



Canada Firearms  
Centre

Centre des armes à feu  
Canada



# 2005 REPORT COMMISSIONER OF FIREARMS



Canada 



Guided by Integrity, Honesty, Professionalism, Compassion, Respect and Accountability

Les valeurs de la GRC reposent sur l'intégrité, l'honnêteté,  
le professionnalisme, la compassion, le respect et la responsabilisation

July 23, 2007

The Honourable Stockwell Day, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Public Safety  
269 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P8

Dear Mr. Day:

On May 17, 2006, responsibility for overseeing the administration of the Canadian Firearms Program was transferred to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. As such, and pursuant to subsection 93(1) of the Firearms Act, I hereby transmit for tabling in Parliament the 2005 Report of the Commissioner of Firearms on the administration of the Firearms Act for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2005

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W.J.S. Elliot'.

William J.S. Elliot

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# Overview

As required by subsection 93(1) of the *Firearms Act*, this report provides information on the administration of the *Firearms Act* for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2005.

Licensing continued to be at the vanguard of the Canadian Firearms Program's mandate to enhance public safety. In 2005, a total of 2,554 firearms licences were refused or revoked for public safety reasons. Over 16,000 licences were refused or revoked between December 1, 1998, when the licence requirements in the *Firearms Act* came into effect, and December 31, 2005. That means more than 16,000 individuals who posed a danger to others or to themselves were denied the privilege of possessing a firearm legally, thus reducing the threat those individuals may pose to public safety.

The CAFC also continued to support law enforcement efforts to address the criminal misuse of firearms. In 2005, the CAFC produced approximately 2,400 affidavits to assist the prosecution of firearm-related crimes in court proceedings across Canada. Almost 6,200 affidavits have been produced by the CAFC since the implementation of the *Firearms Act*.

Protecting public safety in a cost-effective and responsive manner remained the top priority of the Canadian Firearms Program. In April 2005, the coming into force of legislative

and regulatory amendments helped to achieve this goal by simplifying processes for renewing firearms licences, transferring non-restricted rifles and shotguns to new owners and obtaining authorization to transport restricted and prohibited firearms.

Use of the Internet to provide many services also helped to simplify processes, reduce costs and improve data quality. In 2005, businesses used CAFC web services for 61 percent of all firearm transfers as compared to only 38 percent of firearm transfers completed using the Internet in 2004. A toll-free 1-800 number remained available, and enabled client service representatives to guide clients step by step through the process.

The 2005 appointment of four Chief Firearms Officers representing British Columbia and Yukon, Alberta and Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba and Nunavut was a major improvement to service delivery. It enabled the Canadian Firearms Program to tailor its services in more direct, immediate and sensitive ways to the specific requirements and circumstances of firearms owners, businesses, law enforcement agencies, public health professionals and other interested parties in these regions.

Since the period covered by this report, the change of government has resulted in some changes to the Canadian Firearms Program. For example, on May 17, 2006, the Government announced the transfer of responsibility for the administration of the *Firearms Act*, the Canadian Firearms Program and the day-to-day operations of the Canada Firearms Centre to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The purpose of this action was to co-ordinate firearms control activities with other crime control measures in more effective and efficient ways.

The next report of the Commissioner of Firearms will focus on the changes that took place in 2006.

# The Canadian Firearms Program

- Our Mission** The mission of the Canada Firearms Centre is to enhance public safety by:
- **helping reduce death, injury and threat from firearms through responsible ownership, use and storage of firearms; and**
  - **providing police and other organizations with expertise and information vital to the prevention and investigation of firearms crime and misuse in Canada and internationally.**

## Our Values

The Canada Firearms Centre is committed to upholding the Canadian values of an open society that include maintaining public safety while respecting the lawful ownership and use of firearms. The Canada Firearms Centre also recognizes the crucial importance of working closely with its partners who are so valuable to the development of the policies, legislation and regulations that contribute to the success of the Canadian Firearms Program and its delivery.

The Canada Firearms Centre is committed to the prudent management of its resources so that Canadians receive good value for their money. It is also committed to reporting clearly on how it uses these resources to meet its responsibilities. Through a program of continuous improvement and innovation, it aims to achieve the highest levels of service, compliance and effectiveness.

In all these activities, the Canada Firearms Centre upholds the values and ethical standards of the Public Service of Canada. It is committed to fair staffing, employee development and a work environment that encourages involvement and initiative.



## The Canada Firearms Centre

The Canada Firearms Centre (CAFC) was created by an order-in-council in 2003 to oversee the administration of the *Firearms Act* and the Canadian Firearms Program (CFP). The *Firearms Act* and its related regulations govern the possession, use, transport and storage of firearms in Canada.

April 2005 marked the end of the Canada Firearms Centre's second full year as a separate agency within the Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada portfolio. The Canada Firearms Centre participated actively in shared portfolio initiatives to pursue common strategic goals and capitalize on individual agency expertise.

Canada Firearms Centre personnel and facilities are located across the country,

with a total of 376 personnel as of December 31, 2005. The Canada Firearms Centre Headquarters and the Canadian Firearms Registry operations are in Ottawa. (See Appendix A: *Organization of the Canada Firearms Centre*.) The national call centre and application processing operations are located at the Central Processing Site in Miramichi, New Brunswick. Federal Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) operations are in place in Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Table 1 provides the human resources complement breakdown. There was a slight increase compared to 2004, largely as a result of an increase in licence renewals and firearm transfers.

**Table 1 Canada Firearms Centre Human Resources Complement (as of December 31, 2005)**

Location/Function	Number of Personnel
Headquarters and registration operations (Ottawa, Ontario)	136
Central Processing Site (Miramichi, New-Brunswick)	167
Federal CFO operations (in Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut)	73
<b>Total</b>	<b>376</b>

## Key Partners in Delivering the Canadian Firearms Program

The Canadian Firearms Program has many partners, including provincial chief firearms officers (CFOs), Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, the RCMP, Justice Canada, the Canada Border Services Agency, International Trade Canada and Foreign Affairs Canada. Each of these partners has an important role to play in delivering the Firearms Program.

CFOs are appointed by the responsible provincial minister in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. If a province decides not to appoint its own CFO, the *Firearms Act* directs that the federal minister will appoint one. In 2005, there were five federally appointed CFOs: one for Newfoundland and Labrador; one for BC and the Yukon; one for Alberta and the

NWT; one for Saskatchewan; and one for Manitoba and Nunavut.

CFOs are responsible for issuing firearms licences to businesses and individuals. They may refuse to issue a licence or may revoke a licence if a public safety risk is identified, in accordance with the *Firearms Act*. CFOs also designate instructors and examiners for the Canadian Firearms Safety Courses, approve shooting ranges and authorize the transport of restricted and prohibited firearms.

The Registrar of Firearms is a Canada Firearms Centre official who is responsible for issuing firearms registration certificates to licensed firearms owners and businesses on initial registration, on import and on transfer of firearms to another owner. The Registrar is also responsible for maintaining the Canadian Firearms Registry and for refusing to issue or for revoking registration certificates when required.

The RCMP and other law enforcement agencies provide vital information needed to operate the Firearms Program successfully. For example, the RCMP Forensic Laboratory manages the Firearms Reference Table that assists program officials, such as the Registrar, CFOs and customs officers, to identify and classify firearms accurately. Information provided by police agencies across Canada and recorded in the FIP (Firearms Interest Police) database helps to identify individuals who should not have access to firearms for public safety reasons.

In turn, the Canadian Firearms Program provides police with information that they may need in the course of their work. For example, the Canadian Firearms Registry Online (CFRO), which can be accessed through the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC), provides police officers access to firearms licence and registration information. Police use this information to help determine risks before responding to calls and when investigating crimes. This

information helps the police to intervene and respond to calls effectively in order to protect public safety. It also helps the police to identify and return stolen and lost firearms to their rightful owners.

In addition, the Firearms Program helps to trace firearms found at crime scenes in Canada, the U.S. or in other countries, thereby supporting action against illegal firearms trafficking.

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) assesses and confirms non-resident firearm declarations and collects associated fees at the border. CBSA also ensures that Canadian residents who import a firearm into Canada have an acquisition licence and a valid registration certificate for the firearm.

Responsibility for the *Criminal Code of Canada*, including *Part III (Firearms and Other Weapons)*, rests with the Minister of Justice. As a consequence, policy development on criminal law firearms matters requires close cooperation between the Canada Firearms Centre and the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice also provides legal advice, drafting and litigation services to the Canada Firearms Centre.

The Centre works with International Trade Canada to ensure that importers are aware of their obligations under the *Firearms Act*. International Trade Canada issues permits required to export and import firearms under the *Export and Import Permits Act*. The Canada Firearms Centre also works with Foreign Affairs Canada to ensure that Canada's international commitments regarding firearms reflect domestic Canadian priorities as well as Canada's capacity to implement them.

For a description of the Canada Firearms Centre's key partners and their roles in the Firearms Program, please refer to *Appendix B: Canadian Firearms Program Partners*.



## Multi-Year Perspective on Program Costs

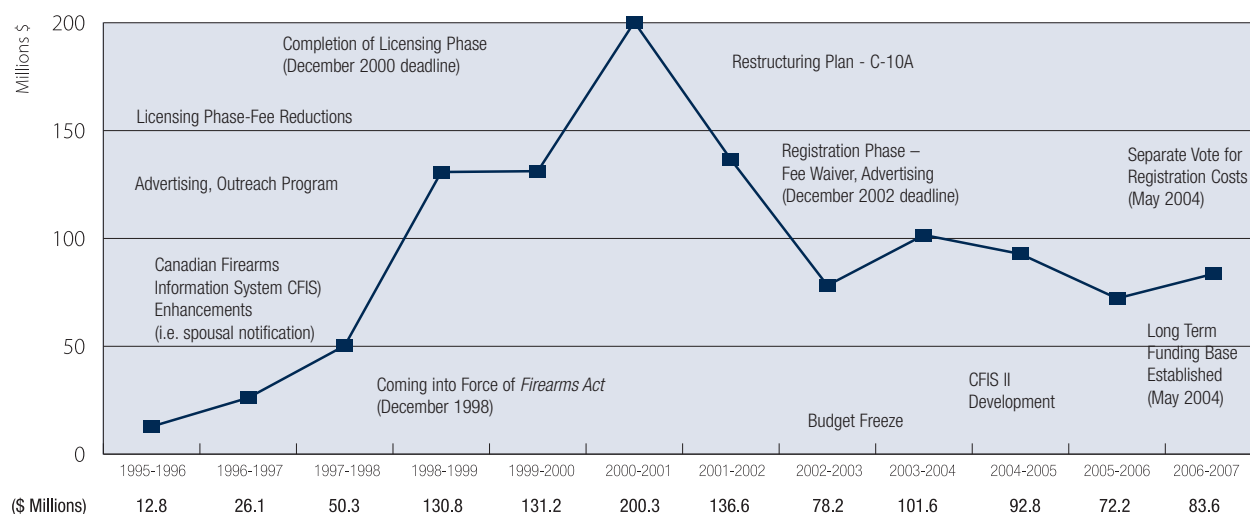
Figure 1 depicts the costs incurred by the CAFC in support of the Firearms Program since the passage of the *Firearms Act* in December 1995 and its implementation beginning December 1, 1998. As the chart demonstrates, the Centre's annual operating expenditures for fiscal year 2005-2006 were forecasted to be \$72 million as of December 31, 2005.

The CAFC's Main Estimates for 2006-2007 were set at \$83.6M, which includes collective bargaining allocation provided by Treasury Board. As initially introduced in the 2005-2006 fiscal year, CAFC activities are funded through two separate operating votes: one designated for registration activities and functions (\$14.6M),

and the other for non-registration functions and activities (\$50.8M). As well, the Main Estimates include \$14M in contribution funding to meet transfer payments to those provinces that have chosen to administer the *Firearms Act* within their jurisdiction on behalf of the federal government, and funding for Aboriginal and other communities or organizations to facilitate compliance with the *Firearms Act*. Statutory funds to meet CAFC's obligations with respect to employee benefits plans equalled \$4.2M.

Beyond 2005, the CAFC is committed to support the Minister in implementing the Government's agenda for crime control and community safety.

**Figure 1 Multi Year Coast Perspective, as of December 31, 2005**



## Protecting Personal Information

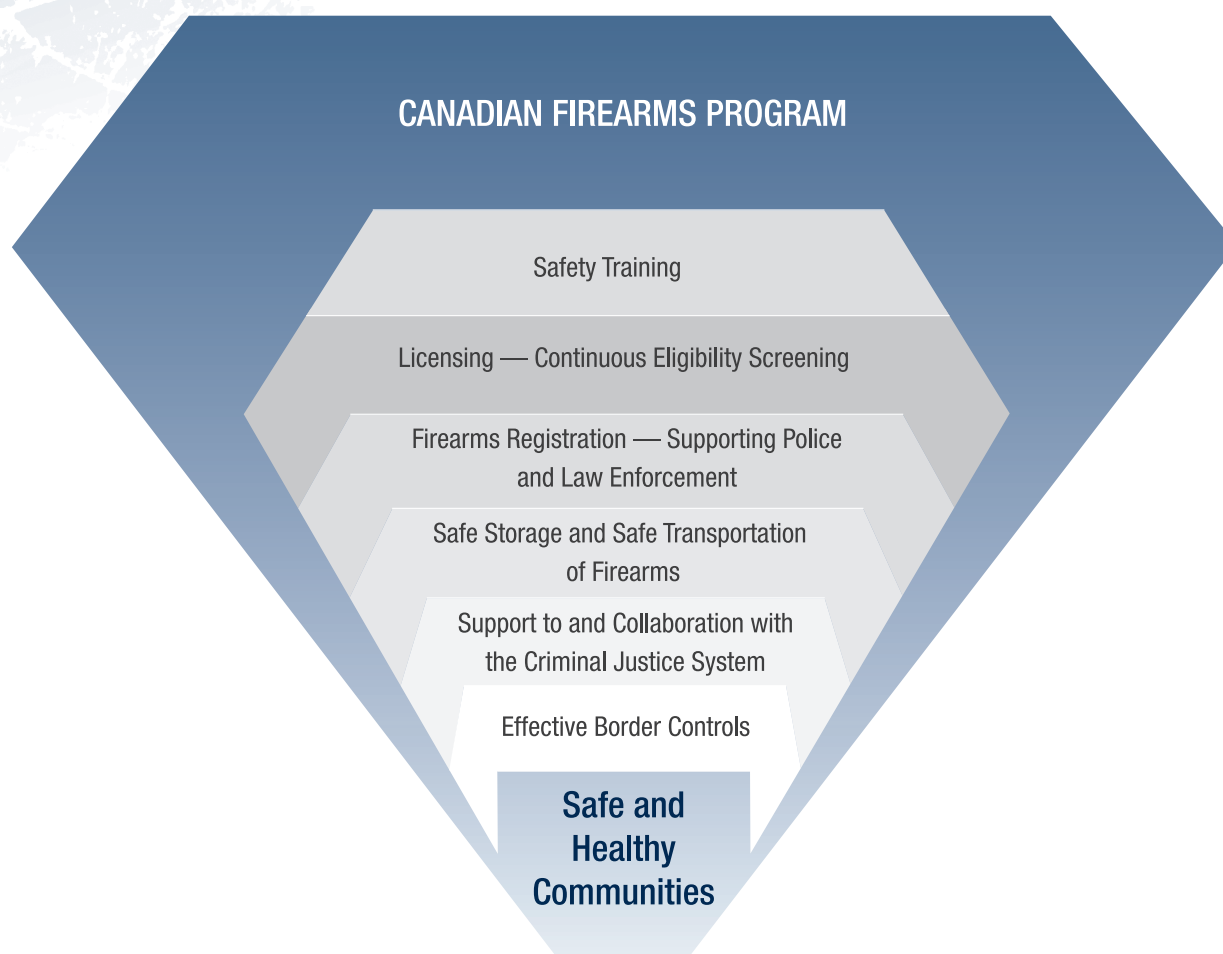
The Canadian Firearms Program collects specific personal information from Canadians in the course of administering the *Firearms Act* and its regulations. This is done in a manner consistent with the federal *Privacy Act* and other relevant legislation, including

provincial legislation where the CFO is provincially appointed.

Details on access to information, on-line transactions and use and disclosure of personal information can be obtained on the Canada Firearms Centre Web site at [www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca](http://www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca).

# Contribution to Public Safety

The Canadian Firearms Program plays a vital role in achieving safer communities across Canada by protecting Canadians from the misuse of firearms and helping reduce firearm-related deaths, injuries, threats and crime. The Program has several core activities to achieve these objectives: safety training; licensing; firearm registration; regulating safe storage and transportation of firearms; and border controls. The Firearms Program also provides support to and collaborates with the criminal justice system.



## Safety Training

The Canadian Firearms Safety Course and the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course were developed to ensure that firearms owners and users have knowledge of safe firearm practices. The courses also help to instill in firearms owners and users a continuing sense of responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others.

The courses provide practical lessons on safe handling, transportation and storage of firearms and ammunition. They also clearly define the legislated responsibilities of firearms owners and users.

Individuals must meet specific safety-training standards to be eligible for a firearms licence. The need for safety training has reached a

steady state, with current demand coming primarily from individuals who are applying for their first licence or who wish to upgrade their licence privileges.

The student manuals for the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course were revised to reflect amendments to the *Firearms Act* and related regulations that came into force in April 2005. Production and distribution of the revised student manuals were scheduled for early 2006.

### THE CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM AT WORK

The chief firearms officer in Alberta has developed an effective partnership with the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors Association (AHEIA) to ensure that all Albertans have access to required safety-training courses and tests. In 2005, over 12,000 Albertans met the safety-training requirements under the auspices of instructors recruited and trained by AHEIA.

**Table 2 Individuals who Completed Safety Training, in 2005**

Type of Training	
Canadian Firearms Safety Course	31,438
Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course	6,969
Alternative Certification	817
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,224</b>

# Licensing

## THE CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM AT WORK

Law enforcement officers across Canada play a vital role in helping to identify people who should not be allowed to possess or acquire firearms. If police encounter someone who is a public safety risk, they can enter that person's name in a special police database called Firearms Interest Police (FIP). The Canadian Firearms Information System (CFIS) automatically checks FIP when doing background checks on all licence applicants. There are also daily checks of FIP to determine whether new entries match clients who already have a firearms licence. In 2005, 104 licences were refused, 1,000 licences were revoked and 51 licences had conditions placed on them following investigations of information provided by police through FIP.

The *Firearms Act* requires that individuals must hold a valid firearms licence in order to possess or acquire a firearm or to obtain ammunition. They must keep their licence current by renewing it before it expires for as long as they possess firearms. The licence requirement helps to protect public safety in a variety of ways:

- Safety-training requirements for first-time licence applicants help to ensure that firearms owners and users know how to handle, store and transport firearms safely.
- Licensing helps to prevent unsafe individuals from acquiring or possessing a firearm. For example:
  - Background checks on licence applicants help to screen out individuals who are a risk to public safety, such as individuals with a criminal record involving violence or a history of violence, drug traffickers, and individuals who have a serious mental illness.
  - Public safety checks on licence holders are ongoing. A licence may be revoked and

firearms may be removed if new evidence shows that it is not safe to allow the licence holder to continue possessing firearms.

- It is a criminal offence for any business or individual to give, lend or sell a firearm to an unlicensed person.

## There are three types of licences for individuals:

- **Possession-Only Licence (POL)** – This licence was introduced as a means to recognize long-term ownership of firearms. It allows people to retain their firearms without having to undergo safety training. The POL was only available to individuals who applied by January 1, 2001. It is no longer available to new applicants. POL holders may renew their licence if they apply before their licence expires and they have at least one firearm registered in their name.
- **Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL)** – This is the only licence available to new applicants aged 18 years or older. Applicants must meet safety-training standards for the class or classes of firearms they wish to be licensed to possess or acquire.
- **Minor's Licence** – This licence allows individuals younger than 18 to borrow non-restricted firearms for approved activities such as target practice or hunting. It does not allow minors to acquire firearms of their own, but it does allow them to acquire ammunition. With rare exceptions for some minors who need to hunt for sustenance, minors must take the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and pass the test before they can obtain a licence.

As shown in the following chart, 1,979,054 individuals held a valid firearms licence on December 31, 2005.

**Table 3 Type of Firearms Licence by Province**

Jurisdiction	POL	PAL	Minor	Total
Newfoundland	45,561	27,344	105	73,010
Nova Scotia	72,316	17,955	903	91,174
Prince Edward Island	6,431	1,830	1	8,262
New Brunswick	75,623	16,341	34	92,005
Quebec	294,778	226,610	80	521,468
Ontario	320,757	213,050	3,286	537,093
Manitoba	54,263	35,304	184	89,751
Saskatchewan	61,990	42,824	166	104,980
Alberta	127,049	92,311	607	219,967
British Columbia	143,908	79,077	143	223,128
Yukon	2,656	3,737	44	6,437
Northwest Territories	1,865	4,608	18	6,502
Nunavut	306	4,988	1	5,295
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,207,503</b>	<b>765,979</b>	<b>5,572</b>	<b>1,979,054</b>

When someone applies for a firearms licence, information from the application form is entered at the Central Processing Site in Miramichi, New Brunswick and recorded in the Canadian Firearms Information System (CFIS). A link between CFIS and the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) helps speed up background checks of licence applicants. As soon as information from a licence application is entered into CFIS, the system runs an automatic check of CPIC to find out, for example, if the applicant has a criminal record or if there are any court orders prohibiting the individual from possessing firearms.

It also checks a special file in CPIC called Firearms Interest Police (FIP), which was created specifically to support the licence requirements of the *Firearms Act*. This file contains information that law enforcement officers across Canada have entered after encountering individuals who have raised public safety concerns. Previously, such information may have been recorded in local police files, but there was no centralized database. Centralizing the information makes it much harder for individuals who are known to be a potential risk in one area to obtain a licence in an area where they are less known.

In 2005, events recorded in the Firearms Interest Police file of CPIC led to the refusal of 104 firearms licence applications. It also prompted 2,865 investigations by firearms officers, which, in turn, led to the revocation of 1,000 licences and conditions on 51 licences.

Another measure that helps to identify whether a licence applicant may be a danger to public safety is a requirement for licence applicants to provide information on any spouses or other conjugal partners with whom they have lived within the previous two years. Unless partners have signed the application, the chief firearms officer in the applicant's province has a duty to notify them about the application or conduct a further investigation in order to give partners an opportunity to express any concerns they may have about their own or someone else's safety in connection with the application.

As an added precaution, each licence application must be signed by two references who have known the applicant for at least three years, certifying that they do not know of any reason why it may be unsafe to allow the applicant to possess firearms.

The Program also relies on information from municipal, provincial and federal courts to determine whether there are any matters of a civil nature – for example, a restraining order – that may increase a licence applicant's or licence holder's threat to public safety. Unlike prohibition orders, court orders pertaining to civil matters are not recorded in CPIC.

The general public also has an important role to play in helping to screen out people who are likely to be a danger to other people or to themselves. For example, if a person knows that someone is severely depressed and may

be suicidal, or if someone they know has been acting unusually aggressive, hostile or irrational, they are encouraged to call the CAFC's toll-free 1-800 number.

If the individual of concern has firearms and the circumstances warrant it, the chief firearms officer may then revoke the person's licence and registration certificates, or place conditions on the licence, and notify police for any further action that may be required.

Chief firearms officers are responsible for conducting any investigations that may be required to assess whether individuals in their province are eligible to hold a firearms licence.

Once a licence has been issued, background checks are ongoing through a process known as continuous eligibility. CFIS checks CPIC daily to see if there is any new evidence indicating that a licence holder may have become a public safety risk. If concerns are identified, CFIS automatically notifies the appropriate chief firearms officer, who conducts any investigations that may be required to determine whether the licence should be revoked.

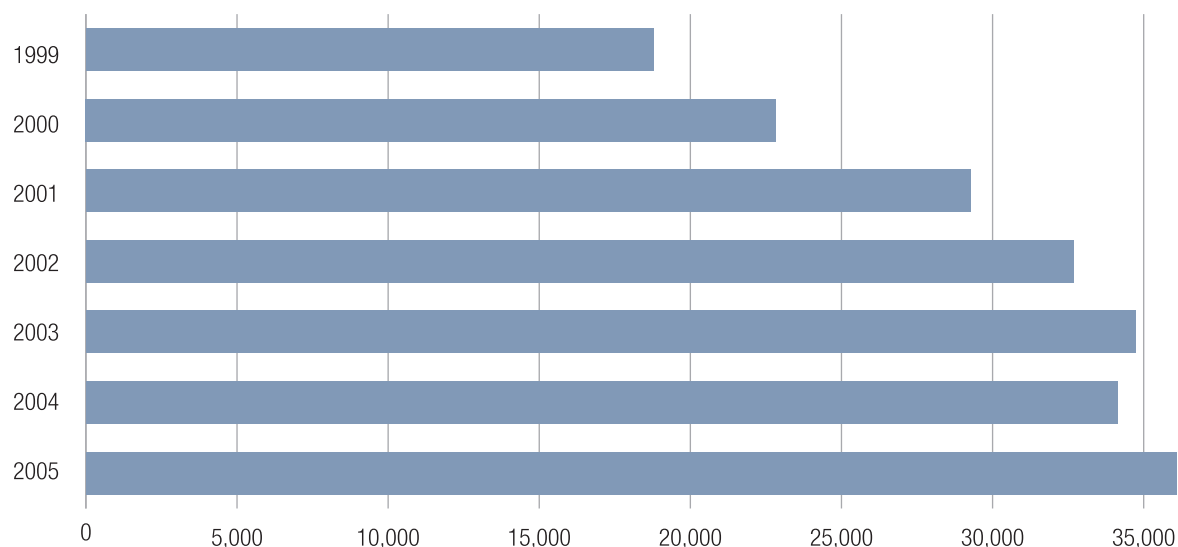
## Licence Refusals and Revocations

The refusal or revocation of a firearms licence eliminates all possibility of an individual being able to legally possess or acquire firearms or obtain ammunition.

Individuals are automatically ineligible for a licence if a court order prohibits them from possessing firearms. In 2005, over 35,000 individuals in Canada were prohibited from possessing firearms. If they applied for a licence, their licence was refused. If they already held a licence, their licence was revoked.



**Figure 2 Persons prohibited from possessing a firearm up to December 31, 2005**

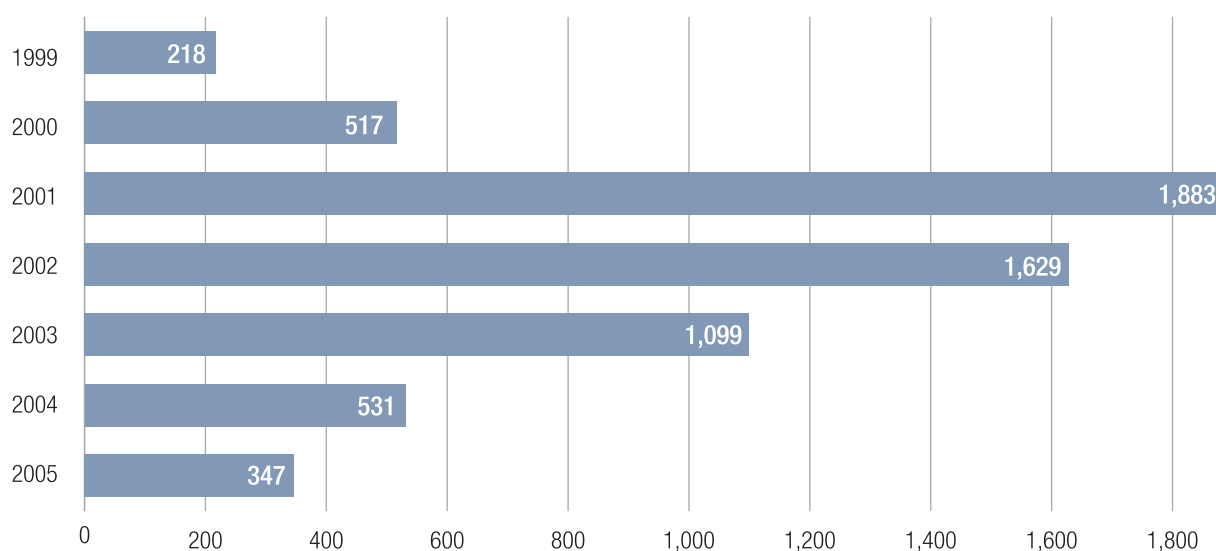


A chief firearms officer may refuse or revoke a licence for other public safety reasons as well, following a risk assessment.

The number of licence refusals per year has been dropping since the December 31, 2000 deadline for firearms owners to obtain a licence. Many of the licences issued in 2005 were renewals of

expiring licences held by individuals who had already established their eligibility to possess firearms. In 2005, 347 individuals were refused a firearms licence. Of the 6,242 licences refused since 1999, 5,589 applicants had police or court records associated with them, 653 were the result of investigations prompted solely by responses to personal history questions.

**Figure 3 Volume of licence refusals up to December 31, 2005**

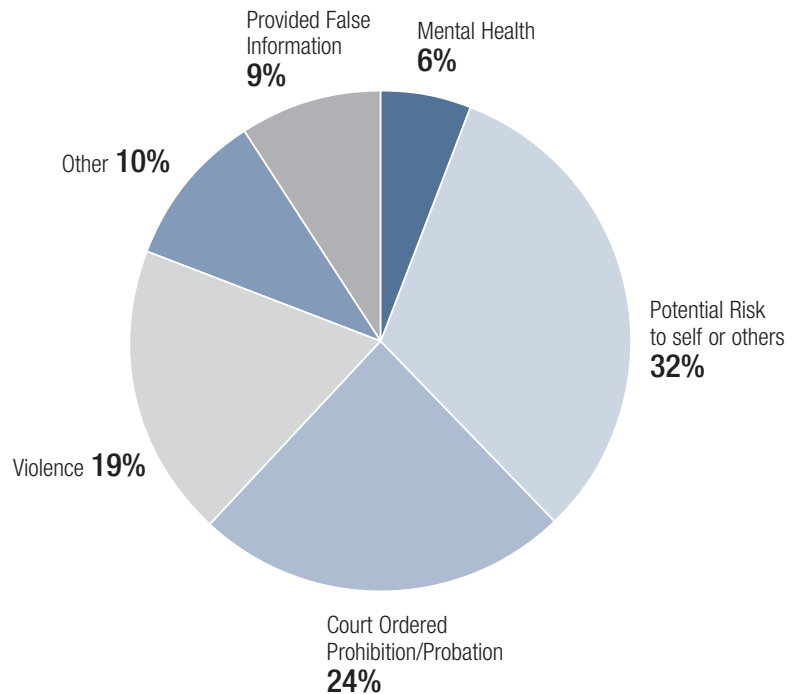


As indicated earlier, individuals are automatically denied a licence or their existing licence is revoked if a court order prohibits them from possessing firearms. If there are any other public safety concerns associated with an individual, the chief firearms office will conduct any investigations deemed necessary to assess whether to refuse or revoke a licence. It should be noted that in all instances of a licence refusal or revocation, individuals may refer the matter to a provincial court for review.

Figure 4 represents the breakdown of reasons for refusing to grant a licence as of December 31, 2005. Note: a firearms officer may have multiple reasons for refusing a licence.

In 2005, continuous eligibility screening matched 3,417 court prohibition orders, probation orders and civil orders to 2,804 CFIS clients. Of the 2,301 licences revoked in 2005, 1,609 were the result of a prohibition order, probation order, or civil order.

**Figure 4 Reasons for Licence Refusal**



**Figure 5 Volume of licence revocations up to December 31, 2005**

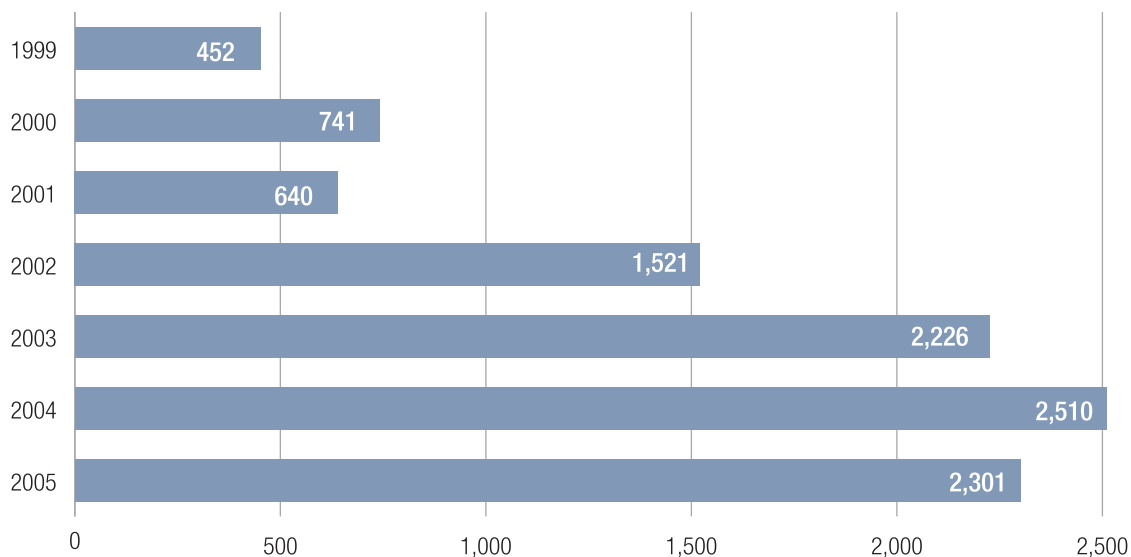
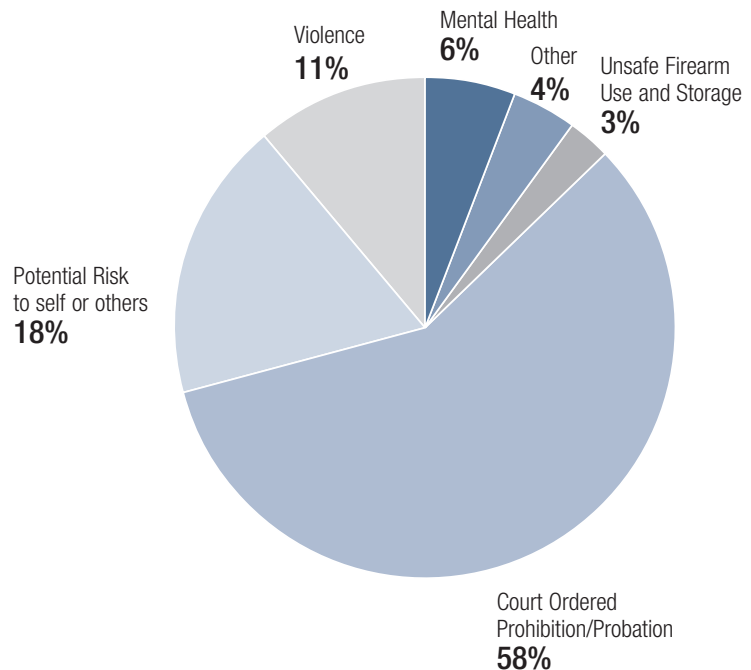


Figure 6 represents the breakdown of reasons for revoking a licence up to December 31, 2005. Note: a chief firearms officer may have multiple reasons for revoking a licence.

When a chief firearms officer revokes a firearms licence and the individual has registered firearms, the Registrar of Firearms initiates action to revoke the individual's firearms registration certificates and notifies local police.

**Figure 6 Reasons for Licence Revocation**



## Individual Licence Renewal

Individuals must keep their licence valid by renewing it before it expires for as long as they possess firearms. This requirement takes into consideration the fact that a person's circumstances may change over time. New circumstances, such as the onset of a serious mental illness or a personal crisis, could turn someone who had previously been deemed to be a low public safety risk into a high risk.

Possession-only licences and possession and acquisition licences are renewable every five years. The year 2005 was the first year that a

substantial number of licences came due for renewal. To encourage compliance and to reduce the workload of processing licence renewals, the CAFC decided to completely overhaul the licence renewal process for individuals.

The implementation of Bill C-10A in April 2005 enabled the CAFC to introduce a new renewal application form to simplify the renewal process. Several fields in the new form are pre-populated with information that clients have already submitted in their original application. Clients simply have to validate the information and correct or update information that needs to be changed.

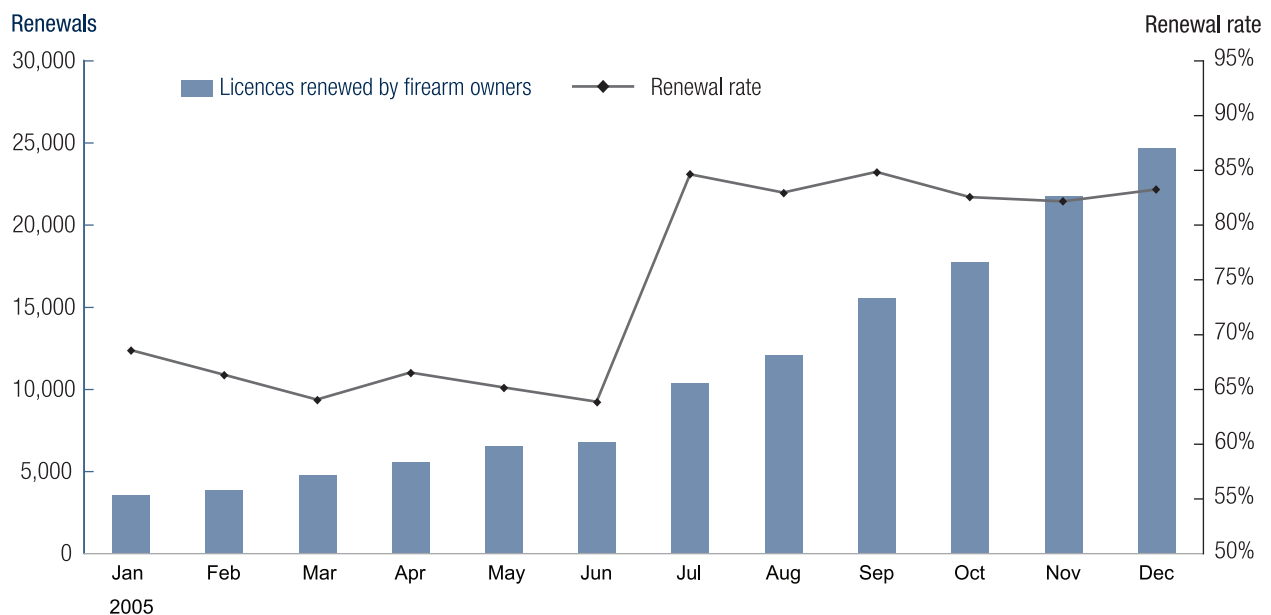
The simplification and pre-population of the licence renewal application form has cut in half the time required to capture application data, and has significantly reduced the number of errors in applications. This, in turn, has greatly reduced the requirement for firearms officers to intervene in the processing of applications. Prior to the new form, a firearms officer intervened in nearly 60 percent of the applications. Following the introduction of the new form, firearms officers had to intervene in less than 40 percent of the applications. These efficiency gains have led to improved client service and a reduction in the cost of processing applications.

As a further service to clients, the CAFC made significant efforts to inform individuals that their licence was about to expire. There was a two-stage notification process. Clients were sent a notice 90 days prior to their licence expiring. If a client did not return the renewal application, another reminder notice was sent 30 days prior to the expiry date. These reminders increased the rate of renewal dramatically.

The effectiveness of the notification process can be demonstrated by the fact that the licence renewal rate was 2.5 times higher for those who received notice compared to those whose notice was returned as undeliverable. It should be noted that licence holders have a legal obligation to inform their chief firearms officer of a change of address within 30 days to ensure they get renewal notices and other important information.

The licence renewal rate for firearms owners averaged 78 percent in 2005. The 22 percent of non-renewing firearms owners are an issue of concern. Nearly 37,000 firearms owners allowed their licence to expire, resulting in 119,000 firearms being illegally possessed in 2005 alone. The CAFC has taken steps to follow up with both clients and law enforcement to ensure the proper disposal of these firearms.

**Figure 7 Rate of Licence Renewal by firearms owners**



## Business Licences and Inspections

Businesses, museums and private-sector organizations must hold a valid firearms business licence if, for example, they make, possess, sell or store firearms, prohibited weapons other than firearms, prohibited devices, or prohibited ammunition. They also need a valid firearms business licence if they make or sell regular ammunition. Business employees who handle firearms on the job must also hold a valid firearms licence.

As a condition of their licence, businesses must consent to periodic inspections by a firearms officer to confirm that they are storing firearms and other regulated items safely, and that they are conducting business in a safe and lawful manner.

Of the 4,381 businesses licensed under the *Firearms Act*, 2,329 were licensed only to sell ammunition in 2005.

## Shooting Clubs and Ranges

The requirement for shooting clubs and ranges to hold a firearms business licence depends on the activities taking place at the club or range. However, all shooting clubs and ranges require approval from a chief firearms officer, and they must consent to periodic inspections by firearms officers.

The *Firearms Act* and its supporting regulations set out specific safety standards that shooting clubs and ranges must meet to protect the safety of patrons and the general public. In addition, range design and construction guidelines are provided to ensure that ranges are constructed in such a way as to protect the safety of users and the public.

There were 861 approved shooting clubs and 852 approved shooting ranges in Canada as of December 31, 2005.

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## Registration

### THE CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM AT WORK

When processing applications to register firearms, the Canadian Firearms Registry often identifies firearms that had previously been reported stolen. When this happens, the Registry notifies the police agencies that reported the thefts so that the agencies can investigate further and take any actions deemed appropriate to the circumstances. Firearms are then returned to the rightful owners.

By linking firearms to their owners, registration holds firearms owners more accountable for

their firearms. Registration also supports the efforts of police and law enforcement to deal with firearm-related crime and protect their own and others' safety.

The table below represents all registered firearms in Canada as of December 31, 2005. These firearms are registered to individuals or businesses, including museums. Also included are firearms that were registered to a business or individual, but then transferred to a public agency.

**Table 4 Registered firearms in Canada (as of December 31, 2005)**

Province	Non-Restricted	Restricted	Prohibited	Total
Newfoundland	184,417	3,598	1,669	189,684
Nova Scotia	296,986	14,227	7,746	318,959
Prince Edward Island	22,512	1,392	781	24,685
New Brunswick	274,262	10,957	5,793	291,012
Quebec	1,540,675	53,300	49,792	1,643,767
Ontario	1,973,755	142,852	83,543	2,200,150
Manitoba	311,318	14,120	6,583	332,021
Saskatchewan	358,299	20,315	8,453	387,067
Alberta	731,574	62,520	23,507	817,601
British Columbia	753,971	72,871	30,797	857,639
Yukon	19,172	1,288	417	20,877
Northwest Territories	18,401	990	349	19,740
Nunavut	11,798	132	52	11,982
Non-residents	21,300	314	97	21,711
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,518,440</b>	<b>398,876</b>	<b>219,579</b>	<b>7,136,895</b>

To register a firearm, businesses and individuals must hold a valid firearms licence allowing them to possess that class of firearm. To ensure that their registration certificates remain valid, they need to keep their licence valid. If a licence is revoked or if it expires and is not renewed, the Registrar of Firearms will take steps to revoke the registration certificates of any firearms registered to the licence holder. Owners who cease to hold a valid licence and/or registration certificate must dispose of their firearms in a safe and lawful manner.

The Canada Firearms Centre makes every attempt to help Canadians comply with the *Firearms Act* through notices and telephone calls. Firearms owners are provided with

several options for disposing of firearms that they may no longer lawfully possess.

The Canadian Firearms Registry monitors the disposition of registered firearms. This not only assists in understanding the movement of firearms, but can also be crucial in crime investigations. In 2005, individuals and businesses disposed of nearly 197,000 firearms. There are four options for lawfully disposing of a firearm. It may be:

1. permanently deactivated by a licensed gunsmith, who ensures that the firearm can no longer fire harmful projectiles and, therefore, no longer meets the definition of a firearm;



2. turned in to a police or firearms officer for destruction;
3. exported to a country that allows it to be imported, in accordance with Canada's export laws and the other country's import laws; or
4. transferred (sold or given) to a properly licensed business or individual, or to a public agency.

Firearms owners are required to report the disposal of firearms that were registered to them. The following table shows the number of firearms that were reported to have been deactivated, destroyed by police or exported from January 1 to December 31, 2005.

**Table 5 Firearms Disposed of in 2005**

Method	Non-restricted	Restricted	Prohibited	Total
Deactivated	114	81	104	299
Destroyed	16,613	752	942	18,307
Exported	152,642	15,179	10,242	178,063
<b>Total</b>	<b>169,369</b>	<b>16,012</b>	<b>11,288</b>	<b>196,669</b>

## Safe Storage and Transportation of Firearms

Regulations supporting the *Firearms Act* set out specific requirements for storing, displaying and transporting firearms safely. The *Criminal Code* sets out penalties for storing, displaying or transporting a firearm in an unsafe manner. These laws help to deter loss, theft, accidents and misuse by helping to keep firearms out of the reach of children and others who should not have access to them, and by making firearms less accessible at times of strife or emotional crisis.

All firearms must be stored unloaded. Non-restricted firearms must either be made inoperable by means of a secure locking device or by

removing the bolt, or they must be securely locked in a container, cabinet or room that cannot easily be broken into. Ammunition must be stored separately unless it is locked up. Additional requirements apply to restricted and prohibited firearms.

Individuals need a written Authorization to Transport (ATT) from a chief firearms officer to transport restricted or prohibited firearms. ATTs set limits on where, when and for what purpose a firearm may be transported. As set out in the *Firearms Act*, chief firearms officers may authorize the transport of a restricted or prohibited firearm only if they are satisfied

that it would not endanger public safety. To further protect public safety, ATTs specify that the firearms must be transported to the intended location by a reasonably direct route to minimize the risk of mishaps along the way.

In addition to helping to protect public safety, ATTs provide a means of keeping track of the current location of handguns and other restricted or prohibited firearms. In 2005, 53,297 authorizations were issued for the purpose of transporting restricted or prohibited firearms.

In 2005, the Canada Firearms Centre developed a new pamphlet explaining the rules for safely storing, transporting and displaying firearms. Public education about such matters is essential for furthering the Government's objectives of public safety and crime prevention. A safely and securely stored firearm is less likely to end up in criminal hands.

The *Storing, Transporting and Displaying Firearms* brochure is very popular among all types of clients. It has been widely distributed throughout the country and is used by chief firearms officers and safety course instructors.

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## Effective Border Control

### THE CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM AT WORK

During a routine inspection in September 2005, officers of the Canada Border Services Agency found an undeclared handgun in the gym bag of a United States resident who was reportedly visiting Canada for the day. A further search revealed two more handguns, a rifle, and 89 rounds of ammunition in various locations in the vehicle. The firearms and ammunition were seized, and the individual was charged with failing to report goods and making false statements, both of which are criminal offences. Other criminal charges were expected to be laid once local police completed their investigation.

Effective firearms control at Canada's borders helps to reduce the threat of firearm violence and crime in Canada. The CAFC works closely with the Canada Border Services Agency, Foreign Affairs Canada and International Trade Canada to control the cross-border movement

and trafficking of firearms and certain firearm parts.

To be able to bring a firearm into Canada, Canadian residents and businesses need a valid firearms licence. They must also register the firearm before importing it. Non-residents who wish to bring a firearm into Canada temporarily have two options: they may obtain a Canadian firearms licence and register the firearm in Canada or they may submit a non-resident firearm declaration and have it confirmed by a customs officer at the point of entry. A confirmed non-resident firearm declaration has the effect of a licence for the non-resident and a registration certificate for the firearm for up to sixty days.

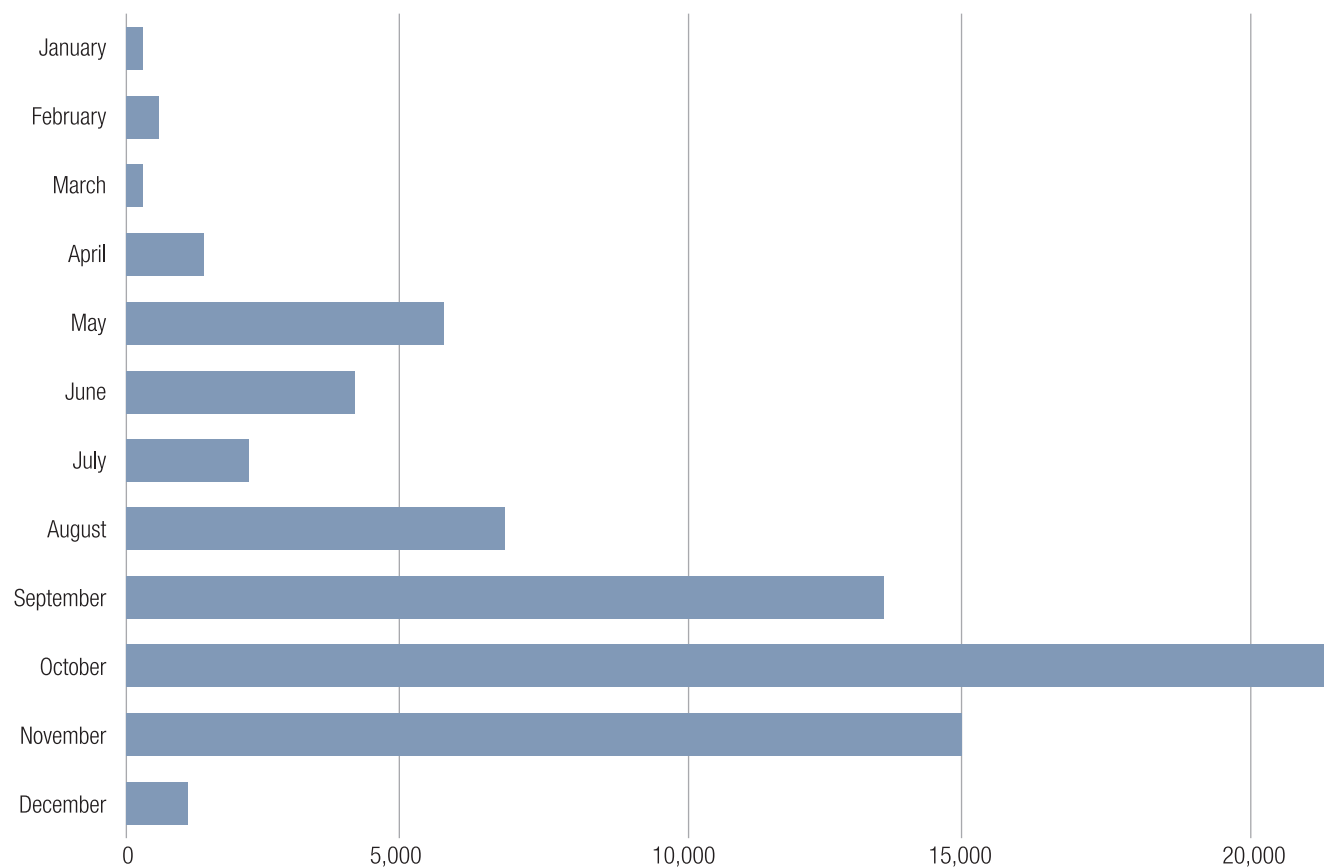
Non-residents who bring a restricted firearm into Canada for target shooting events or other

lawful purposes must also obtain an authorization to transport (ATT) from the chief firearms officer responsible for the province or territory where they enter Canada.

Before allowing a non-resident to bring a firearm into Canada, a border agent will generally conduct a risk assessment of the individual and their reason for wanting to have the firearm.

In 2005, non-residents temporarily imported 67,107 firearms into Canada. Most of those firearms were non-restricted rifles and shotguns imported during the spring and fall hunting seasons. Only 372 ATTs were issued to a non-resident to allow a restricted firearm to be brought to Canada for an approved purpose such as to take part in a target-shooting competition.

**Figure 8 Temporary firearm importations by non-residents, January 1 to December 31, 2005**



## Support and Collaboration with the Criminal Justice System

### THE CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM AT WORK

The CAFC provides affidavits to law enforcement officers on request to support the prosecution of criminal offences involving firearms. In 2005, almost 2,400 affidavits were produced for this purpose.

The Canadian Firearms Registry Online (CFRO) provides police officers across Canada with access to information on licences, registration certificates and authorizations issued under the *Firearms Act*. This information helps police to:

- Intervene more effectively and safely when they respond to calls;
- Prevent or investigate firearm-related crime; and
- Identify and return lost and stolen firearms to their rightful owners.

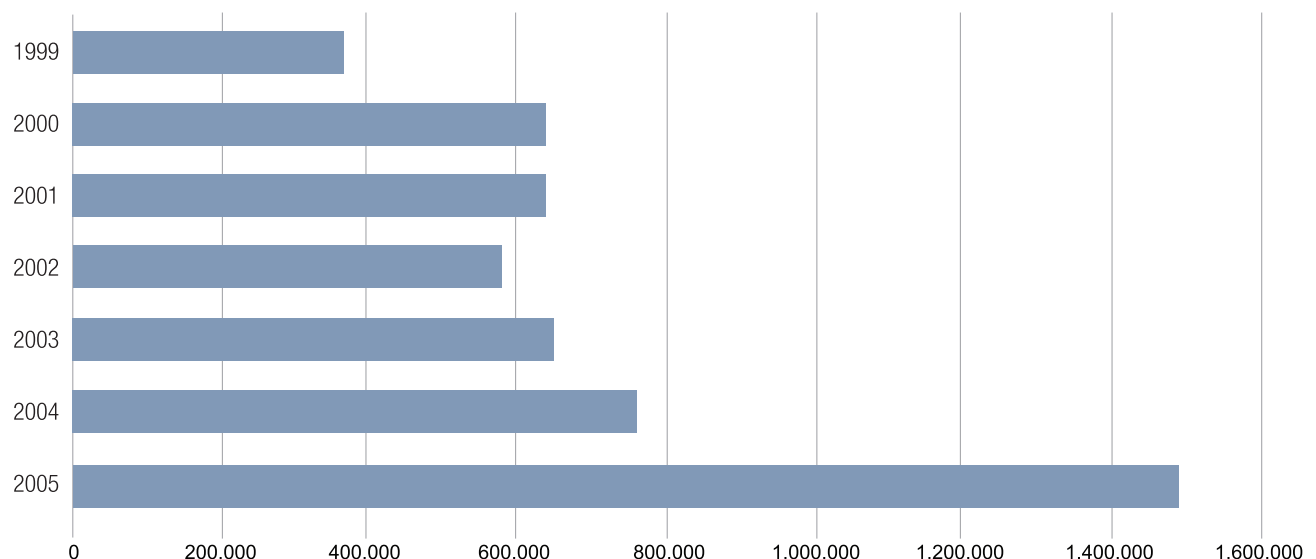
As the following chart shows, CFRO queries increased by nearly 100 percent in 2005 as several police forces made policy decisions to begin to query CFRO in a more consistent manner.

Data quality is a top priority of the Canada Firearms Centre to ensure that the information in CFIS is an effective tool for police. The Centre's processes are designed with data quality as a fundamental objective. New and enhanced quality assurance and verification processes were put in place in 2005, with particular attention paid to standardizing client addresses and eliminating duplicated data pertaining to clients or firearms.

By the end of 2005, less than .4 percent of registration certificates needed to be reviewed to ensure that they were not duplicates. Less than .08 percent of clients had multiple licences. Over 30,000 licensee addresses were modified to conform to standards established by Canada Post. Less than .3 percent of all licensee addresses were left to be reviewed.

The CAFC provides affidavits to law enforcement officers upon request. Typically, affidavit requests are to determine what firearms an individual has registered to them or to determine if a particular firearm is registered.

**Figure 9 CFRO queries up to December 31, 2005**

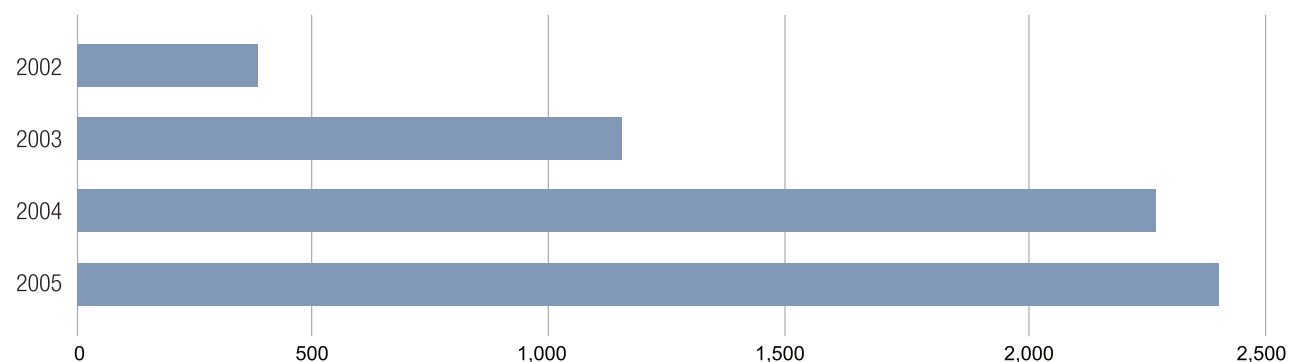


Providing the results of these searches in an affidavit in lieu of attending and presenting findings in court results in significant cost savings for the CAFC. The number of affidavits produced for legal proceedings has continued to increase over the past four years.

On an ad hoc basis, the CAFC provides applicable information on both legal and illegal firearms to law enforcement agencies across the country. In addition, the CAFC operates a 1-800 police help line to respond to questions police may have about licences, firearms or the *Firearms Act*. In 2005, the CAFC answered 1,474 calls, e-mails and faxes from law enforcement officers across Canada.

When investigating the criminal misuse of firearms, law enforcement officers across Canada may obtain assistance from the National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST). This specialized, nationwide network of police officers operates under the National Police Services of the RCMP. NWEST uses data in the Canadian Firearms Information System to help trace firearms. The network also offers information sessions to police officers with respect to the Firearms Program, CFRO, and the Firearms Interest Police database.

**Figure 10 Affidavits up to December 31, 2005**



# Program Delivery

## Continue to Improve Program Delivery and Client Service

As one of its core values, the CAFC "commits to ongoing improvement and innovation in order to achieve the highest levels of service, compliance, efficiency and overall effectiveness."

In 2005, the CAFC made significant efforts to inform and educate clients about their responsibilities under the *Firearms Act*. To this end, more than 400,000 notices were sent to clients about such things as their need to renew a licence, their eligibility to possess certain prohibited handguns, and legislative or regulatory changes that affected them.

Client transactions greatly increased in 2005 compared to 2004. For example, 117,000 more licences and 80,000 more registration certificates were issued in 2005 than in the previous year. The increase in the number of licences that were issued may be attributed primarily to the fact that a large number of licences came due for renewal in 2005. The increase in registration applications included new imports and the transfer and registration of firearms to new owners. As well, the CAFC continued to accept applications from individuals who had missed the registration deadline of December 31, 2002.

**Table 6 Licence and Registration Transactions in 2004 and 2005**

Type of transaction	2004	2005	Increase
Licences issued (including renewals)	90,249	207,588	130 %
Registration certificates issued (including transfers)	658,812	739,087	12%



To encourage compliance with the *Firearms Act*, the CAFC offers clients a variety of means to obtain information and application forms and to submit applications. The following

chart and graph show some of the service options, as well as means used by clients to complete transactions.

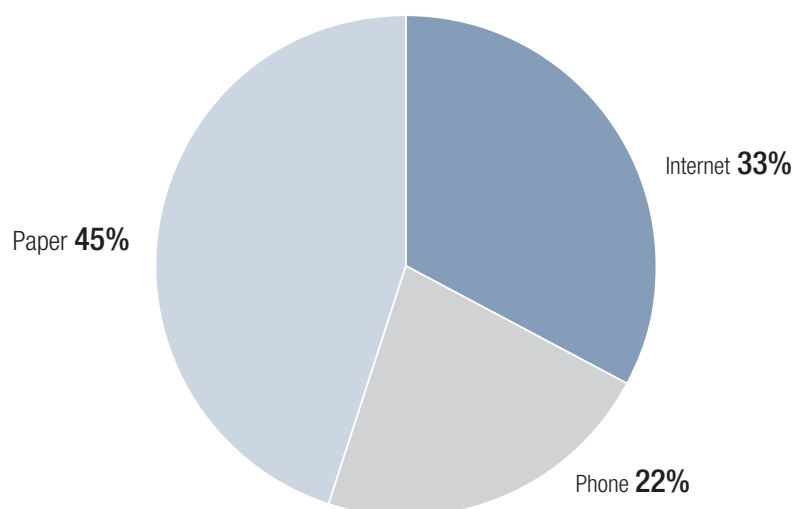
**Table 7 Service Options and Means**

Service	Internet	Telephone	Paper
General enquiries	X	X	X
Order or download forms	X	X	X
Apply for a licence			X
Apply to register an unregistered firearm	X		X
Transfer registered firearms to new owners*	X	X	X
Enquire about application status	X	X	
Verify a firearm (also in person)		X	X
Apply for an authorization to transport**		X	X
Submit a change of address	X	X	X

\*must involve a business if done on the Internet.

\*\*non-residents must apply by telephone.

**Figure 11 Service used to conduct transactions**



## Continuous Improvement Plan

The Continuous Improvement Plan is a cornerstone of operational planning and improvement. The plan has a wide variety of activities, including feasibility studies, pilot projects, process re-design and large-scale reorganization. The following chart shows the number of initiatives undertaken since 2003 to support the Continuous Improvement Plan.

**Table 8 Continuous Improvement Initiatives since 2003**

Objective	2003	2004	2005	Total
Improve service to clients	8	7	6	21
Increase the efficiency of operations	11	9	14	34
Enhance compliance with the law	3	2	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>60</b>

Some activities that took place in 2005 require special mention, as follows:

- The review and revision of hours of operation to improve support for clients across Canada, taking into account time zones and seasonal demands;
- The development of a process map for the duties of chief firearms officers to ensure consistent service delivery across the country;
- The review and revision of forms to ensure standardization and simplification;
- The development of an outreach strategy in consultation with provinces and the Program Advisory Committee.

## National Work Performance Standards

The service delivery model that the CAFC developed forms an integral part of federal-provincial agreements and continues to set national standards for the delivery of the

Firearms Program. These standards undergo constant review to ensure their pertinence to the Program.

## Northwest Decentralization

In May 2005, the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, through the CAFC, appointed four new chief firearms officers: one for British Columbia and Yukon Territory, one for Alberta and the Northwest Territories, one for Saskatchewan, and one for Manitoba and Nunavut.

Previously, a single chief firearms officer based in Edmonton was responsible for administering the *Firearms Act* in the entire Northwest Region. Centralizing services in Edmonton was considered to be a more efficient approach during the initial load-up phase of licensing and registration. Over the long term, however, it was decided that decentralizing services

would improve the ability of the Firearms Program to address the specific requirements and circumstances of firearms owners, businesses, law enforcement agencies, public health professionals and other interested parties in the various jurisdictions.

Before decentralization took place, there was a comprehensive review of program operations in the Northwest Region, including, for example, the size and demographics of the affected provinces and territories, the distribution of responsibilities, challenges to service delivery, human resources issues, and financial and administration support implications.

While not directly involved in the review, the Office of the Chief Firearms Officer in Newfoundland and Labrador was restructured to match the new offices in the Northwest Region.

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Decentralization had a one-time cost of approximately \$170,000, with the annual ongoing cost projected to be approximately \$150,000.

## Communicating with Clients

Effective communication with clients is essential for ensuring that clients understand their obligations under the *Firearms Act*, firearm safety practices, and the role of the Firearms Program in protecting public safety. Recognizing that information is a key contributor to compliance and client satisfaction, the CAFC made a significant investment in the establishment of new client service standards in 2005. The CAFC uses a variety of tools to communicate with its clients, and to enable clients to communicate with the CAFC in either official language. One of the most important communications tools is its toll-free telephone number, 1 800 731-4000, which anyone in Canada, as well as potential visitors from the United States, may call to request information, application forms or assistance in complying with the Act. The CAFC also responds to enquiries submitted by e-mail, surface mail or fax.

In 2005 alone, the CAFC responded to approximately 1.3 million enquiries from the public. Of these, approximately 793,000 were calls to the 1-800 number. The types of information people sought included, for example, the status of a licence or registration application, advice on how to import or export a firearm, and general information on the Program, its costs and its administration.

The CAFC also responded to more than 180 national, regional and local media enquiries, providing information on a wide variety of subjects, such as program costs and compliance rates. A load-levelling initiative

that was implemented in 2004 in order to stagger the ongoing workload for processing licence renewals also continued to be of interest to the media in 2005.

Each year, CAFC officials and firearms officers from the various provincial offices attend several outdoor sports trade shows, hunting and fishing association events and similar gatherings to provide information to individuals, businesses and the general public on requirements under the *Firearms Act* and services provided by the Firearms Program. These events also provide another useful forum for clients to express specific service concerns and provide feedback on the delivery of the Program.

Over the years, the CAFC has published several fact sheets for individuals, explaining how the *Firearms Act* applies to such things as air guns, restricted or prohibited firearms, antique firearms, inherited firearms, importing firearms, and selling or giving a firearm to someone else. These fact sheets are distributed at trade shows and in response to public enquiries. They are also posted on the CAFC's web site. In 2005, most of the fact sheets needed to be updated to reflect legislative and regulatory changes that came into effect that year.

The CAFC continued its practice in 2005 and issued 24 bulletins to specialized audiences, including police and other public agencies, firearms businesses, shooting clubs and ranges, and outfitters, to inform them of new services and program changes that might affect them.

# Program Support

## Finance and Administration

### Program Funding

In February 2005, Main Estimates were tabled requesting, for the first time, an on-going funding base of \$82.3M for the Canada Firearms Centre. Reference levels for subsequent years were adjusted through the Annual Reference Level Update (ARLU) to compensate for the cost impact of the new collective agreements.

Included for the first time in the Estimates were two separate operating vote expenditures: \$14.6M for registration activities and functions and \$49.5M for non-registration functions and activities. As well, the Estimates included \$14M in contribution funding to meet transfer payments to provinces that administer the *Firearms Act* on behalf of the federal government within their jurisdiction, and funding for Aboriginal and other communities/organizations that enter into agreements with CAFC to undertake and promote firearms-related activities such as safety courses within their communities. Estimates also included \$4.2M of statutory funds to meet CAFC's obligations with respect to employee benefits plans.

The total level of funding respected the commitment made in May 2004 concerning future funding levels for the CAFC, starting with the 2005-2006 fiscal year. The financial performance by vote was closely monitored throughout the year.

## Reporting to Parliament and to the Public

During 2005, the CAFC continued to expand and improve reporting to Parliament and to the public. In its second submission of public accounts documents, the CAFC received a grade of "A" with 97 percent of plates submitted on time to the Receiver General, an improvement from the 95 percent submitted on time in the first year. Again in 2005, a formal planning process supported the production of the *Report on Plans and Priorities* (RPP), including an environmental scan to incorporate external and internal factors into the planning exercise. The resulting directions, activities and performance measures were developed by the management team and will form the basis of individual accountability accords.

## Contribution Programs

In March 2005, Treasury Board approved the CAFC's authority to renew the terms and conditions for contribution programs with provincial governments, Aboriginal communities and other organizations.

In addition, frameworks for results-based management and accountability and for risk-based audit were developed by the CAFC and approved by the Treasury Board.

## Administration

The CAFC continued to build its corporate administrative framework with the introduction of a departmental security policy that covered personnel, information, physical and IT issues, and a contracting guide that communicated policies and procedures consistent with the Government Contracting Regulations. The CAFC also introduced internal service delivery standards in 2005.

Significant financial and administrative support was provided to meet the requests for information related to the audit conducted by the Office of the Auditor General and the internal audits of the contracting and accounts payable functions.

## Values and Ethics

Public Service values and ethics continue to be reinforced with staff through departmental town halls, regular management meetings and ongoing dialogue with staff.

## Human Resources

The CAFC undertook several new initiatives in 2005 to meet its responsibilities under the *Public Service Modernization Act*, the *Public Service Labour Relations Act*, and amendments to the Financial Administration Act. The coming into force of these Acts in 2005 initiated the most substantial changes to labour relations in the Public Service of Canada in 38 years.

Among the steps that the CAFC took to support the priorities of the *Public Service Labour Relations Act* was the development of an Informal Conflict Management System (ICMS) policy and the naming of a Senior ICMS Officer. These steps emphasize the CAFC's commitment to openness, acceptance and responsibility in the workplace through the implementation of effective conflict prevention, management and resolution strategies.

Subject to approval from senior management, the CAFC guidelines on grievance procedures were amended to reflect new categories of grievances established by the *Public Service Labour Relations Act*. Grievance steps were also amended to reflect organizational changes and reporting relationships.

The CAFC also undertook several initiatives to prepare for the coming into force of the *Public Service Employment Act*. This Act, which was the last component of the *Public Service Modernization Act*, came into effect in December 2005. Its goal is to modernize and improve staffing to facilitate hiring the "right people when and where they are needed." Activities included, for example:

- The development of an implementation committee that met regularly to ensure the CAFC's readiness for implementation of the Act;

- The development of a communications strategy to keep management and staff informed about progress in implementing the Act; and
- Participation in information sessions and training sessions held by the Public Service Commission or the Canada School of Public Service.

Recruitment and retention of key staff continued to be a challenge for the CAFC in 2005. The increased flexibility provided by the *Public Service Employment Act* is expected to assist management in future recruitment efforts.

Another major focus for Human Resources in 2005 was the implementation of a collective agreement between the Treasury Board Secretariat and the Public Service Alliance of Canada. The agreement applied to the Program and Administration Services Group, which represented approximately 75 percent of CAFC employees. As required, the CAFC processed the new salaries, benefits and vacation leave credits set out in the agreement within 150 calendar days of the date the agreement was signed.

The CAFC is committed to providing services to clients in the official language of their choice. To this end, a consultant was hired to develop a three-year official language action plan for implementation in 2006. As well, the CAFC identified the needs of employees for second-language training and determined an approach to provide that training. The Official Languages unit successfully resolved all complaints received from the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages in 2005.



## Policy

### Working with Aboriginal Peoples

To support the administration of the *Firearms Act*, encourage firearms safety and enhance participation in the Firearms Program in Aboriginal communities, the CAFC continued to promote and collaborate on Aboriginal projects. With the support of contribution funding from the CAFC, Red Sky Métis Independent Nation continued to provide a wide range of firearms outreach services, including safety training aimed at enhancing safety and compliance, to Aboriginal people in Northwestern Ontario. Over 2,000 Aboriginal people are now safety certified as a result of this project.

Three new projects were developed and will receive financial assistance for implementation

in 2006. The Mohawks of Akwesasne, Ontario put their plans in place to support on-reserve safety training. This project reflects the ongoing collaboration between Mohawk people and the CAFC. Contribution funding was identified for the Tribal Chiefs Peacekeeping and Conservation Commission to proceed with the implementation of a firearms safety curriculum for on-reserve schools among Treaty 6 First Nations in Alberta. This unique project is designed to enhance knowledge and practice of firearms safety and may provide a model that other Aboriginal communities may wish to emulate. Also, funding was targeted for firearms-related communications needs of the Assembly of First Nations for its regional meetings in the Northwest Territories.

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### International Relations

The relationship between Canadian and U.S. law enforcement, policy and law makers is integral to firearms-related issues affecting both our countries. Over the past year, the CAFC continued to work with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) as co-chair of the Canada-U.S. Firearms Trafficking Consultative Group under the Cross Border Crime Forum. Among the joint initiatives to combat firearms trafficking was the development of a communications strategy to raise public awareness about the illegal movement of firearms.

The ATF and the RCMP signed a Letter of Agreement to exchange information on firearms found at crime scenes via an electronic firearms tracing system. Establishment of an electronic interface between the Canadian Integrated Ballistic Identification Network

(CIBIN) and the U.S. National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) also began in 2005. Canada and the U.S. currently share ballistics information manually to help in identifying and linking crime scene evidence.

The Canada-U.S. Consultative Group on Firearms Trafficking also supports key initiatives of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America Action Plan.

The CAFC participated in the Canadian Delegation to the United Nations Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the *Programme of Action (PoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* held at UN headquarters in New York City.

# Moving Forward

The CAFC has set the following four priorities for the next year to further optimize its contribution to public safety in a cost-effective manner.

## **1. Ensure that the public safety benefits of the Canadian Firearms Program are optimized**

This will be achieved through continually providing excellent service to a diverse clientele that includes police organizations, firearms owners, safety groups, firearm organizations and the general public.

## **2. Support continued compliance with the law**

Program effectiveness requires continued and enhanced compliance with the law. The CAFC will continue working closely with chief firearms officers, the provinces, police organizations and other public safety officials, as well as with firearms owners and users to facilitate compliance and support enforcement and crime and injury prevention.

## **3. Continue to engage the public, partners, and other communities of interest to further improve the Program**

Targeted outreach activities will enhance awareness and understanding of the Program, and support achievement of the objectives of the *Firearms Act* and related legislation.

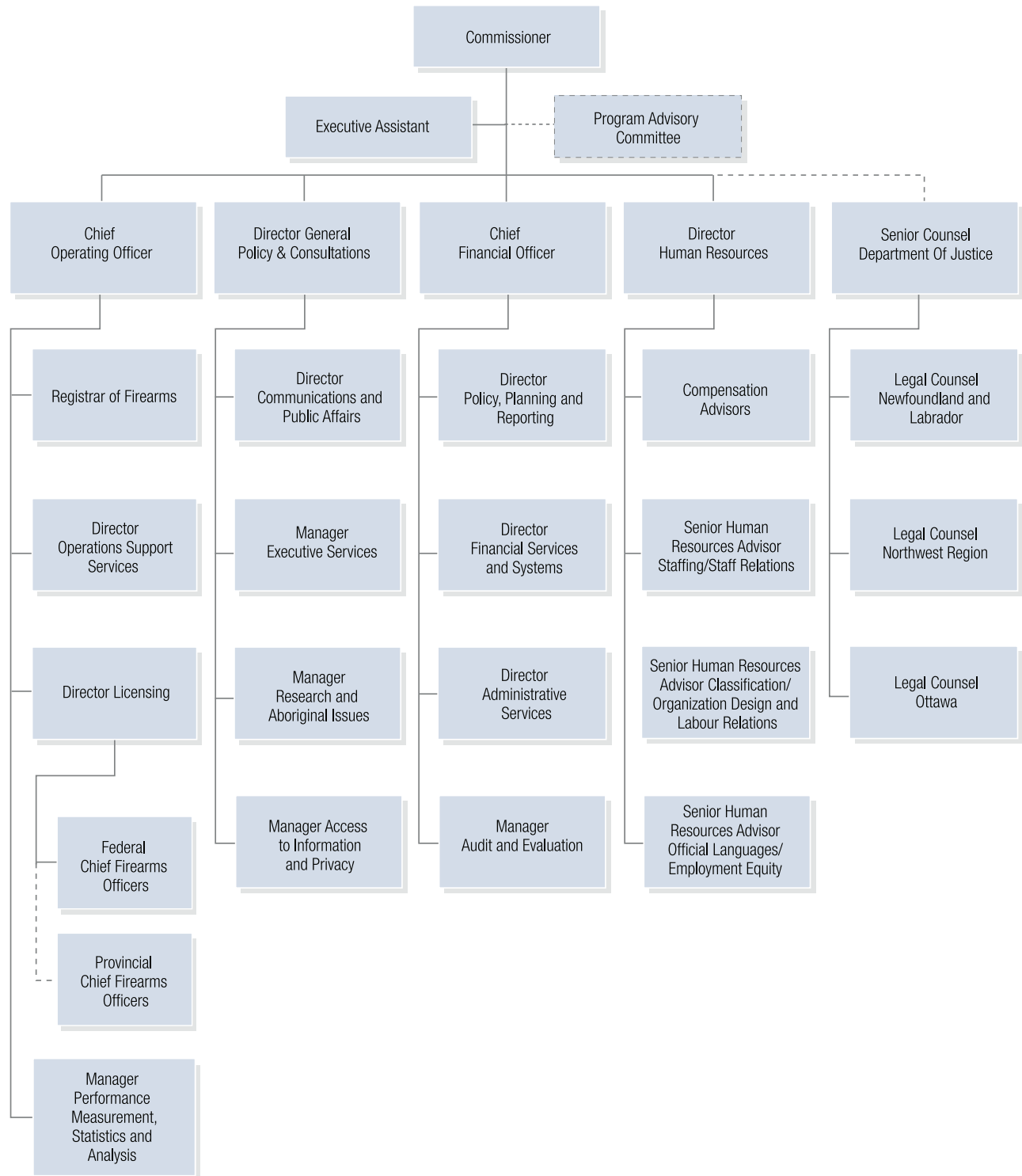
## **4. Increase efficiency of internal operations**

Opportunities for merging program operations (corporate and operational) will be examined to improve efficiency. Efficiencies will be gained through merger of program operations with those of the RCMP.

# Appendices

## Appendix A

### Organization of the Canada Firearms Centre for 2005



## Appendix B

### Canadian Firearms Program Partners

**Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada** — The CAFC and Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada work closely together to ensure the Minister, parliamentarians and senior government officials have the information necessary to carry out their responsibilities.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police — Access to selected information in the RCMP's Canadian Police Information Centre system is available via the Canadian Firearms Information System. When CFOs conduct background checks on people who have applied for a licence, some information comes from the Canadian Police Information Centre, through the Firearms Interest Police database.

Firearms Interest Police is a category of files in the Canadian Police Information Centre database that contains information from local police agencies about a person's criminal convictions, violent incidents (including incidents of violence or threatened violence associated with mental illness) or any other public safety concerns. Upon notification of a Firearms Interest Police event that matches with a firearms licence holder, the CFO will conduct an investigation to determine continuing licence eligibility.

The RCMP Forensic Laboratory, Firearms Section, provides firearms technical support to the Registrar on firearms classifications and firearms descriptions. The Forensic Laboratory also manages the Firearms Reference Table, an encyclopedic research tool developed by the RCMP that provides narrative and graphic information relating to the description, technical identification and legal classification of firearms. The Firearms Reference Table is used by the Firearms Program to identify and classify firearms accurately.

The National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST) is a specialized service operating under the National Police Services of the RCMP. NWEST is a Canada-wide network of officers who support police investigations involving the criminal use of firearms, including the trafficking and smuggling of illegal firearms. NWEST conducts firearm tracing activities through the Canadian Firearms Information System. The team also assists the Canada Firearms Centre police line after hours. In addition, NWEST offers information sessions to police officers and informs them about the

Firearms Program in general and, more specifically, about the Canadian Firearms Registry On-Line and the Firearms Interest Police database.

**Provinces and Territories** — Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia have appointed their own CFOs under the *Firearms Act*. The Government of Canada funds these operations through contribution agreements between the provinces and the federal government. The CFO responsible for Newfoundland and Labrador and the CFOs responsible for Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are appointed federally.

**Canada Border Services Agency** — The Canada Border Services Agency is responsible for assessing and confirming non-resident firearm declarations and collecting the applicable fees, consistent with the provisions of the *Firearms Act* and other relevant legislation. This involves determining the classification of the firearms, establishing the destination and purpose for importing the firearms, assessing the eligibility of the importer and ensuring that all firearms are being transported safely and in accordance with the law. Once confirmed, a non-resident firearm declaration serves as a temporary licence and registration.

**Department of Justice Canada** — Responsibility for the *Criminal Code of Canada*, including *Part III (Firearms and Other Weapons)*, rests with the Minister of Justice. The Department of Justice provides legal advice, drafting and litigation services to the Canada Firearms Centre.

**Foreign Affairs Canada** — The Canada Firearms Centre works with Foreign Affairs Canada to ensure that Canada's international commitments regarding firearms reflect domestic Canadian priorities as well as Canada's capacity to implement them.

**International Trade Canada** — The Canada Firearms Centre works with International Trade Canada to ensure that importers are aware of their obligations under the *Firearms Act*. International Trade Canada issues permits required to export and import firearms under the *Export and Import Permits Act*.

## Appendix C

### Firearms newly registered by class and jurisdiction 2005

Jurisdiction	Non-restricted	Restricted	Prohibited	Total
Newfoundland	7,287	506	68	7,861
Nova Scotia	8,774	1,095	582	10,451
Prince Edward Island	1,060	205	59	1,324
New Brunswick	9,094	763	326	10,183
Quebec	80,553	4,758	3,775	89,086
Ontario	116,735	18,379	7,010	142,124
Manitoba	17,865	1,320	376	19,561
Saskatchewan	17,242	1,465	572	19,279
Alberta	52,504	7,642	1,641	61,787
British Columbia	37,651	8,590	2,069	48,310
Yukon	1,252	108	19	1,379
Northwest Territories	1,364	104	35	1,503
Nunavut	1,431	11	7	1,449
Outside Canada	2,061	29	9	2,099
<b>Total</b>	<b>354,873</b>	<b>44,975</b>	<b>16,548</b>	<b>416,396</b>

## Appendix D

### Licences issued by owner type and jurisdiction 2005

Jurisdiction	POL	PAL	Minor	Business	Total
Newfoundland	5,496	4,989	66	320	10,871
Nova Scotia	5,231	3,496	428	197	9,352
Prince Edward Island	306	319	-	25	650
New Brunswick	4,984	3,030	15	185	8,214
Quebec	18,443	34,602	30	917	53,992
Ontario	25,706	37,409	1,649	988	65,752
Manitoba	2,957	5,717	89	238	9,001
Saskatchewan	2,787	5,640	87	376	8,890
Alberta	5,090	16,160	308	494	22,052
British Columbia	7,131	13,726	75	494	21,426
Yukon	128	563	19	18	728
Northwest Territories	62	582	12	57	713
Nunavut	8	248	-	51	307
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,329</b>	<b>126,481</b>	<b>2,778</b>	<b>4,360</b>	<b>211,948</b>

Note: Numbers of licences issued to individuals and businesses include new licences as well as renewals.



