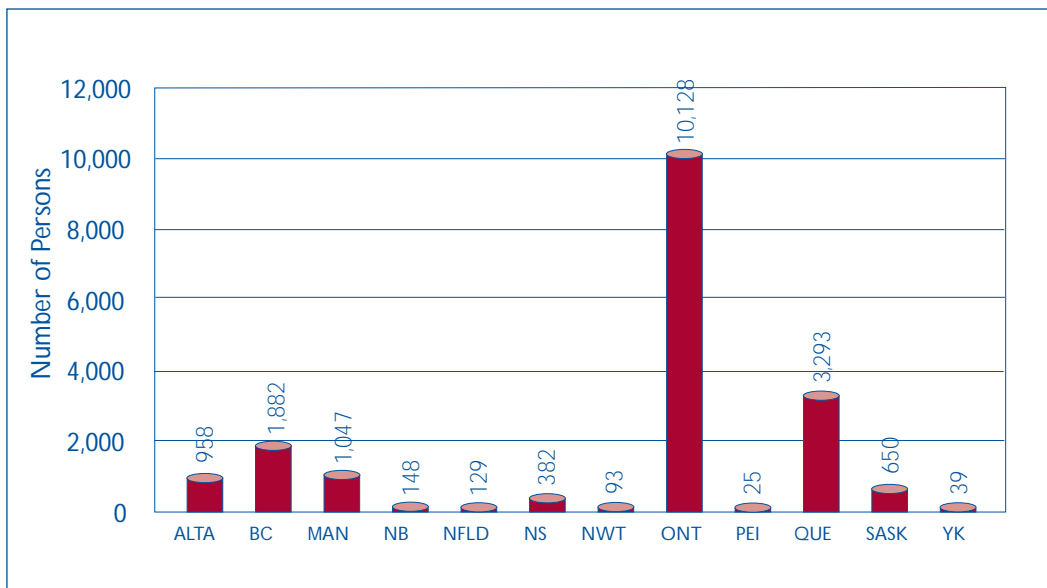


Source: Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC)

As shown in Chart 11, in the last ten years the number of persons prohibited from possessing a firearm has increased from 7,554 to 18,774. Between 1992 and 1996 there was a steady increase in the number of persons prohibited from possessing a firearm from 7,554 to 21,535. Between 1996 and 1997 there was substantial decrease in the number of prohibitions from 21,535 to 14,709. This decrease is the result of incorporating the expiration of prohibition orders as well as the reconciliation of data. Between 1997 and 1999 the number of persons prohibited has increased from 14,708 to 18,874.

Chart 11 shows the provincial breakdown of persons prohibited from possessing a firearm between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999.

Chart 11: Provincial Breakdown of Persons Prohibited from Possessing a Firearm



Source: Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC)

As shown in the above chart, between December 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999 there were a total of 18,874 persons prohibited from possessing a firearm. Ontario had the highest number of prohibitions — 10,128, while Prince Edward Island and Yukon had the lowest number (25 and 39).

7. Looking Ahead

The availability, use and misuse of firearms is an issue of growing importance for the Canadian public, governments and service providers. Legislative changes and the *Firearms Act* have significantly changed the way firearms are registered in Canada. This report reflects the administration of the *Firearms Act*. In the coming years, the final phases of the program will be in place. The Canadian Firearms Registry along with its Partners, will continue to work hard to implement the requirements of the new *Act*, and deal with problems as expeditiously as possible. Future annual reports will allow for the comparison of data over time.

Through its work, the Canadian Firearms Registry does its part to fulfil the mandate for safe homes and safe communities. The work of the Canadian Firearms Registry also supports the overall mandate of the RCMP Directional Statement of 2000, which aims to make Canada a safer place in which to live.

Appendix A: Glossary

Carrier: A transportation business licenced to transport firearms, or other regulated items under *the Firearms Act*.

Chief Firearms Officer (CFO): The person in authority for the *Firearms Act* and *Regulations* (in a province or territory), who is responsible for licences, authorizations to transport, authorizations to carry and other tasks related to the possession of firearms and the management of the *Firearms Act*.

Class: One of the following classes of firearms: non-restricted, restricted and prohibited.

Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC): Prior to December 1, 1998, this certificate was required to acquire a firearm. After December 1, 1998, a valid FAC is deemed to be a licence under the *Firearms Act* until such time as the FAC expires or a licence is issued.

Minor: Refers to individuals who are less than 18 years old.

Non-restricted firearm: Any firearm that is not restricted or prohibited. Non-restricted firearms can legally be used for hunting. Most rifles and shotguns are non-restricted.

Prohibited handgun: A handgun that has a barrel equal to or less than 105 mm, or is designed or adapted to discharge a 25 or 32 calibre cartridge. This does not include a handgun that is prescribed for use in International sporting competitions governed by the rules of the International Shooting Union.

Restricted Firearm: A handgun that is not a prohibited firearm. This also refers to a semi-automatic, centre-fire rifle, with a barrel length of less than 470mm that is not prohibited. Another example is a firearm that is designed or adapted to be fired when reduced to a length of less than 660 mm by folding, telescoping or otherwise.

Transfer: To sell, provide, barter, give, lend, rent, send, transport, ship, distribute or deliver.

Appendix B: Business Activity Terms in Table 1

Activity Type

Retail/Wholesale: Retail sales (including consignment); wholesale or retail sales of firearms as an agent.

Manufacturing: Manufacture, processing or assembly of firearms; manufacture, processing or assembly of prohibited devices other than replica firearms, prohibited and restricted weapons and prohibited ammunition.

Possession: Possession by a business whose main activity is handling, transporting or protecting valuables and whose employees require guns to protect their lives (security guards employed by armoured car industry). This also includes possession of prohibited firearms, weapons, devices or ammunition for any other prescribed purpose under Section 22 of the Firearms Licence Regulations, not covered in the above categories.

Auction: Selling at auction.

Entertainment: For the purposes of theatrical productions or publishing activities, manufacturing or supplying or possessing replica firearms or supplying or possessing non-restricted and restricted firearms or prohibited handguns. Also includes supplying to, or possessing for the purposes of, motion picture, video, television or theatrical productions or publishing activities, non-restricted, restricted and prohibited firearms, including prohibited handguns, prohibited devices including replicas, and prohibited weapons.

Pawned Firearms: Taking in pawn.

Museum: Museum possessing fewer than 20 firearms in their permanent inventory; museum possessing 20 to 49 firearms in their permanent inventory; museum possessing 50 or more firearms in their permanent inventory.

Showing Firearms: Display or storage of firearms by a Royal Canadian Legion or an organized veteran's group of any Canadian armed forces or police force; Gun show sponsorship.

Ammunition: Retail sales, wholesale sales and manufacturing.

Gunsmith: Operating the business of gunsmith.

Storing Firearms: Storage of firearms.

Other: Other reason to possess non-restricted or restricted firearms; purchasing or acquiring cross-bows for later sale, lending or rental.