

**Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security
Gun Violence**

December 16, 2021

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Tab 1 Scenario note

Key Messages

- The RCMP continues to work closely with Public Safety, CBSA and other policing partners in combatting illegal firearms activity.
- The RCMP is enhancing its capacity to trace firearms, produce actionable intelligence on the trafficking of firearms, and targeting firearms straw purchasing activities.
- The organization is also enhancing intelligence resources and working with CBSA to target firearms smuggling into Canada.

Appearance

The Minister of Public Safety (PS) is scheduled to appear before the House Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) regarding their study of the Gun Violence on December 16, 2021, from 11:00 to 13:00. You and other senior officials from PS and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) will attend to support the Minister. Participants include:

Department of Public Safety

- Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety
- Rob Stewart, Deputy Minister
- Officials from Department of Public Safety to be determined

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

- Brenda Lucki, Commissioner
- Michael Duheme, Deputy Commissioner, Federal Policing
- Stephen White, Deputy Commissioner, Specialized Policing Services
- Kellie Paquette, Director General Canadian Firearms Program
- Mathieu Bertrand, Superintendent, Director of Federal Policing Criminal Operations, Border Integrity

Canada Border Services Agency

- John Ossowski, CBSA President
- Officials from CBSA to be determined

The Minister will appear with RCMP and CBSA officials from 11:00 to 12:00; officials will then stay before SECU from 12:00 to 1:00.

Key Statistics have been provided at Tab 2. RCMP Firearms-specific Hot Issue Notes are included at Tab 3. Questions and Answers are found at Tab 4. A Hot Issues Note from the CBSA on the Cross-Border Firearms Taskforce is provided at Tab 5. A one-pager on Firearms Specific Funding is provided at Tab 6, while Additional Firearms Briefing Material is found at Tab 7. Non-Firearms Hot Issue Notes are at Tab 8.

An overview of SECU and Member Biographies are available at Tab 9 and helpful tips on answering committee questions are found at Tab 10.

Strategic considerations

During Question Period, members of the Bloc Québécois have repeatedly raised questions regarding gun violence and gun trafficking, specifically in the Montreal area.

The Government has signaled its desire to make serious progress on its firearms agenda. The 2021 Speech from the Throne committed to strengthening gun control. Additionally, it stated the Government would “put forward measures like a mandatory buyback of banned assault-style weapons, and move forward with any province or territory that wants to ban handguns”. These measures complement commitments from the Liberal Party of Canada’s 2021 election platform,

which promised to enhance the capacity of the RCMP and CBSA to combat the illegal importation of firearms and to increase the maximum penalties for firearms trafficking and smuggling from 10 to 14 years' imprisonment.

In February 2021, the Government introduced Bill C-21, *An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments* (firearms). At the time of the dissolution of Parliament in June 2021, the bill was at the Second Reading debate stage in the House of Commons.

An Annex has been provided at Tab 1A, which provides notable comments made by members of SECU on gun violence.

Background

SECU reviews legislation policies, programs and expenditure plans of government departments and agencies responsible for public safety and national security, policing and law enforcement, corrections and conditional release of federal offenders, emergency management, crime prevention and the protection of Canada's borders.

On December 7, 2021, the House of Commons unanimously adopted the following motion, which was put forward by the Bloc Québécois:

That, given the increase in gun violence and the numerous deadly shootings in the streets of Montreal and the metropolitan area in recent weeks, and notwithstanding any standing order, special order or usual practice of the House:

(a) the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security be instructed to undertake as a priority a study on gun control, illegal arms trafficking and the increase in gun crimes committed by members of street gangs;

(b) the members to serve on the committee be appointed by the whip of each recognized party depositing with the Clerk of the House a list of his or her party's members before the adjournment of the House;

(c) the Clerk of the House shall convene a meeting of the committee on a priority basis no later than Wednesday, December 8, 2021; and

(d) the Minister of Public Safety, as well as representatives of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, appear before the committee as witnesses for a period of three hours each as the committee sees fit.

You last appeared before SECU on June 2, 2021, for their study on Final Report on the Implementation of the Merlo Davidson Settlement Agreement. On June 22, 2021, SECU tabled their report, concurring with the findings and recommendations of Justice Bastarache's report.

On June 17, 2021, SECU tabled their report on Systemic Racism in Policing in Canada. The report reflected the Committee's nearly year-long study and contained 42 recommendations, many of which implicate the RCMP. While a Government Response was requested, due to the dissolution of Parliament, that requirement was negated. SECU may, however, table a motion requiring that the government respond to the committee's report this session. Should it that occur, the government would then have 120 days to respond.

General information

Rounds of Questioning:

Members of the Committee are allotted six minutes to both ask questions and receive responses during the first round of questioning. In the second round (time permitting), the allotted time for questions and answers is reduced to five minutes.

- Typical order of questioning for the first round: Liberal, Conservative, Bloc, NDP.
- Typical order of questioning for the second round: Conservative, Liberal, Conservative, Liberal, then 2.5 minutes each for the Bloc and NDP.

Departmental officials present at Committee are responsible for supporting the Minister's accountability in Parliament. As departmental officials are not primarily responsible for exercising the powers of the Crown, their relationship to Parliament is different from that of Ministers. While Ministers are responsible for political, partisan matters, and for defending public policies before Parliament, deputy heads and officials support Ministers in providing explanations and information on public policies that Ministers could not be expected to provide due to the level of detail or complexity.

When responding to questions from committee members, keep your answers brief and factual. Avoid taking a position, providing your opinion, stating your personal recommendations or speaking on behalf of others on a given issue. Do not divulge classified information, Cabinet confidences or any information that contradicts privacy laws.

N.B.: The Committee can request a copy of all witness materials brought into the Committee room. Ensure there are no references to Cabinet Confidences or other sensitive information.

Tab 1a Annex- notable statements from SECU members

Kristina Michaud (Bloc Québécois (BQ)):

During Question Period, MP Michaud, who is the BQ's Public Safety Critic, has made many interventions regarding the Government's efforts to address gun violence and gun trafficking.

- December 7, 2021: "Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with a gun culture where criminal groups buy, sell and use firearms as though they were toys mainly because they are just as easy to obtain as toys... The Liberals spent the election campaign saying that the RCMP is not adequately funded and that prison sentences are too lenient...The minister has been repeating the same thing for two weeks. When will he take action?"
- December 6, 2021: "This is urgent, but the government has not made banning handguns a priority either. The government wants to offload that responsibility onto the provinces. Today, 32 years to the day after what happened at the Polytechnique, does the minister realize that the women who survived are sick and tired of commemorations and pious words that are not backed up by action?"
- On December 2, 2021: "Last year, the RCMP withdrew investigators from Quebec's national anti-organized crime squad. This summer, a retired police officer told La Presse that it is clear that the RCMP and the SQ are not talking as much today as they were a few years ago, adding that the forces still respect each other, but they do not talk to each other."
- On November 29, 2021: "Today, the Bloc Québécois proposed a joint task force to combat firearms trafficking. This solution has worked in the past for cigarette and drug smuggling...My question is simple: Will the minister set up this task force?"
- November 26, 2021: "The most important thing the federal government can do is combat gun trafficking at the border. The guns used in the tragedies that occurred in Montreal were illegal. It is already against the law to possess them, much less sell them, yet they are found in our neighbourhoods. Montreal and Quebec can deploy all the resources they have, but if the federal government does not do its part, guns will continue to find their way onto our streets."

Alistair MacGregor (New Democratic Party (NDP)):

MP MacGregor, the NDP's Public Safety Critic, remarked in Question Period on December 10, 2021, that reform of the RCMP is needed. He made reference to SECU's June 2021 on Systemic Racism in Policing in Canada and noted, "The report called for an overhaul of the RCMP, including better civilian oversight and a transition away from a paramilitary force".

Raquel Rancho (Conservative Party of Canada (CPC)):

MP Dancho, the CPC's Public Safety Critic, has been critical of the Government's ability to address gun and gang violence. In November 2021, MP Dancho shared a media article on social media about the Ontario government making a \$75 million investment to address gun and gang violence. She commented, "the Liberals continue to ignore the problem causing violent crime on our streets". Additionally, on the firearms buyback program, she stated in November 2021, "This mandatory program will cost taxpayers billions of dollars and do nothing to stop illegal gun smuggling that is fueling the increase of violence in Canadian cities".

Tako Van Popta (CPC):

In March 2021, MP Van Popta hosted a virtual town hall regarding Bill C-21, *An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)*. At the time of dissolution, the bill was being debated at Second Reading in the House of Commons. During the town hall, he commented that the legislation should focus on "measures that will stop illegal firearm possession and use by empowering Canada Border Services Agency to combat illegal importation of guns and our police forces to combat gang violence".

Pam Damoff (Liberal Party of Canada (LPC)):

MP Damoff is the Parliamentary Secretary to Minister Mendicino. In debate in the House of Commons on Bill C-21, she noted that the bill "would take needed action in a number of areas

critical to improving public safety... including fighting gun smuggling and trafficking by strengthening measures at the border...".

Tab 2 Key statistics

Firearm licences

- Approximately 2.2 million individuals currently hold a valid Firearms License.
- Approximately 4,100 businesses are licensed in Canada (approximately 1,740 are licensed only to sell ammunition).
- In 2020, 1,112 Firearm Licence applications were refused and 2,888 Firearm Licences were revoked. Reasons:
 - Court-ordered prohibition/probation (28%)
 - Potential risk to others (23%)
 - Potential risk to self (17%)
 - Mental health (14%)
 - Domestic violence (5%)
 - Violent behaviour (5%)
 - Provided false information (4%)
 - Unsafe firearm use and storage (3%)
 - Drug offences (1%)
 - Licence ineligible (less than 1%)

Firearm registration

- A total of an approximate 1.1M registered firearms
 - Approximately 913,000 registered restricted firearms.
 - Approximately 165,000 registered prohibited firearms.
 - 96.7% are handguns
- In 2020, 16 registration applications were refused and 4,630 Registration Certificates were revoked (as part of a licence revocation). Non-restricted firearms are not subject to registration
- In 2020, the number of registered restricted and prohibited firearms decreased in Canada for the first time since 2010, which may be attributed, in part, to the prohibition of 1,500 models of assault-style firearms.

Handguns, homicides, gangs

- Approximately 1.0 million registered handguns; 96.7% of all registrations.
- Over the last 10 years 51% increase (total 1,024,852) in registered restricted and prohibited handguns
- Approximately half of handguns are smuggled
- Of the 277 firearms-related homicides in 2020, 135 (49%) were committed with a handgun, the single largest category.
- For firearms-related violent crime, a category that includes violent crimes (e.g. homicide, robbery) committed with a firearm, shootings (e.g. drive-bys), and pointing/threatening with a firearm, 54% of incidents in 2020 were committed with a handgun (23% long gun, 23% replica and other firearms-like weapons).
- Of the 135 handgun homicides, 67 (49%) were gang-related, and 68 (51%) were not.
- Gang-related homicides involving a firearm dropped 20% in 2020 from 2019 rates.
- Non-gang-related handgun homicides rose, however, so that the handgun homicide rate rose in every province in 2020 except Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Firearm seizures

- In 2020, public agencies reported 30,242 firearms seized. 69% were seized as part of a criminal investigation and the breakdown is as follows:
 - 52% were rifles
 - 29% shotguns
 - 18% handguns

- Among these, 90% were not previously registered, the majority being non-restricted firearms.
- In 2020, RCMP seized over 10,000 illegal firearms. This represents a 20% increase in the number of seizures over the previous year.
 - 60% were rifles
 - 26% shotguns
 - 14% handguns
 - 20% increase in the number of seizures over the previous year.

Firearm tracing

- Firearm tracing is a key tool in determining the sources of and diversion routes for illegal firearms. The strategic benefits of firearm tracing information (e.g., the ability to use a database of tracing information to link criminal use of firearms to specific vendors, and identify trafficking routes and patterns) are poorly understood.
- Nationally, 58% of the firearms traced in Canada in 2020 were domestically sourced (diverted, lost, or stolen).
- The Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre completed approximately 2000 firearm traces in 2020. Of the successful traces (1,472),
 - 73% were deemed to be imported legally or manufactured in Canada and
 - 27% were smuggled or possibly smuggled.
 - 29% handguns and 71% long guns
- In cases where it was a successful trace the source of the firearm and its type was known, 58% of handguns were identified as smuggled/possibly smuggled while 85% of long guns were domestically sourced.
- A steady increase in national trace requests. As of November 2021, tracing requests have
- increased 77% increase
- Firearm Tracing and Enforcement (FATE) - Ontario police ran tracing centre
 - Approximately 2200 traced in 2020 to the last known source

Firearm charges

- We have seen the number of people charged with weapons trafficking offences double, over the past five years, reaching a high of 137 individuals charge in 2020.

Government firearm prohibition 2020

- Government prohibition of over 1,500 makes and models of assault-style firearms.
- The actual number is 1,852 makes and models. This number will continue to increase as new firearms are classified as they enter the market.
- Total ~141,000 firearms impacted by the prohibition (~106,000 restricted and estimation of 35,000 non-restricted but the non-restricted number is estimated based on 2012 ATIP data as Canada does not have a registry for non-restricted firearms)
- As of December 9, 2021, 18 firearms (formerly classified as restricted) affected by the May 1, 2020 Order in Council (OIC) have been deactivated.
- In addition, there have been 142 OIC-affected firearms recorded as surrendered to a public agency for destruction since May 1st, 2020

Firearms-related homicides

- According to a Statistics Canada report, police reported a total of 277 firearm-related homicides in 2020, up 6% compared to 2019 and the second year in a row that the rate has risen in Canada.
- Handguns continued to be the most used firearm in homicides in 2020 with 49% of all firearm-related homicides being committed with a handgun.
- RCMP statistics track 97 homicide victims by firearm in 2020 and 80 in 2021.

Gang-related homicides

- Of 743 homicides in 2020, 148 were gang-related, and of the 148, 39% were firearm-related.
- Firearms are often involved in gang-related homicides. However, nation-wide, the proportion of these homicides declined to its lowest level since 2013, from 83% of all gang-related homicides in 2019 to 72% in 2020. The total number of gang-related homicides committed with a firearm also decreased by 20% from 2019 to 2020 at the national level.
- 71 % of organized crime groups (OCGs) assessed by CISC in 2021 are believed to be involved in violent activities, ranging from assaults to shootings and homicides.
- CISC conservatively estimates that over 400 street gangs operate in Canada. In 2021, CISC analyzed 87 street gangs and found that 94% use violence to further their criminal activities.
- Street Gangs are involved in more public shootings and acts of violence than other types of Organized Crime Groups, including Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs. This violence is often facilitated through the ease at which many Street Gangs obtain smuggled firearms from the United States, and their increasing comfort to carry these firearms in public.

Types of firearms involved in a crime

- In 2020, public agencies reported 30,242 firearms seized, with 69% seized as part of a criminal investigation (seized – CI). Of the 21,000 firearms seized - CI, 52% were rifles, 29% shotguns, and 18% handguns. Among these, 90% were not previously registered, the majority being non-restricted firearms.

General homicide statistics

- Across the country, police reported 743 homicides in 2020, which is the highest number of homicides recorded in Canada since 1991. It was also 56 more homicides than in 2019 (up 7% to 1.95 homicides per 100,000 population in 2020, compared to 1.83 in 2019).
- Toronto continued to have the highest number of homicides in Canada — with 105 victims in 2020 — yet saw the greatest year-over-year decline in homicides of all CMAs, with 25 fewer victims last year.
- Indigenous people are disproportionately represented in the data with the rate of homicide for Indigenous people in 2020 almost seven times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous people.
- Four out of five victims of solved homicides in 2020 knew their killers — as in previous years. Most people continue to die at the hands of people who are known to them and the pandemic has only exacerbated the potential for that.

Regulatory investigations and support

Trends

- Increasing client base: due to the popularity of shooting sports, the number of licensees is increasing at roughly twice the rate at which the population of Canada is increasing;
- Increasing demand for firearms registration: for the same reason, the number of registered restricted firearms is increasing at roughly twice the rate at which the number of licensees is increasing;
- Increasing regulatory workload: government policy, statutory, and regulatory decisions over the past several years have resulted in a more restrictive regulatory environment (e.g., mandatory licence verification to transfer non-restricted firearms);
- Increasing requirement for online service delivery: client base growth, client demand, and government policy require that the CFP modernize its service delivery, which is largely paper- based and dependent upon manual processes and aging IM/IT architecture, to move more services online.

Support stats

- In 2020 the firearms internet unit conducted 109 investigations for the Regulatory side and 113 for the Law Enforcement.
- In 2021, they conducted 114 investigations for the Regulatory side and 170 for Law Enforcement. Of note, the majority of the investigations for Law Enforcement were related to ITAAGV.
- NWEST were able to deliver training to 1,164 participants in 2020-21, including expanding training to include Military Police/CAF personnel, Public Prosecution Services, and Provincial Conservation Services. In 2021-22, NWEST has delivered training to an additional 3,541 participants to date.

Tab 3 RCMP hot issues

Tab 3a Role of Canadian firearms program (SPS)

Issue

The purpose of this note is to describe the roles and responsibilities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Canadian Firearms Program

Response

- The mission of the RCMP Canadian Firearms Program is to enhance public safety by reducing the risk of harm resulting from the misuse of firearms.
- The Canadian Firearms Program is responsible for the administration of the *Firearms Act* and to support Canadian and international law enforcement agencies in the prevention and investigation of firearms crime.
- Currently, there are approximately 2.2 million individuals who hold a valid Firearms Licence in Canada.
- There are approximately 1.1 million registered restricted and prohibited firearms. Non-restricted firearms are not subject to registration.
- All licensing and registration information is held within the Canadian Firearms Information System.

Background: The Canadian Firearms Program

The Commissioner of the RCMP is also the Commissioner of Firearms and reports annually to Parliament via the Minister of Public Safety on the operation of the Canadian Firearms Program. Each province and territory has a Chief Firearms Officer who is responsible for: licensing individuals and businesses within their jurisdiction; issuing authorizations to transport and/or carry restricted and prohibited firearms; and inspecting and approving shooting ranges. The provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have provincially designated Chief Firearms Officers. All other provinces and territories have federally designated Chief Firearms Officers.

Facts and statistics

- Individuals must hold a valid Firearms License to acquire and possess a firearm or to acquire ammunition. Individual Firearms Licenses are valid for 5 years and are subject to renewal.
- Approximately 2.2 million individuals currently hold a valid Firearms License.
- Section 5 of the *Firearms Act* provides the Chief Firearms Officer with the authority to determine if an individual is eligible, in the interest of public safety, to hold a Firearms Licence.
- In 2020, 1,112 Firearm Licence applications were refused and 2,888 Firearm Licences were revoked.
- Businesses require a valid Firearms Business License to manufacture or sell firearms or ammunition. Firearms Business licenses are valid for 3 years (for firearms) or 5 years (for ammunition only sales).
- Approximately 4,100 businesses are licensed in Canada (approximately 1,740 are licensed only to sell ammunition).

Classes of firearms

In accordance with the *Criminal Code of Canada*, there are three classes of firearms in Canada: non-restricted firearms (typically shotguns and rifles); restricted firearms (predominantly handguns); and prohibited firearms (certain handguns and fully automatic or converted automatic firearms).

Restricted and prohibited firearms are subject to registration. Currently, there are approximately 913,000 restricted firearms registered and approximately 165,000 prohibited firearms registered. In 2020, 16 registration applications were refused and 4,630 Registration Certificates were revoked. Non-restricted firearms are not subject to registration.

All licensing and registration information is held within the Canadian Firearms Information System. A sub-set of the licensing and registration information is provided to the law enforcement community via the Canadian Police Information Centre platform.

Tab 3b Quebec non-restricted registration records- “Long Gun Registry Records” (SPS)

Issue

The purpose of this note is to describe the status of Quebec non-restricted registration records.

Response

(Responsive only – Long Gun Registry records)

- All registration records for non-restricted firearms in the Canadian Firearms Information System were destroyed in October 2012, with the exception of Quebec records.
- Destruction of Quebec records were delayed due to litigation filed by the province of Quebec and actioned in April 2015.
- Prior to the destruction of the Quebec records and pursuant to a court order, the Canadian Firearms Program was ordered by the Federal Court to retain a copy of the Quebec non-restricted firearm registration records outside of the Canadian Firearms Information System, in an independent and unconnected repository.
- This information was retained due to litigation with the Office of the Information Commissioner.
- In accordance with the amendments to the *Firearms Act*, a copy of these non-restricted registration records was provided to the Quebec Ministry of Public Security and to the Office of the Information Commissioner.
- The Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada is currently confirming that there are no outstanding provisions that require the copy to be retained.
- Once confirmation is received, the copy of the Quebec non-restricted firearm registration records can be destroyed.

Background: Quebec Non-Restricted Registration Records

In accordance with the *Firearms Act*, non-restricted firearms were subject to registration between 1998 and 2012. Amendments were brought forth to the *Firearms Act* in 2012 which eliminated the requirement to register non-restricted firearms.

All registration records for non-restricted firearms were destroyed in the Canadian Firearms Information System in October 2012, with the exception of Quebec records (due to litigation filed by the province of Quebec) which were destroyed in April 2015.

Prior to the destruction of the Quebec records, pursuant to a court order, the Canadian Firearms Program was ordered by the Federal Court of Canada to retain a copy of the Quebec non-restricted firearm registration records outside of the Canadian Firearms Information System in an independent unconnected repository due to litigation with the Office of the Information Commissioner.

In accordance with the provisions in *Bill C-71, an Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms*, this copy was provided to the Quebec Ministry of Public Security. The records need to be retained until no longer required for ATIP purposes. These records are not accessible for any other purpose, and remain offline.

The Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada is currently confirming that there are no outstanding provisions that require the copy to be retained. Once confirmation is received, the copy of the Quebec non-restricted firearm registration records can be destroyed.

Tab 3c RCMP's efforts in Quebec to combat illegal firearms activity (C division)

Issue

For a number of months, Quebec police forces have seen an increase in handgun-related crime in the province, primarily in the Greater Montréal area.

Response

- The RCMP is aware of the issue of the illegal movement of firearms in the country and is making every possible effort to address it.
- Through its Border Integrity Program, the RCMP in Quebec contributes to keeping the public safe by combatting trans-border crime, including trafficking in illegal firearms.
- In cooperation with its partners, including the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), and in accordance with its federal border security mandate, the RCMP in Quebec has conducted a number of gun control operations.
- As part of the many police operations by the RCMP in Quebec, 294 pistols were seized, in addition to 50 long-guns and prohibited weapons. Officers also seized 41 silencers and 71 prohibited high-capacity magazines, a 3D printer that was being used to print illegal firearms components, and dozens of other illegal components.
- As recently as Friday, December 10, 2021, RCMP officers in Quebec arrested an individual and seized 11 long-guns, 12 pistols, and a very large quantity of different types of ammunition.
- At the provincial level, the RCMP has committed to contributing to provincial efforts by allocating a number of RCMP resources to Operation Centaure.

Background

Federal program

Over the past year, the RCMP in Quebec has conducted a number of gun control operations in cooperation with its partners, including the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), and in accordance with its federal border watch mandate.

Every day, RCMP integrated border enforcement teams (IBETs) patrol our borders, from one corner of Quebec to the other. In partnership with the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG), two ships with members of the RCMP's Marine Security Enforcement Team patrol Canadian waters. In addition to patrolling the Great Lakes region, these ships are regularly deployed on the St. Lawrence Seaway, helping to reduce criminal activities in Quebec.

As part of the many police operations by the RCMP in Quebec, 294 pistols were seized, in addition to 50 long-guns and prohibited weapons. Officers also seized 41 silencers and 71 prohibited high-capacity magazines, as well as a 3D printer that was being used to print illegal firearms components, and dozens of other illegal components.

All of these weapons were removed from circulation, contributing to increased safety for the people of Quebec.

Seizures in 2021

On January 20, 2021, officers from the Quebec RCMP Airport and Federal Investigations Detachment (AFID) arrested a man in Val-des-Monts following an investigation into the importation of prohibited firearms devices. A total of 18 firearms were seized, including one assault rifle and one Thompson sub-machine gun, as well as four silencers.

On February 8, 2021, officers from the RCMP Quebec City Detachment arrested a man in Ancienne-Lorette following an investigation into the importation of a prohibited firearm device, namely, a silencer. Officers also seized 10 homemade bombs, firearms of various calibres, silencers, magazines, and a large quantity of ammunition and prohibited weapons.

On March 5, 2021, officers from the Quebec RCMP Valleyfield Detachment arrested a man during a border surveillance operation and seized 249 prohibited handguns in the Dundee area, near the US border.

On December 2, 2021, officers from the Quebec RCMP Valleyfield Detachment collaborated in an operation led by their colleagues at the Cornwall Detachment in Ontario. The operation led to the arrest of two men and the seizure of 53 handguns and 110 high-capacity magazines that had been transported by boat.

On December 10, 2021, officers from the Quebec RCMP arrested an individual and seized 11 long-guns, 12 pistols, more than a hundred magazines, and a very large quantity of different types of ammunition.

Operation Centaure

On September 24, 2021, the Government of Quebec announced that it was rolling out Operation Centaure, a strategy to fight gun violence. This strategy is aimed in particular at deploying specialised investigative teams and disrupting illegal firearms trafficking with the participation of a number of police forces

Since the launch of Operation Centaure, in cooperation with various municipal police forces, the RCMP in Quebec has participated in a number of coordinated operations that took place in some licensed establishments in October and November 2021. The aim was to gather information on firearms in order to maintain police pressure on organized crime members and to strengthen police presence in Quebec.

The RCMP has agreed to provide the following resources to cooperate with this initiative by the Quebec government:

- The officer in charge of the Border Integrity Program and Federal Detachments in Quebec is a member of the Centaure operational committee.
- The officer in charge of the Organized Crime Program is a member of the Quebec strategic committee to combat organized crime, which oversees the direction of Operation Centaure under the coordination of the Sûreté du Québec.
- An RCMP analyst will be dedicated to Operation Centaure on a full-time basis.
- An RCMP investigator will be dedicated to Operation Centaure on a full-time basis.
- Three RCMP investigators will act as liaison officers as part of Operation Centaure. In particular, they will liaise with the Akwesasne, Kahnawake and Kanesatake reserves, in addition to maintaining contact with various national and international partners, particularly on the US side.
- The RCMP has also signalled its interest in providing additional investigators, on an ad hoc or permanent basis, to meet the needs of Operation Centaure.

The RCMP's current operations arising from its federal mandate in Quebec, as well as the cooperation of the RCMP in the Centaure initiative, confirm its strong commitment to combatting the increase in violent gun-related crime in Quebec and its willingness to protect communities from coast to coast.

Tab 3d Initiative to take action against gun and gang violence-funding to support frontline policing efforts (SPS-CFP)

Issue

ITAAGGV is a key component of the federal government's priority commitment to address gun and gang violence in Canada. As a horizontal initiative, it aligns federal, provincial, territorial and community-level efforts to reduce gun crime and related gang violence.

Response

- Budget 2018 invested a total of \$327.6M over 5 years to establish the ITAAGGV, which is a horizontal initiative led by Public Safety with the CBSA and the RCMP.
- The RCMP received \$34.5M (45 resources) to bolster existing services, enhance intelligence networks, and increase information sharing to optimize actionable intelligence focused on gun and gang violence.
- The increased capacity and realignment will provide services to support strategic-level analysis of criminal gun usage in Canada, including the identification of crime patterns and trends, and its relations to gang violence.
- Additionally, it will provide training related to firearms trafficking and smuggling; and, improve turnaround time of Canadian Integrated Ballistics Identification Network (CIBIN)-related services.
- The RCMP has developed the first annual 2020 Firearms Analysis and Strategic Summary (FASS) report which provides a strategic overview of the current national firearms landscape.

Background

Funding allocated to the RCMP under the ITAAGGV is intended to leverage and expand services and support already provided by the RCMP to enable Canadian law enforcement to effectively address the criminal use of firearms and meet the objectives of the Guns and Gangs commitment. The RCMP is building its capacity over the five-year implementation plan, with new resource requirements gradually increased to full implementation by fiscal year 2022-23.

To date, the RCMP has staffed 36 out of 41 ITAAGGV funded positions, and plans to staff five more by the end of the 2021-22 fiscal year. At the end of the initiative a total of 45 ITAAGGV funded positions (excluding internal services) are to be filled. Collectively, these additional resources will also help improve the sharing of information and intelligence necessary to guide operations by having sufficient capacity to build relationships and encourage a culture of information sharing.

The Guns and Gangs Unit brings a diverse range of stakeholders (including RCMP and CBSA) together to share best practices, plans and priorities in the interest of future collaboration, as required. This collaborative approach serves to inform policy to better align FPT initiatives as a means of articulating and implementing the national guns and gangs strategy.

RCMP's specific resources included in ITAAGGV include:

National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST)

- \$13.1 million over five years and \$3.8 million ongoing (22 FTEs)
- to increase the RCMP capacity nationwide that provides investigative support and assistance, firearms identification and tracing, expert advice and witnesses, access to

specialized databases, illicit firearms pricing information, and training, lectures, aids, and materials.

Specialized Firearm Support Services (SFSS)

- \$2.73 million over five years and \$0.6 million ongoing (5 FTEs)
- to increase the capacity of the RCMP to conduct physical inspections of firearms for the purposes of identification and classification. Additionally, SFSS will introduce a program that will qualify RCMP staff to be able to provide a Certificate of Analysis, which is issued to transmit firearms, cartridge magazine and ammunition classification decisions to the Courts. This will improve the efficiency of the judicial system by reducing the number of firearms classification requests being sent to forensic labs and by reducing the need for a firearms expert to testify in court.

National Forensics Laboratory Services (NFLS)

- \$2.24 million over five years and \$0.4 million ongoing (2 FTEs)
- to ensure increased demands on the Canadian Integrated Ballistics Identification Network (CIBIN) database and for the intelligence generated through its use can be met. Additional personnel to allow Guns & Gangs-related cases to be prioritized for entry onto CIBIN for faster reporting to the frontline investigator, and to accommodate any increase in submissions resulting from this initiative.
 - To meet the modern demands placed on CIBIN for NFLS, capital funding of \$322,000 over 5 years and \$23,000 ongoing will go towards procuring additional instruments and to up-grade existing instruments on the CIBIN network. This funding would not only increase capacity for the network and reduce potential bottlenecks in the process, but also ensure optimal performance support for frontline investigators by generating higher quality images of bullets and cartridge cases for comparison purposes. These improvements will allow NFLS to provide information that will be used to link more crime scenes and seized firearms in a timelier manner.
 - Leverage increased personnel capacity to use data being captured on the CIBIN database to provide actionable crime gun intelligence and emerging firearms related trends to investigators and National Intelligence Coordination Centre.

Federal Policing National Intelligence (formerly the National Intelligence Coordination Centre)

- \$3.9 million over five years and \$0.8 million ongoing (6 FTEs)
- to identify threats and address intelligence gaps due to insufficient resources responsible for covering broad regional areas, in an effort to advance operations. In addition, increased capacity will result in the ability to develop human sources intelligence that cannot currently be developed, strengthen collaboration with domestic and international partners, and an enhanced analytical capacity to produce actionable intelligence.

Criminal Firearms Strategic and Operational Support Services (CFSOSS)

- \$2.4 million over five years and \$0.6 million ongoing (5 FTEs)
- to build capacity that will provide RCMP partners with the necessary tools, strategic analysis and research, and ensure an integrated, coordinated and intelligence-led approach to reducing criminal gun usage and gang violence through improved and effective communication among RCMP partners.

Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC)

- \$1.2 million over five years and \$0.2 million ongoing (2 FTEs)
- these resources will focus on enhancing criminal intelligence on street gangs that addresses an identified intelligence gap.

Firearms Internet Investigations Support Unit (FIISU)

- \$1.7 million over five years and \$0.4 million ongoing (3 FTEs)
- to introduce dedicated resources to build an anonymous online capability within the RCMP that will focus on firearms trafficking and smuggling, reflective of changes in technology and the evolving threat environment.

RCMP Internal Services

- \$4.8 million over five years and \$0.9 million ongoing (8 FTEs) to support and administer the other 45 incremental resources.

Tab 3e Street gang violence (SPS)

Issue

The rise in street gang violence and firearms offences is leading to widespread public safety concerns across Canada. It is the subject of notable reporting in the media, including in Quebec and in major urban centres.

Response

- Over the past 5 years, Street Gangs and firearms-related violence have been the focus of enhanced cross-jurisdiction sharing and analysis of intelligence through the Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC), a National Police Service stewarded by the RCMP, which coordinates the sharing and analysis of criminal intelligence on organized crime and street gangs with its over 380-member agencies across Canada, facilitated by ten provincial bureaus.
- CISC conservatively estimates that over 400 street gangs operate in Canada, 94% of which use violence to further their criminal activities. The sheer breadth and number of street gangs, the fluidity of membership, their interprovincial and international expansion, and their increasing use of social media and encryption technologies pose notable enforcement challenges in all jurisdictions.
- The CISC network, including the work of its National Street Gang Working Group, show that Street Gangs are involved in more public shootings and acts of violence than other types of Organized Crime Groups, including Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs.
- More often, Street Gang violence is perpetrated in response to direct or perceived insults on social media, or as a result of the contracting of violence by higher level or national-level organized crime groups for a Street Gang to act on their behalf and protect their criminal market territories.
- This violence is often facilitated through the ease at which many Street Gangs obtain smuggled firearms from the United States, and their increasing comfort to carry these firearms in public.

Background

CISC is a National Police Service, stewarded by the RCMP, representing over 380 law enforcement and intelligence bodies across Canada, coordinating the sharing of intelligence on organized crime and on street gangs. Its national Street Gang Working group involves over 100 subject matter experts from over 40 agencies.

While CISC assesses that there are over 400 street gangs operating in Canada, the actual number is likely much higher with interprovincial and intra-provincial street gang violence increasing as members expand or move into other territories beyond their base of operations, creating an increased risk of violence and conflict for control of distribution territories, and an increased threat to public safety. Street gangs are involved in high-visibility crimes including homicides, shootings, drug distribution and sex crimes, causing them to come to the attention of the media and the general public, more frequently than higher-level, more insulated organized crime groups.

Although present in most areas of the country, few individual street gangs represent national level threats. Collectively, however, the breath and distribution of street gangs represent a national level issue, despite their composition and operations varying from region to region. Ninety-four percent of street gangs assessed by CISC use violence as part of a strategy in order to further their criminal activities, and are the most likely organized crime groups (OCGs) to be

involved in overt violent activities that present a higher risk to public safety (e.g., shootings, homicides), either by their own initiative or as intermediaries for other OCGs. Mafia and Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMG) members contract street gang members to carry out homicides, assaults, and arsons on their behalf.

Street gangs appear to be obtaining most of their hand guns from the United States, with hand guns being the most prominent in urban areas in Central and Eastern Canada. Domestically sourced long guns are more prominent in the Prairies. Notable areas of street gang conflict are the Lower Mainland Gang Conflict in BC, the Greater Toronto Area, the National Capital Region and the Greater Montreal Area in Quebec. Individuals based in each of these jurisdictions have travelled to other regions to conduct violent acts, initiating shifts in OCG associations and alliances, causing regional additional conflicts and retaliatory violence.

Social media use by street gang members is prominent, using their social media presence in recruitment efforts, promoting and/or glorifying the gang lifestyle, and instigating conflicts with rivals with some of the violence occurring on the street being precipitated by some form of online feud, and using encryption technology to hinder enforcement.

Although gangs often maintain a core group of longstanding members, gang membership has become more fluid, with alliances and rivalries among members and groups quickly shifting. Additionally, information suggests that alliances are more frequently being formed based on “for profit” business deals, with violence often resulting from disputes over profit-making ventures such as control over drug trafficking territory.

Tab 3f Intelligence-led approach to enforcement and role of local police (FP, SPS review and C&IP input)

Issue

RCMP Federal Policing - Intelligence-led Approach to Enforcement and Role of Local Police

Response

- The RCMP's Federal Policing program targets the most serious criminal threats to Canadians, including national security, transnational organized crime, and cybercrime.
- Targeting transnational organized crime networks that exploit our borders, including the smuggling of illicit commodities such as firearms, is a key area of focus for the Federal Policing Border Integrity Program.
- The RCMP's role in maintaining border integrity encompasses detecting and preventing criminal activity between ports of entry. This includes securing our borders from inbound and outbound criminal threats and activity.
- The RCMP's Federal Policing Border Integrity Program primary focus is on maintaining domain awareness and responding to the highest criminal threats through an intelligence-led response. This includes the use of technology to help identify criminal activity, which informs our enforcement response.
- There are several examples of successful recent intelligence-led enforcement actions resulting in the seizure of illicit firearms at the border, including several major seizures of illicit firearms in 2021, which were destined for Canadian communities.
- Our greatest successes continue to come from working closely with domestic and international partners in sharing intelligence and information, resources, and enforcement capabilities to develop innovative multi-disciplinary strategies for monitoring and enforcing the integrity of the border domain.
- With the resources provided to RCMP's Federal Policing Program as part of the Enhancing Canada's Firearm Control Framework anti-smuggling initiatives, the RCMP will be able to reinforce its existing capacity to develop actionable intelligence related to firearms smuggling.
- This enhanced capacity will not only counter firearms smuggling activities but is expected to uncover other linked criminal activity, further enhancing the RCMP's border domain awareness.
- Is it also important to note that the RCMP is the police of jurisdiction across much of Canada, including all provinces except Ontario and Quebec, all territories, 155 municipalities, and approximately 600 Indigenous communities. The RCMP, as the contracted police of jurisdiction, targets illicit firearms and related violence according to respective jurisdictional priorities and available resources.
- The RCMP will continue to target criminal networks involved in illicit firearms in line with our mandate, through an intelligence-led approach.

Background

Federal Policing Border Integrity – Smuggling firearms

Securing Canada's borders is a shared responsibility between the RCMP's Federal Policing program and other Canadian government partners such as the Canada Border Services Agency. The RCMP is responsible for border security between the official ports of entry. The RCMP's Federal Policing program is specifically responsible for securing Canada's border and collecting and operationalizing criminal intelligence in support of that responsibility.

In an increasingly complex and evolving criminal landscape, Federal Policing plays a vital role in supporting a range of activities within the Government of Canada's efforts to provide for the safety and security of Canadians. In 2020-2023 Federal Policing is focused on three operational priorities 1) national security, 2) transnational and serious organized crime and 3) cybercrime. Within these priorities are key target activities, which includes securing our border against threats such as smuggling of illicit firearms.

The RCMP deploys its limited operational resources in line with the threat environment. However, it is important to note that the RCMP's Federal Policing program must be focused on the highest-level criminal threats within the larger border security environment.

Federal Policing will continue to maintain proactive awareness of border domain threats and national trends by continuously collecting, analyzing, and sharing intelligence to enable evidence-based decisions at the border.

Enhancing Canada's Firearm Control Framework

Included in the Government of Canada's "Funding to Enhance Canada's Firearm Control Framework" initiative, Federal Policing was allocated \$2.1M over five years for new Firearms Intelligence Analysts (FIAs), a total of 4 FTEs. These FIAs, embedded in the Federal Policing National Intelligence program and in RCMP divisions, will be responsible for generating actionable intelligence on cross-border firearms trafficking and smuggling in the provinces that share a border with the U.S. These FIAs are critical to the RCMP's ability to forecast national trends and identify new targets involved in illegal firearms activity.

Recent intelligence-led enforcement actions

On March 5, 2021 RCMP Valleyfield Detachment members seized 249 prohibited handguns in the Dundee area, near the US border. During a border surveillance operation, the RCMP intercepted a suspicious vehicle and found the illegal firearms, arresting an individual for illegal importing firearms.

On November 26, 2021 members of the Integrated RCMP Cornwall Border Integrity Team commenced a smuggling investigation after a boat made landfall near Cornwall, Ontario. Working with several domestic partners, the investigation found 53 restricted and prohibited pistols, 6 prohibited rifles, and 110 high capacity magazines. It is believed these firearms were destined for criminal networks and illicit gun trafficking groups.

RCMP Contract and Indigenous Policing

In addition to Federal Policing, the RCMP is the police of jurisdiction across much of Canada, including in all provinces except Ontario and Quebec, all three territories, and 155 municipalities, as well as in approximately 600 Indigenous communities. These services are provided through Police Service Agreements, under which the costs for RCMP policing services are shared between the provincial, territorial or municipal governments, and Canada.

Provinces and municipalities establish the level of resources, budget and policing priorities in consultation with the RCMP, and the RCMP is responsible for delivering on the policing priorities within the established budget. The RCMP, as the contracted police of jurisdiction, targets illicit firearms and related violence according to respective jurisdictional priorities and available resources.

Tab 3g Seizures in 2021 (FP)

Seizures in 2021

January 20, 2021, officers from the RCMP's Airport and Federal Investigations Detachment in Quebec arrested a man in Val-des-Monts following an investigation into the importation of prohibited devices. Eighteen (18) firearms were seized, including a Thompson submachine gun, and four (4) silencers.

February 8, 2021, officers from the RCMP's Quebec Detachment arrested a man in L'Ancienne-Lorette following an investigation into the importation of prohibited devices, namely a silencer. Officers also seized firearms of various calibres, silencers, magazines, and a high quantity of ammunition and prohibited weapons.

March 5, 2021, officers from the RCMP's Valleyfield Detachment in Quebec arrested a man following border surveillance and seized 249 prohibited handguns in the Dundee area, close to the American border.

December 2, 2021, officers from the RCMP's Valleyfield Detachment in Quebec collaborated on a police operation led out of Cornwall Detachment in Ontario. This operation led to the arrest of two men and the seizure of 53 handguns and 110 large-capacity magazines that were transported by boat.

[Redacted]

Tab 4 Questions and answers

Q&A Topics

Firearms

- Q.1: RCMP's efforts to prevent gun violence
- Q.2: Reducing gun and gang violence
- Q.3: Assault-style firearms ban
- Q.4: Handgun ban
- Q.5: Bill C-5: Removing mandatory minimum sentences
- Q.6: RCMP investments to tackle gun and gang violence
- Q.7: NS mass casualty event

RCMP's role in the criminal justice system

- Q.8: Overrepresentation of racialized and Indigenous peoples
- Q.9: RCMP role in addressing violence in communities

Border Integrity

- Q.10: Border Enforcement Security Task Force Teams
- Q.11: Integrated Border Enforcement Teams
- Q.12: Marine Security Operational Centre
- Q.13: Hot spots along the border for criminal activity
- Q.14: RCMP's Border Integrity Strategy
- Q.15: Funding to combat firearms smuggling
- Q.16: Tools and resources required to keep Canadians safe from cross border crime
- Q.17: Relationship with CBSA to tackle firearms
- Q.18: Role of other police of jurisdiction in securing the border between ports of entry
- Q.19: Source of illicit firearms
- Q.20: Law enforcement challenges
- Q.21: Relationship with American counterparts
- Q.22: Recent major RCMP firearms seizures at the border

SECU Appearance Q&As

Firearms

- Q.1. RCMP's efforts to prevent gun violence. What is the RCMP doing to prevent gun violence?
 - We have a number of different roles with respect to preventing and combatting gun violence.
 - We run the Canadian Firearms Program which is responsible for the administration of the *Firearms Act*. The program oversees firearms licences and registration, maintains national firearms safety training standards, and supports Canadian and international law enforcement agencies in the prevention and investigation of firearms crime.
 - Through the Initiative to Take Action Against Gun & Gang Violence, we provide services to support strategic analysis of criminal gun usage in Canada, including the identification of crime patterns and trends, and its relations to gang violence.
 - We also provide training to other law enforcement agencies related to firearms trafficking and smuggling.
 - We have an important enforcement role at the federal level. A key area focus for our Federal Policing Border Integrity Program is targeting transnational organized crime networks that exploit our borders, including the smuggling of illicit commodities such as firearms.

- Developing actionable intelligence, we counter firearms smuggling and uncover other linked criminal activity.
- Finally, as the contracted police of jurisdiction across much of Canada, the RCMP has a front-line role targeting illicit firearms and related violence as prioritized by our partner jurisdictions.

Q.2. Reducing gun and gang violence. What is the RCMP doing to reduce gun and gang violence across Canada?

- The RCMP is committed to tackling violence in all forms and in all areas where we serve – recognizing that gang activity and violence is an active concern in many of our communities.
- A great example where we have been the police of jurisdiction, is in Surrey, B.C. The Surrey RCMP's Surrey Gang Enforcement Team (SGET) has deployed has an aggressive plan to target criminals who pose the highest risk to public safety because of their actions, affiliations, involvement with gangs, and drug trafficking in the province.
- SGET was boosted with Surrey RCMP Mobile Street Enforcement Team officers, which have direct contact with Surrey gang members and affiliates through curfew checks, targeted enforcement and vehicle bans. The team is also employing specialized technology such as automatic license plate readers to identify stolen license plates.
- SGET also initiated enhanced communications with all regional gang units.

ITAAGGV investments

- In 2018-19, the RCMP received \$34.5M over five years to enhance intelligence networks and increase information sharing allowing for optimization of actionable intelligence in support of police operations targeting gun and gang violence.
- Further, the RCMP has bolstered its specialized training to law enforcement on firearms identification, regulatory requirements, as well as new technologies and emerging trends in firearms trafficking and illicit manufacturing.
- Based on this investment and our actions, we are seeing results.
- In 2020, we seized over 10,000 illegal firearms. This represents a 20% increase in the number of seizures over the previous year.
- Similarly, we have seen the number of people charged with weapons trafficking offences double, over the past five years, reaching a high of 137 individuals charge in 2020.
- In 2020 the firearms internet unit conducted 109 investigations for the Regulatory side and 113 for the Law Enforcement.
- In 2021, they conducted 114 investigations for the Regulatory side and 170 for Law Enforcement. Of note, the majority of the investigations for Law Enforcement were related to ITAAGV.

Q.3. Assault-style firearms ban. The National Police Federation, the union that represents over 20,000 Mounties, doesn't support the Government's firearms ban and has instead called on the Government to introduce "evidence-based" measures to ensure public safety.

Do you, Commissioner, support the views of your own officers that the ban does nothing to address the root cause of gun violence and instead criminalises thousands of lawful gun owners?

- The RCMP is a proud and dedicated force of law enforcement professionals committed to enforcing our laws to the highest standard. Law enforcement is but one piece of the puzzle when it comes to combatting gun violence, understanding that, in many cases, there are deep-rooted socio-economic challenges that breed this violence.

- The Government, as a whole, is investing in youth-at-risk and communities because we know from experience that improving social conditions helps reduce crime and gang violence. The majority of financial resources, approximately \$214M over five years, are allocated to provinces and territories (PTs) to help their jurisdictional partners implement gun and gang violence prevention and intervention initiatives.

Q.4. Handgun ban. Do you support a ban on handguns?

- I support any initiative that will reduce the ability of criminals to access and use firearms, including handguns.

Q.5. Bill C-5: Removing mandatory minimum sentences. At a time when firearms-related crime across Canada is at its highest levels in history, this Government has decided that Bill C-5, which would remove mandatory minimum sentences for certain offences committed with a firearm, will make Canadians safer. As Canada's national police force, entrusted with keeping Canadians safe from coast-to-coast-to-coast, do you believe that Bill C-5 will help keep firearms out of the hands of criminals, reduce violent crime, and improve public safety?

- The RCMP is but one part of Canada's comprehensive criminal justice system. While we are entrusted with enforcing our laws, we equally have trust and confidence in the full continuum of Canada's justice system.
- Sentencing decisions rest appropriately with our courts.

Q.6. RCMP investments to tackle gun and gang violence. What does the RCMP need to more effectively address guns, gangs, and firearms-related crime? What changes to the *Criminal Code* or additional investments are needed to make Canadians safer?

- The RCMP is benefiting from recent investments in its ability to tackle gun and gang violence and firearms smuggling.
- Beginning in 2018-19, we are receiving \$34.5M over five years and \$8.3M ongoing to enhance intelligence networks and increase information sharing to optimize actionable intelligence in support of police operations targeting gun and gang violence. Further, my organization is providing specialized training to law enforcement agencies on firearms identification, regulatory requirements, as well as new technologies and emerging trends in firearms trafficking and illicit manufacturing.
- Beginning this fiscal year, my organization will receive an additional \$40.3M over five years and \$5.5M ongoing to address firearms smuggling, including investments to support the needed replacement of Criminal Intelligence Service Canada's (CISC) national intelligence system that will allow CISC to continue to directly support law enforcement and partner agencies in targeting and disrupting illegal firearms activity, particularly smuggling.
- My agency will further receive an investment beginning this fiscal year of \$15M over five years and \$3.3M ongoing to increase our capacity to trace firearms and identify the movement of illegal firearms into and within Canada.

Q.7. NS mass casualty event. What can you say about the firearms used in the 2020 Nova Scotia mass casualty event?

- We recognize the importance of providing a full, factual accounting of what happened prior to and during the mass casualty event. This is important for the victims' families, the public, and our own employees.
- My organization supports the Mass Casualty Commission in its mandate and we are cooperating fully with the Inquiry.
- What I can say about the investigation that it revealed that there was a sole gunman responsible for the 22 people killed and three people injured. Three individuals, including the

gunman's common law spouse, have been charged for their roles in purchasing ammunition for him prior to the mass casualty event. Those charges are currently before the courts.

- [For information only, CBSA response: The CBSA has concluded its own smuggling investigation related to the individual. While we believe we have determined how the firearms were likely smuggled into the country, we cannot reveal any specific information to protect the integrity of the overall investigation, and our own investigative methods.]

RCMP's role in the criminal justice system

Q.8. Overrepresentation of racialized and indigenous peoples. What is the RCMP doing to ensure that racialized Canadians and indigenous peoples are not over-represented in our criminal justice system?

- The RCMP is committed to ensuring its policies and practices are inclusive and barrier-free for the diverse groups of people it serves, including applying a gender-based analysis plus lens on all policies, procedures and training.
- Contributing to safer and healthier Indigenous communities is a strategic priority of my organization, and protecting the safety of all Canadians is of the utmost importance.
- As it approaches its 150th anniversary in 2023, my agency is undergoing a period of modernization to become an even more trusted and inclusive organization that is accountable and committed to its employees, its partners, and the communities we serve.

Q.9. RCMP role in addressing violence in communities. What do you see as the RCMP's role to help address the socio-economic root causes of violence in our communities that cause many young Canadians to join gangs?

- I speak on behalf of the RCMP when I say we recognize that we hold a privileged position in the communities that we serve – sometimes requiring our officers to wear different hats to meet the needs of their communities that go above and beyond traditional policing.
- We proudly take on this responsibility to positively impact our communities, from urban centres to rural towns and remote northern locations.
- This includes working with community leaders and organizations that provide positive spaces for our youth to deter them from joining gangs and getting involved in criminality.

Border integrity

Q.10. What are the Border Enforcement Security Task Force Teams (BEST), and where are they located?

- Established in 2005 by the United States (US) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the BEST mission is to combat transnational organized crime organizations by employing the full range of federal, state, local and international law enforcement authorities and resources.
- Several Canadian law enforcement agencies participate in the BEST as cross-designated officers. This involves Canadian law enforcement agencies, who are cross-designated and have the authority to carry a firearm, make arrests, and have search and seizure powers on the US side of the border.
- To date, the RCMP has participated in the BEST program in a limited role as liaison officers, in C Division (Quebec), E Division (British Columbia) and O Division (Ontario).
- The RCMP is considering a more active role in the BEST program as fully cross-designated Task Force Officers. However, this requires further study with due consideration of accountabilities and protections for RCMP members.

Q.11. What are the Integrated Border Enforcement Teams (IBETs) and where are they located?

- IBETs are intelligence-led, multi-agency groups of law enforcement officials dedicated to securing the integrity of the shared border between Canada and the US, while respecting the laws and jurisdictions of both countries. The first IBET was established in 2002. The size, level of participation and operations are a reflection of the operational environment in a given area.
- Its core agencies are the RCMP, the CBSA, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), US Customs and Border Protective (USCBP) and the US Coast Guard (USCG).
- IBETs are placed in K Division (Alberta), F Division (Saskatchewan), D Division (Manitoba), C (Quebec) Division, though don't cover the full border at a given time.
- There are hybrid models in place in other RCMP Divisions, including O Division (Ontario) and E Division (British Columbia), which are best suited for their region and or specific area (e.g. airports). These units operate under the principles of the IBET charter, and employ the characteristics from other established cross-border law enforcement models (e.g. BEST, Shiprider).

Q.12. What are the Marine Security Operational Centre (MSOC) and where are they located?

- The MSOCs are comprised of federal government departments and agencies responsible for marine security, asset support or maritime expertise, including the RCMP, the Department of National Defence/ Canadian Armed Forces, Fisheries and Oceans-Canadian Coast Guard, the CBSA, and Transport Canada.
- The MSOCs represent an important element of the Government of Canada's efforts to strengthen transportation security in general and maritime security in particular. In support of these priorities, MSOCs:
 - Foster collaboration and serve as a vehicle for the appropriate sharing of information 24h/7 days a week;
 - Routinely contribute, share and compare information known as the National Maritime Picture, as well as share information on a case-by-case basis;
 - Generate Maritime Domain Awareness to support a whole government approach to activities, including: defence, security, safety, law enforcement, customs and immigration, fisheries control, and marine pollution; and,
 - Provide warning and support for a coordinated response to maritime-related threats or events such as pandemics.
- The MSOCs enable their partner government departments and agencies to work together and share intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance information (within the legal mandate of agencies / departments) through interagency staffing and collaboration, which in turn allow the MSOCs to support an organized response to potential marine threats and avoid duplication to both efforts and resources.

Q.13. What are the hot spots along the border, not only for firearms smuggling but other areas of criminal activity?

- The threat at the border is continually evolving. The Federal Policing program is mandated to address a wide range of criminal activities with a border nexus, including smuggling of illicit drugs (e.g. opioids), humans, tobacco, cannabis and trade-based money laundering. There are a range of vulnerabilities, including the marine environment, the postal system, and the physical border. There is no one "hot spot" to address all of these threats.
- The Federal Policing program uses intelligence and information it receives to identify and target threats. If warranted, [Redacted] to combat cross-border criminality. However, unlike Roxham Road where we have experienced an influx of irregular migration, criminal networks are adaptable and have the resources to move their operations.

- In 2018-19, the RCMP conducted a gap analysis specific to the border in six provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick). Quebec was also reviewed in a separate exercise. The analysis revealed common gaps and vulnerabilities,[Redacted].
- Since this analysis was completed, the Federal Policing Border Integrity (BI) program has developed a national strategy which outlines new parameters within which the BI program will operate between 2020-23. The new BI Strategy addresses current and anticipated challenges facing the border environment, including the ongoing and evolving threats posted by criminal networks.
- As part the BI Strategy, the RCMP is developing a domain awareness report, which will provide a comprehensive analysis of the border domain, including the Arctic, in order to identify the greatest threats. This report will guide the RCMP's BI operations.

Q.14. Tell me about the RCMP's Border Integrity (BI) Strategy.

- The RCMP's national BI Strategy was developed to guide border integrity activities from 2020-2023. The Strategy's overarching goal is to secure Canada's borders against the most serious criminal threats by building and maintaining sustainable awareness. This includes aligning resources towards an intelligence-led model.
- The model we have developed aims to achieve timely and accurate domain awareness and enable the Border Integrity program to proactively assess, monitor, reassess and respond to criminal threats in the land, air and marine domains between the ports of entry.
- The BI Strategy is built on three main pillars: intelligence, integration and partnerships. It is designed to enable each RCMP division to prioritize and address the highest threats to Canadians in their area of responsibility.

Q.15. How much funding have you received to combat firearms smuggling over the past several years?

- The RCMP's Federal Policing program was allocated \$3.9M over five years through the Government of Canada's "Initiative to Take Action Against Gun and Gang Violence (ITAAGGV)", identified in Budget 2018. This funding was utilized to enhance analytical capacity to provide actionable intelligence in support of federal enforcement.
- Through the Government of Canada's "Funding to Enhance Canada's Firearm Control Framework" initiative (2021), Federal Policing was allocated \$2.1M over five years for new Firearms Intelligence Analysts (FIAs), a total of four FTEs.
- These FIAs, embedded in the Federal Policing National Intelligence program and in RCMP divisions, will be responsible for generating actionable intelligence on cross-border firearms trafficking and smuggling in the provinces that share a border with the U.S. These FIAs are critical to the RCMP's ability to forecast national trends and identify new targets involved in illegal firearms activity.

Q.16. Do you have the resources and the tools you need to keep Canadians safe from cross border crime?

- The RCMP's Federal Policing program uses all the tools and resources at its disposal to secure the border between the ports of entry, in line with its mandate. That said, the RCMP is not designed or resourced to provide a patrol function along the border in its entirety. We must deploy our limited resources in line with the threat environment.
- This flexible approach is required as the RCMP is continually faced with a wide range of current and emerging public safety priorities, including terrorism, illicit drugs, organized crime, foreign actor interference and money laundering.

- The Federal Policing program would welcome investments in additional investigative capacity and technology, which would further strengthen our capability to counter these threats.

Q.17. How do you work with CBSA to tackle firearms? Does that relationship work well? Are there challenges on that front?

- The RCMP works in partnership with the CBSA to secure Canada's borders, in line with our respective mandates.
- At the operational level, the RCMP and the CBSA work in close collaboration on joint priorities and in support of achieving Government of Canada objectives, including tackling the smuggling of illicit firearms. In order to do this, we share information in line with existing authorities and within the Canadian legislative framework.
- We also cooperate closely at the strategic level through established fora where we discuss issues of joint priority, and address challenges should they arise.
- The RCMP and the CBSA are also both part of the recently announced Canada-US Cross-Border Task Force to address gun smuggling and trafficking.

Q.18. What role do other police of jurisdiction (PoJ) have in securing the border between ports of entry? How does the RCMP work with them?

- The RCMP is the primary law enforcement agency responsible between the ports of entry along the Canada-US border. As such, RCMP members are considered officers under the *Customs Act*, which provides them further custom authorities, which PoJs do not have.
- The PoJ have a responsibility to enforce crimes which have a nexus to cross-border criminality that falls in their jurisdiction, such as drug trafficking, human trafficking etc., and beyond the actual physical border. PoJs also respond to events and supplement law enforcement resources such as at the ports, and investigate other *Criminal Code* offences which do not fall within the RCMP Federal Policing mandate and priorities.
- Some PoJs have established relationships with US agencies for the purpose of addressing cross-border criminality that is of a mutual concern. For example, there are Canadian PoJs that have representatives in the HSI BEST teams (e.g. Surete du Quebec).
- The RCMP values partnerships with the POJs. Working together allows the RCMP to develop a more fulsome picture, and provides greater visibility on criminal networks operating in areas which exploit the border.

Q.19. Where are the illicit firearms coming from?

- Detecting the source of illegal firearms is difficult given the clandestine nature of this criminality.
- Illegal firearms enter Canada through many different entry points. From a Federal Policing Border Integrity perspective, the majority of the illegal firearms we seize are entering the country through the border with the US.
- We are also seeing illegal firearm related devices (e.g. silencers) in the international postal system sourced from other countries (e.g. China), which were identified by the CBSA and further investigated by the RCMP, resulting in seizures in Canada.
- The RCMP works closely with domestic and international law enforcement partners to combat this criminal threat.
- RCMP fully supports the governments efforts to regulate access to illicit firearms within Canada, including measures to combat smuggling.

Q.20. What are the main challenges from the law enforcement perspective?

- Generally speaking, access and availability of illicit firearms to criminal networks remains a challenge.
- From a Federal Policing Border Integrity perspective, the sheer geographic size and open nature of the Canada/US border is a challenge on many fronts. Detecting smuggling activity requires significant resources, both in terms of detection technology and investigative capacity.
- Addressing the root cause of the demand for illicit firearms, and resulting violence, require a whole of government and society response. Enforcement alone will not address this issue.

Q.21. How does the RCMP work with US law enforcement counterparts on combat firearms?

- The RCMP works in close collaboration with our US law enforcement counterparts to combat cross- border threats, including firearms smuggling, through several well-established operational partnerships, including the IBETs, BEST, and Shiprider.
- At the strategic level, the RCMP is a member of the Canada-US Cross Border Firearms Task Force (CBFTF), announced earlier this year. The Canadian co-chair is CBSA. The CBFTF was established as a forum to scope and identify ways to counter firearms smuggling across the Canada-US border. American counterparts include US Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and US Homeland Security Investigations (HIS).
- The CBFTF will focus on issues specific to firearms smuggling by facilitating bilateral discussion on topics including: establishing and maintaining intelligence on smuggling and the origins of crime firearms; enhancing the collection, sharing and analysis of tracing data, risk assessments, intelligence; and, disrupting criminal networks involved in smuggling firearms and devices. The CBFTF will also seek to resolve information sharing gaps, within our respective authorities.

Q.22. Tell me about recent major RCMP firearms seizures at the border.

Over the past year the Federal Policing Program has made several significant seizures, including:

- January 20, 2021: officers from the RCMP's Airport and Federal Investigations Detachment in Quebec arrested a man in Val-des-Monts following an investigation into the importation of prohibited devices. Eighteen (18) firearms were seized, including a Thompson submachine gun, and four (4) silencers.
- February 8, 2021: officers from the RCMP's Quebec Detachment arrested a man in L'Ancienne-Lorette following an investigation into the importation of prohibited devices, namely a silencer. Officers also seized firearms of various calibres, silencers, magazines, and a high quantity of ammunition and prohibited weapons.
- March 5, 2021: officers from the RCMP's Valleyfield Detachment in Quebec arrested a man following border surveillance and seized 249 prohibited handguns in the Dundee area, close to the American border.
- December 2, 2021: officers from the RCMP's Valleyfield Detachment in Quebec collaborated on a police operation led out of Cornwall Detachment in Ontario. This operation led to the arrest of two men and the seizure of 53 handguns and 110 large-capacity magazines that were transported by boat.
- [Redacted]

Examples of older Federal Policing seizures can be provided upon request.

Tab 5 Cross-border firearms taskforce (CBSA)

- When leaders from Canada and the United States last met in February 2021 and unveiled the Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership, both countries committed to re-establishing the Cross-Border Crime Forum to tackle challenges such as the illegal cross-border flow of firearms.
- In support of this common objective, Canada and the U.S. have formed the Canada-United States Cross Border Firearms Task Force. The mandate of this task force is to tackle illegal movement of firearms through cross-border travel and trade, while ensuring that the movement of essential workers and goods continues unimpeded.
- The Task Force is led in Canada by the CBSA and supported by the RCMP. It includes the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Customs and Border Protection (CBP).
- The Task Force members are collaborating with relevant domestic and U.S. law enforcement agencies to combat the threat posed by smuggled firearms, firearms parts, and devices prohibited from export or import, as well as to target the organized crime networks and the activity enabling this movement.
- These efforts will support and inform the work of the Cross-Border Crime Forum by collaborating on cross-border law enforcement challenges to make communities safer.
- After signing the Terms of Reference in August 2021, and the last meeting in November 2021, the Task Force is preparing to undertake various key activities leading up to the issuance of a Joint Border Threat Assessment in Spring 2022.
- This Threat Assessment will enable and guide further joint activities to identify and interdict the smuggling of illicit firearms, and disrupt and prosecute organized crime.

CBSA-ATF relationship:

- The CBSA has been working with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will allow direct information-sharing.
- Currently, the CBSA is unable to directly share information with the ATF. To do so, an intermediary, such as the RCMP, must be used. The new MOU will allow for the timely sharing of information and give both partners the ability to act quickly in regard to border-related activities involving firearms and/or firearms-related materials
- In the interim, the CBSA is engaging with the ATF in several ways. For instance, through the CBSA's Firearms Strategy and the direct engagement with local police forces, the CBSA is able to leverage ATF's data and intelligence through local partnerships. Also, since the ATF is a signatory to the Cross-Border Firearms Task Force, the CBSA is working closely with them on various initiatives.

If pressed on information sharing with the ATF:

- Existing information sharing frameworks between the CBSA and the US in relation to customs information fall within the parameters of three instruments:
 - A Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement (CMAA) for the exchange of customs information
 - a Statement of Mutual Understanding (SMU) for the exchange of traveller information; and
 - a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) for the exchange of criminal evidence.
- Although all of these agreements are between Canada and the U.S., the CMAA and SMU only allow for the direct sharing of information between the CBSA and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CPB) the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), while the MLAT is used only in conjunction with criminal proceedings.

- The CBSA uses a third party to share information with the ATF and DEA, relying on the RCMP, CBP, and ICE.
- The CBSA has an ongoing need to share information with the ATF and DEA, regarding matters relevant to the shared mandates.
- Direct information sharing between the CBSA, the DEA, and the ATF would allow for the timely creation of intelligence, as well as the disruption of smugglers and smuggling activities.

Background:

On February 23, 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Joseph R. Biden met and unveiled the Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership, detailing commitments on various issues, including combatting firearms smuggling. Specifically, the roadmap outlined efforts to enhance law enforcement collaboration between the U.S. and Canada, including the reestablishment of the Cross-Border Crime Forum (CBCF) to strengthen information sharing, address justice reform and cross-border law enforcement challenges to make communities safer.

The President and Prime Minister also noted their common objective to reduce gun violence and directed officials to explore the creation of a cross-border task force to address gun smuggling and trafficking. To help address this challenge, the two countries have formed the Canada-United States Cross Border Firearms Task Force (CBFTF), under the CBCF, to be co-led by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) for Canada and jointly by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) within the Department of Justice, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations (ICE/HSI) within the Department of Homeland Security for the U.S. Both countries intend to work together consistent with their respective domestic laws to identify the primary sources of illicit firearms and to disrupt their flow, and the exchange of illicit commodities for such firearms across the shared border.

- The CBFTF is intended as a forum to scope and identify ways to counter firearms smuggling across the United States-Canadian border.
- CBFTF Members are expected to collaborate with relevant domestic government agencies and international organizations to combat the threat posed by smuggled firearms, firearms parts, and devices prohibited from export or import, as well as target the groups and activities enabling this threat.
- The CBFTF is expected to support and inform the work of the CBCF by considering issues specifically requested by the CBCF as well as recommending issues for CBCF consideration and providing progress updates on its efforts.
- CBFTF Members include senior-level officials with appropriate expertise and security clearance from the ATF, ICE/HSI, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the RCMP and the CBSA.
- Terms of Reference for the CBFTF were signed August 12, 2021, and an inaugural meeting was hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa on November 10, 2021. The next meeting is scheduled for December 17th.

CBSA-ATF relationship:

The CBSA has been working with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will allow direct information-sharing. Currently, the CBSA is unable to directly share information with the ATF; to do so, an intermediary, such as the RCMP, must be used. This MOU will allow for the timely sharing of information and give both partners the ability to act quickly in regard to border related activities involving firearms and/or firearms-related materials.

The Intelligence and Targeting Partnerships Unit has been working with the U.S. ATF Attaché in Ottawa to identify both partners' needs. At the moment, the draft MOU is going through the

necessary approval processes of the CBSA and it is expected to be shared with the ATF for their review before mid February of 2022. As this is an information-sharing arrangement a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) must also be prepared and submitted to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for approval. It is hoped that the PIA will be ready for submission prior to the end of the 2021–2022 fiscal year, and that once approval is received the MOU will be ready for signature. In the meantime, the CBSA is able to benefit from ATF data and intelligence through other initiatives such as our direct involvement in the Ontario Provincial Police's Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit, which ATF is a part of; and through our relationship with the RCMP. In addition, the CBFTF provides another direct linkage to the ATF, as the ATF is a signatory to the Task Force.

Tab 6 Firearms specific funding (SPS)

The Initiative to Take Action Against Gun and Gang Violence (ITAAGGV) / Guns & gangs

- The ITAAGGV Initiative was established in 2019. RCMP received \$34.5M over the five years, 8.5M annually. A total of 45 resources bolstering NWEST (internet and specialized support services), the forensics laboratory services, criminal firearms strategic and operational support services, federal policing national intelligence and criminal intelligence service Canada. This investment has allowed the RCMP to:
 - Enhance intelligence networks and increase information sharing allowing for optimization of actionable intelligence in support of police operations targeting gun and gang violence.
 - Further, the RCMP has bolstered its specialized training to law enforcement on firearms identification, regulatory requirements, as well as new technologies and emerging trends in firearms trafficking and illicit manufacturing.

Investments to Combat the Criminal Use of Firearms (ICCUF) Horizontal Initiative – Enhancing firearms investigations and intelligence sharing

- The ICCUF Initiative was established in 2004 as a response of the Government to enhance intelligence sharing capacity among federal organizations and agencies involved in firearms control related activities. Partners include: the RCMP, the CBSA and Public Safety Canada.
- The original allocation was \$50M over five years, with approximately \$11M per year ongoing. The RCMP receives \$9.34M annually. Within the RCMP, funding was aimed at:
 - Establishing a Canadian Integrated Ballistic Identification Network (CIBIN) to support more effective crime scene investigations;
 - Provide law enforcement officials with the resources and instruments (Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS)) to capture and maintain evidence (cartridge cases and bullet evidence), perform analysis and comparisons.
 - Supporting the National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST) that offers investigative support to front-line police agencies as part of the transition to RCMP;
 - Providing firearms identification and classification services to law enforcement and government departments through the Firearms Reference Table (FRT) and training sessions; and,
 - Enhancing the firearms intelligence gathering and sharing capacities.

Tab 7 Firearms briefing material (SPS)

Status of implementation of Bill C-71

- RCMP received \$1.48M (11 FTE's) to support the predicted call increase due to changes in transportation provisions.
- There were 7 elements of the initiative, including:
 1. Licence verification (not in force) of non-restricted firearms: Transferor required to verify a transferee has a valid Firearms Licence (non-restricted firearms) prior to the transfer of the firearm.
 2. Record-keeping (not in force) of non-restricted firearms by vendors (20 years): Businesses, excluding private sellers, will be required to keep records of the sale of all non-restricted firearms and their purchasers for 20 years.
 3. Transportation provisions as a condition on a Firearms Licence: Authorization to Transport (ATT) provisions, as a condition on a Firearms Licence, are reduced to 2 provisions instead of 6.
 4. Eligibility to hold a licence (removal of "within last 5 years"): Background checks conducted for a Firearms Licence are on a lifetime basis instead of within the last 5 years.
 5. Classification of firearms: Grandfathering of CZ858 and Swiss Arms firearms
 6. Amendments to Ending *the Long-gun Registry Act*
 7. Technical amendments to the Criminal Code
- Note: Licence verification and business record keeping require a regulatory package that PS is leading – aiming for spring 2022. RCMP work is complete and ready to go once the approval has been granted.
- Note: The Classification of firearms element is on-hold as this is specific to Grandfathering of CZ858 and Swiss Arms firearms which were prohibited by the May 1st announcement.
- Note: The Ending *the Long-gun Registry Act* element is at the final stages of completion with the information commissioner to validate that all provisions have been met (outstanding ATIPS)

Key benefits

- Strengthens eligibility assessment on those who hold a Firearms Licence: Supports a more comprehensive review (over an individual's lifetime versus within the previous five years) enabling Chief Firearms Officer's to better identify individuals who may pose a risk to the public or themselves if permitted to possess or acquire firearms. Additionally, the Chief Firearms Officer will have access to more information concerning any earlier evidence of criminality, violence, threatening behavior, or mental health concerns, to enhance the assessment of the individual's eligibility.
- Reinforces legal ownership of non-restricted firearms. Confirming the buyer of a non-restricted firearm is eligible to possess a non-restricted firearm by holding a valid Firearms Licence. This promotes consistency of practice across all transferors, individual or business and assists in preventing the diversion of non-restricted firearms into the illegal market.
- Strengthens the control on the movement of restricted / prohibited firearms by requiring approval through the Chief Firearms Officer for transport for exceptional purposes. Reducing transportation provisions as a condition of a Firearms Licence provides a challenge function to law enforcement for the movement of restricted / prohibited firearms for unique circumstances. This enhances the ability of law enforcement to determine whether a licensed individual who is transporting a properly registered and secured restricted or prohibited firearm is doing so for a good and sufficient reason.

- Fortifies tracing of non-restricted firearms through record-keeping by businesses. Record keeping of non-restricted firearm transfers (for 20 years) will directly support firearm-related investigations and effective tracing. Non-restricted firearms do not require registration. A successful firearms trace can identify the most recent individual or business who legally possessed the firearm.

May 1, 2020 prohibition

- Government prohibition of over 1,500 makes and models of assault-style firearms.
- The actual number is 1,852 makes and models. This number will continue to increase as new firearms are classified.
 - Total ~141,000 firearms impacted by the prohibition (~106,000 restricted and estimation of 35,000 non-restricted but the non-restricted number is estimated based on 2012 ATIP data as Canada does not have a registry for non-restricted firearms).
- Owners had the option of waiting for additional buy-back details, export, deactivate or surrender to a public agency for destruction
 - As of December 9, 2021, 18 firearms (formerly classified as restricted) affected by the May 1, 2020 Order in Council (OIC) have been deactivated.
 - In addition, there have been 142 OIC-affected firearms recorded as surrendered to a public agency for destruction since May 1st, 2020.
- The government selected a list of firearms and a grouping by characteristic to be prohibited on May 1st, 2020
- The list was selected based on firearms are capable of:
 - semiautomatic action with sustained rapid fire (tactical / military design with large magazine capacity);
 - large volumes (over 1000); and
 - modern

List of firearms

9 Firearm Families	Old Classification	New Classification
M16, M4, AR-10, AR-15 rifle*	Non-restricted/Restricted	Prohibited
Ruger Mini-14 rifle	Non-restricted/Restricted	Prohibited
Vz58 rifle	Non-restricted/Restricted	Prohibited
M14 rifle	Non-restricted	Prohibited
Beretta CX4 Storm carbine	Non-restricted/Restricted	Prohibited
Robinson Armament XCR rifle	Non-restricted/Restricted	Prohibited
CZ Scorpion EVO 3 carbine and pistol	Non-restricted/Restricted	Prohibited
SIG Sauer SIG MCX and SIG Sauer SIG MPX carbine and pistol	Non-restricted/Restricted	Prohibited
Swiss Arms Classic Green and Seasons Series rifles	Non-restricted/Restricted	Prohibited

*Upper receiver is also prescribed as a prohibited device

Groupings by characteristics

- In addition to the list prohibited by model, all firearms with one or more of the following physical characteristics are prohibited on the basis that their potential power exceeds safe civilian use:
 - Firearms with a bore 20mm or greater (e.g., grenade launchers)
 - Firearms capable of discharging a projectile with a muzzle energy greater than 10,000 Joules (e.g. sniper rifles)
- **Background statistics on high profile usage of these firearms**
 - 14 women at École polytechnic
 - 6 worshippers at a Mosque in Quebec
 - 22 women and men in Nova Scotia
 - Police officers in Moncton and Fredericton
 - Students at Dawson college
 - Mass shooting in Las Vegas, Orlando, Parkland and Sandy Hook
 - Mass shooting in New Zealand

Handguns

- Handguns are used in about half of all firearms-related homicides. Half are gang related. Half of the handguns are smuggled. The rest come from domestic sources diverted, lost or stolen.
- Handguns continue to be the most frequently used type of firearm used in crime.
- Of the 277 firearms-related homicides in 2020,
 - 135 (49%) were committed with a handgun, the single largest category.
 - For firearms-related violent crime, a category that includes violent crimes (e.g. homicide, robbery) committed with a firearm, shootings (e.g. drive-bys), and pointing/threatening with a firearm, 54% of incidents in 2020 were committed with a handgun (23% long gun, 23% replica and other firearms-like weapons).
- Of the 135 handgun homicides,
 - 67 (49%) were gang-related, and 68 (51%) were not.
 - Gang-related homicides involving a firearm dropped 20% in 2020 from 2019 rates.
 - Non-gang-related handgun homicides rose, however, so that the handgun homicide rate rose in every province in 2020 except Alberta and Saskatchewan.
- Nationally, 58% of the firearms traced in Canada in 2020 were domestically sourced (diverted, lost, or stolen).
- However, these figures vary significantly by type of firearm, by region, and by year. For example, while 87% of traced long guns were domestically sourced, only 28% of handguns were. However, the handgun figure is dominated by Ontario, where 79% of traced handguns were foreign-sourced. In BC and Quebec, the figure is closer to 50%, while in all other provinces, the figure drops well below 50%.
- This investment has allowed the RCMP to enhance intelligence networks and increase information sharing allowing for optimization of actionable intelligence in support of police operations targeting gun and gang violence.
- Further, the RCMP has bolstered its specialized training to law enforcement on firearms identification, regulatory requirements, as well as new technologies and emerging trends in firearms trafficking and illicit manufacturing.
- Over the last 10 years
 - 51% increase (total 1,024,852) in registered restricted and prohibited handguns
 - 266% increase in registered restricted handguns
 - 360% increase in registered restricted semiautomatic action handguns
 - 8.5% increase in registered prohibited handguns
 - 8.3% increase in registered prohibited semiautomatic action handguns

The Initiative to Take Action Against Gun and Gang Violence (ITAAGGV) / Guns & Gangs

- RCMP received \$34.5M over the five years, 8.5M annually. A total of 45 resources bolstering NWEST (internet and specialized support services), the forensics laboratory services, criminal firearms strategic and operational support services, federal policing national intelligence and criminal intelligence service Canada.
- This investment has allowed the RCMP to enhance intelligence networks and increase information sharing allowing for optimization of actionable intelligence in support of police operations targeting gun and gang violence.
- Further, the RCMP has bolstered its specialized training to law enforcement on firearms identification, regulatory requirements, as well as new technologies and emerging trends in firearms trafficking and illicit manufacturing.
- Based on this investment and our actions, we are seeing results.
 - In 2020, we seized over 10,000 illegal firearms. This represents a 20% increase in the number of seizures over the previous year.
 - Similarly, we have seen the number of people charged with weapons trafficking offences double, over the past five years, reaching a high of 137 individuals charge in 2020.
 - In 2020 the firearms internet unit conducted 109 investigations for the Regulatory side and 113 for the Law Enforcement.
 - In 2021, they conducted 114 investigations for the Regulatory side and 170 for Law Enforcement. Of note, the majority of the investigations for Law Enforcement were related to ITAAGV.
- A recent example of our enforcement actions occurred in the Cornwall area where we intercepted a vehicle with an occupant who was believed to have arrived by boat from US waters and failed to report to CBSA. The vehicle was searched and revealed 59 smuggled firearms, including 13 handguns, six AR-15s with serial numbers removed and numerous overcapacity magazines that were likely destined for the illicit market.
- Another example was the seizure near the border of Dundee, Quebec of 249 prohibited handguns and overcapacity magazines, capable of holding 15 rounds each that were stuffed inside 5 hockey equipment bags.
- In addition to our enforcement action, we are leading a series of initiatives in collaboration with provincial Chief Firearms Officers to identify persons who may pose a public safety risk, either through gang membership or criminal association, who are applying for or possess a Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL).
- These initiatives are ongoing with the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia (CFSEU-BC), CISC, and Criminal Intelligence Service of New Brunswick. Discussions are also underway to expand this service to Ontario through the provincial Chief Firearms Officer (CFO). In the case of the initiative with the CFO-BC and CFSEU-BC, [Redacted]

Statistics

Firearm seizures

Firearms reported by RCMP to the PWS as Seized, Canada, 2016 – 2020 (all 30k)

Year	Seized -public safety	Seized - criminal investigation	Total Seized
2016	2,001	6,245	8,246
2017	1,733	5,747	7,480
2018	1,882	6,274	8,156
2019	1,938	6,210	8,148
2020	2,817	7,339	10,156
Percent change from 2019 to 2020	+40.8%	+17.5%	+23.2%
Percent change from 2016 to 2020	+45.4%	+18.2%	+24.6%

Persons accused of weapons trafficking, Canada, 2016 - 2020

Total number of persons charged

2016 - 61

2017 - 79

2018 - 88

2019 - 134

2020 - 137

Firearms Tracing

Total firearms traced by the CNFTC

2018: 1,998

2019: 1,768

2020: 2,094

2021: 3,142

(through November -- representing a +77% increase, or + 1,369 firearms traced, when compared to the same period in 2020) *

NWEST

- Working within restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NWEST were able to deliver training to 1,164 participants in 2020-21, including expanding training to include Military Police/CAF personnel, Public Prosecution Services, and Provincial Conservation Services. In 2021-22, NWEST has delivered training to an additional 3,541 participants to date.
- NWEST Total number of calls for service to date for 2021-22: 5,787
- Of those, the total number of calls for service that relate to ITAAGGV: 1,279
- Total Number of Calls for Service responded to within 48 hours: 5,543
- (Regional numbers West vs East are available if needed)

INTERNET Investigation Unit

- In 2020 the FIISU conducted 109 investigations for the Regulatory side and 113 for the Law Enforcement. In 2021, they conducted 114 investigations for the Regulatory side and 170 for Law Enforcement. Of note, the majority of the investigations for Law Enforcement were related to ITAAGV

Handguns**Restricted validly registered all handgun action 10-year counts**

Year end	Museum	Individual	Business	Total
2009	2,126	323,418	35,235	360,779
2010	2,481	419,415	45,924	467,820
2011	2,611	443,070	50,733	496,414
2012	3,022	478,281	50,816	532,119
2013	3,188	522,065	76,030	601,283
2014	3,247	563,033	90,098	656,378
2015	3,252	609,082	90,469	702,803
2016	3,287	662,068	90,074	755,429
2017	3,316	711,357	93,847	808,520
2018	3,199	766,594	98,290	868,083
2019	3,213	816,057	108,146	927,416
2020	3,240	874,158	84,808	962,206

Restricted validly registered semi-automatic action handgun 10-year count

Year End*	Museum	Individual	Business	Total
2009	805	158,097	30,607	189,509
2010	966	224,912	38,826	264,704
2011	1,006	245,369	42,320	288,695
2012	1,183	275,970	42,725	319,878
2013	1,223	314,072	66,518	381,813
2014	1,242	348,082	75,212	424,536
2015	1,236	386,152	74,355	461,743
2016	1,254	428,943	76,497	506,694
2017	1,271	471,271	79,976	552,518
2018	1,209	518,366	84,983	604,558
2019	1,215	561,700	95,438	658,353
2020	1,229	610,652	72,065	683,946

Prohibited validly registered all handgun actions 10-year counts

Year End*	Museum	Individual	Business	Total
2009	2,754	151,023	15,959	169,736
2010	3,288	157,024	17,382	177,694
2011	3,757	152,259	17,302	173,318
2012	4,002	146,894	15,678	166,574
2013	4,150	144,345	15,510	164,005
2014	4,232	141,351	15,051	160,634
2015	4,270	139,291	14,169	157,730
2016	4,357	140,806	14,449	159,612
2017	4,440	138,454	16,070	158,964
2018	4,369	136,654	15,746	156,769
2019	4,375	133,712	16,663	154,750
2020	4,428	131,626	9,443	145,497

Prohibited validly registered semi-automatic action handgun 10-year count

Year End*	Museum	Individual	Business	Total
2009	1,170	68,077	9,419	78,666
2010	1,416	71,050	9,525	81,991
2011	1,618	69,122	9,550	80,290
2012	1,731	66,606	9,253	77,590
2013	1,796	65,503	9,565	76,864
2014	1,820	64,246	9,566	75,632
2015	1,844	63,431	9,573	74,848
2016	1,885	64,277	9,482	75,644
2017	1,924	63,209	9,659	74,792
2018	1,850	62,422	10,246	74,518
2019	1,853	61,116	9,969	72,938
2020	1,876	60,263	3,884	66,023

Total: Restricted and prohibited validly registered all handgun actions 10-year counts

Year End*	Museum	Individual	Business	Total
2009	4,880	474,441	51,194	530,515
2010	5,769	576,439	63,306	645,514
2011	6,368	595,329	68,035	669,732
2012	7,024	625,175	66,494	698,693
2013	7,338	666,410	91,540	765,288
2014	7,479	704,384	105,149	817,012
2015	7,522	748,373	104,638	860,533
2016	7,644	802,874	104,523	915,041
2017	7,756	849,811	109,917	967,484
2018	7,568	903,248	114,036	1,024,852

Total: Restricted and prohibited validly registered semi-automatic action handgun 10-year count

Year End*	Museum	Individual	Business	Total
2009	1,975	226,174	40,026	268,175
2010	2,382	295,962	48,351	346,695
2011	2,624	314,491	51,870	368,985
2012	2,914	342,576	51,978	397,468
2013	3,019	379,575	76,083	458,677
2014	3,062	412,328	84,778	500,168
2015	3,080	449,583	83,928	536,591
2016	3,139	493,220	85,979	582,338
2017	3,195	534,480	89,635	627,310
2018	3,059	580,788	95,229	679,076

Handguns validly registered to individuals broken down by firearm purpose

Firearm Purpose	Semi auto Centrefire Count*	Percentage of semi auto centerfire restricted handguns**	Total restricted handgun count
Target Practice	447,745	56.62%	790,854
Collector	11,461	32.65%	35,101
Other***	5,953	15.91%	37,422
Total	465,159	53.88%	863,377

Restricted handguns validly registered to clients broken down by client type

Client Type	Semi auto centrefire count*	Percentage of semi auto centerfire restricted handguns**	Total restricted handgun count
Individual	465,159	53.88%	863,377
Museum	989	30.18%	3,277
Business	65,503	68.23%	96,000
Total	531,651	55.23%	962,654

*As of Nov 30 2021

** Percentage of all validly registered handguns that are semi auto centrefire

*** Statistics for 'Other' purpose have been adjusted to account for error in previous update where firearms registered to businesses were included

*** Other consists of unknown purpose; Value as relic, rarity, memento or souvenir; Pre-1946 prohibited handgun inherited; Lawful profession or occupation; Protection of life

Additional Information

Firearms Investigative Enforcement Support Directorate (FIEDS) recent success stories

- [Redacted]

- CNFTC - Whitehorse GIS recently advised that two trace results have helped kick start two weapons trafficking investigations.
- FIISU - February 2021, FIISU provided assistance on an RCMP counter-terror investigation by identifying and providing all of the open source information regarding the suspect and his associates. FIISU's contribution helped in the arrest and the execution of search warrants on several properties, resulting in the seizure of numerous firearms and other paraphernalia, including a beige sweater with several RCMP patches sewn on, and a military-style vest.
- FIISU - June 2021, FIISU provided open source investigative assistance to CBSA - Intelligence and Enforcement Operations Division Toronto – on a case regarding the importation of prohibited devices into Canada. The assistance provided by FIISU contributed to CBSA executing a Customs Act search warrant which resulted in the seizure of 10 firearms, of which 7 were fully manufactured by the suspect, many of them having 3D printed frames. CBSA also located 4 suppressors, over 600 rounds of ammunition and drugs. CBSA laid a total of 45 charges, under both the Customs Act and Criminal Code. The FIISU report also assisted CBSA in getting a better idea of what to expect when entering the residence, which contributed to public and officer safety, and was helpful for the Information to obtain (ITO).
- RCMP Detachment in H Div. responded to a call regarding local business employees concerned with a manager in possession of firearms in the office and comments made by the said manager. The business was vacated and an investigation engaged. NWEST was contacted to provide assistance on firearm identification and verification, prohibited device identification, potential charges and mentoring on the investigation. Three S. 487 search warrants were executed, resulting in the seizure of 9 long guns, approximately 1450 rounds of ammunition and a loaded pistol found in the subject's vehicle when arrested. NWEST "H" Div. furthered assistance in examining the seized items and identifying over-capacity magazines. Additional charges for S. 86(2), S. 90(1), S. 91(1), S. 91(2), S. 92(1), S. 92(2), S. 94 and S. 96 have been laid.
- NWEST assisted Moose Jaw Crime Reduction Team with Search Warrant at location after information was received from CBSA that they intercepted a package containing a complete upper Glock slide and 9mm barrel, trigger assembly with an assembly parts kit destined to a location in Saskatchewan. The search resulted in the seizure of multiple firearms and other paraphernalia seized, including two over capacity 9mm LUGER calibre magazines. Charges pursuant to sections 91(1)CC, 91(2)CC, 95CC, 99CC, 117.04(2)CC and 104CC have been laid.
- As a result of assistance provided by NWEST "J" Div – which included recommending charges, advising IBIS testing be completed, obtaining affidavits from the CFO, and engaging the services of CNFTC and FIISU – an individual was sentenced to 7 years in jail, following an investigation on death threats he made to his wife and another male while in possession of a rifle, and shooting at responding RCMP members.
- NWEST "J" Div. was able to use the IBIS Trax-3d measuring tool, his training and experience, to successfully determine the caliber of bullet, and type of cartridge, that was located at the scene of a home invasion. As a result, the firearm believed to have been used in the offence was sent to NFLS for testing and potential linkage to other crimes scenes. This is still under investigation.
- Cornwall Regional Task Force intercepted a vehicle where an occupant was believed to have arrived by marine vessel from US waters and failed to report to CBSA. The vehicle was searched, which revealed 3 bags, containing:
 - six AR15 platform rifles with 7.5" barrels (with serial numbers professionally removed), six prohibited 30 round capacity (overcapacity) AR15 magazines, 40

prohibited pistols (barrel length), 13 restricted pistols, 59 prohibited, overcapacity magazines, 45 standard capacity magazines.

- NWEST attended the Cornwall Detachment and provided assistance to investigators and exhibit custodians, as well as in identifying and verifying each firearm. NWEST submitted all firearms for tracing through FATE. Preliminary results were received and provided to the investigative team. NWEST will remain engaged and continue to support the investigation.

ITTAAGV successful outcomes

- The RCMP has staffed 36 ITAAGGV funded positions to date, with five more to be staffed by the end of 2021-22 FY, to leverage and expand the services and support already provided by the RCMP to enable Canadian law enforcement to effectively address the criminal use of firearms and meet the objectives of the Guns and Gangs commitment.
- The RCMP has purchased two 3-D printers to support research and development on illicit manufacturing techniques, as well as to assist with inspection services in support of firearms investigations;
- The National Weapons Enforcement Team (NWEST) delivered training to 1,164 participants in 2020-21, including expanding training to include Military Police/CAF personnel and Provincial Conservation Services. It also provided assistance in a number of high-profile firearms cases across Canada;
- The RCMP produced the 2020 Firearms Analysis & Strategic Summary report, a contribution under ITAAGGV that provides an overview of the current national firearms landscape. It is intended for distribution to ITAAGGV stakeholders and law enforcement partners. Work on the follow-up 2021 report is underway, and anticipated to be released spring 2022.
- The RCMP has established a data sharing agreement in collaboration with Statistics Canada to improve access to pertinent data on gang-related incidents and gun crime from Canadian law enforcement agencies. Currently, a majority of police services have agreed to release their data through a Data Disclosure Order (DDO), representing 90% coverage of the Canadian population.
- The RCMP is leading a series of initiatives in collaboration with provincial Chief Firearms Officers to identify persons who may pose a public safety risk, either through gang membership or criminal association, who are applying for or possess a Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL). These initiatives are ongoing with the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia (CFSEU-BC), CISC, and Criminal Intelligence Service of New Brunswick. Discussions are also underway to expand this service to Ontario through the provincial Chief Firearms Officer (CFO). In the case of the initiative with the CFO-BC and CFSEU-BC, [Redacted]

Tracing steps

Steps to tracing a firearm

- Requests are received at the CNFTC via various channels email, facsimiles, telephone, PROS tasking, Interpol IP Ottawa and iARMS (Restricted Interpol electronic database);
- A tracing investigator reviews the request and ensures that the firearms descriptions, serial numbers are correct and match the Firearms Reference Table (FRT);
- The tracing investigator conducts an appropriate query from various law enforcement databases based on the information provided.
- Based on the findings, a Trace Report is produced by the tracing investigator and forwarded back to the requestor for furthering their investigation.
- Before the tracing file is concluded, the tracing investigator enters actions on a PROS file, which is submitted by a supervisor for review and conclusion.

Difference between a prohibited firearm and a restricted firearm

- Generally, prohibited firearms are automatic firearms, handguns designed or adapted to discharge a 25 and 32 calibre, or have a barrel length less than 105 mm in length. They also include long guns adapted to be shorter in length than what is permitted under the CC (see below CC definitions for length details). Also, the Order in Council dated 2021-05-01 made about 1800 firearms that used to either be non-restricted or restricted into prohibited firearms.
- A restricted firearm is a handgun or other firearm that does not meet the CC definition of a prohibited firearm, or a firearm capable of semi-automatic functions, or is designed or adapted to be fired when reduced to a length less than 660mm by folding, telescoping or otherwise.

Under the *Criminal Code*, prohibited firearm means

- (a) a handgun that
 - (i) has a barrel equal to or less than 105 mm in length, or
 - (ii) is designed or adapted to discharge a 25 or 32 calibre cartridge,but does not include any such handgun that is prescribed, where the handgun is for use in international sporting competitions governed by the rules of the International Shooting Union,
- (b) a firearm that is adapted from a rifle or shotgun, whether by sawing, cutting or any other alteration, and that, as so adapted,
 - (i) is less than 660 mm in length, or
 - (ii) is 660 mm or greater in length and has a barrel less than 457 mm in length,
- (c) an automatic firearm, whether or not it has been altered to discharge only one projectile with one pressure of the trigger, or
- (d) any firearm that is prescribed to be a prohibited firearm;

Under the *Criminal Code* restricted firearm means

- a handgun that is not a prohibited firearm,
- (b) a firearm that
 - (i) is not a prohibited firearm,
 - (ii) has a barrel less than 470 mm in length, and
 - (iii) is capable of discharging centre-fire ammunition in a semi-automatic manner,
- (c) 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, or
- (d) a firearm of any other kind that is prescribed to be a restricted firearm;

Tab 8 Non-firearms hot issue question period notes

Tab 8a Progress on Bastarache recommendations (AIM)

Issue

The terms of the Merlo Davidson Class Action settlement agreement provided for the Independent Assessor to draft a report of observations and recommendations in the claims process. The final report along with the RCMP response was publicly released on November 19, 2020.

Response

- The RCMP recognizes the devastating impacts of workplace violence, harassment and discrimination and is committed to eliminating it in all its forms.
- There is no place for this type of behaviour in the workplace and certainly no place within the RCMP.
- The RCMP is making progress in implementing recommendations in the final report, as part of a holistic, long-term approach to a modern and healthy RCMP.
- Significant progress has already been made in a number of critical areas to set the foundation for this long term-change.
- For example, the new Independent Centre for Harassment Resolution (ICHR) began operating in June 2021 to manage the harassment process from complaint, investigation, and employee support, to workplace restoration and prevention. Importantly, the Centre, is staffed by civilian employees and uses external investigators.
- Additionally, an external review of the RCMP's conduct measures and their application is underway to ensure they meet modern expectations of fairness, transparency and effectiveness. The first phase, focused on harassment and sexual misconduct, will be completed by January 2022.
- We also launched the first-ever RCMP Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy early this year. This comprehensive strategy introduces key changes to the RCMP's systems to promote an inclusive organization that values diversity and serves employees and communities with dignity and respect.

If pressed for more detail on the ICHR:

- The ICHR aims to provide all employees with a consistent, trauma-informed process that is accountable. This month, we launched a new Support Services Unit within the ICHR to enhance support for employees, victims and survivors of workplace harassment and violence.
- We are also exploring options to further externalize the ICHR to ensure no conflict of interest.
- The ICHR is on track to be fully staffed by July 2022.

If pressed for other examples:

- Aligned with this Strategy, we have fully integrated the use of Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) across the RCMP to help us identify systemic barriers and ensure our workplace policies and practices are inclusive.
- We have also launched mandatory training on cultural awareness and humility as well as anti-racism.
- We are also completing a renewal of the RCMP's core values and continuing to find ways to ensure we are recruiting and developing leaders with the character and judgment needed to support a healthy workplace.

Background

Merlo Davidson Class Action

The Merlo Davidson class action settlement concerns gender and sexual orientation-based harassment and discrimination of female RCMP members and public service employees in the workplace from 1974 to 2017. In 2017, the Federal Court approved a settlement that established a confidential and independent Claims Process and compensation scheme overseen by former Supreme Court of Canada Justice, the Hon. Michel Bastarache, C.C., Q.C. as Independent Assessor.

A total of 3,086 claims were filed between August 2017 and May 2018. The Assessor determined that 2,304 claimants were entitled to compensation under the settlement agreement, for a total of \$125.4 million in compensation payments.

RCMP response

The RCMP response to the final report was posted its external website on November 19, 2020. Building on efforts to date under the RCMP's Vision 150 modernization plan, the RCMP response commits to a holistic approach to culture change and an RCMP free of violence, harassment and discrimination.

The RCMP response acknowledges the recommendations, which cross four key areas, many of which are already underway as part of a long-term approach to a healthy and inclusive workplace:

- Harassment prevention and resolution: e.g., a new Independent Centre for Harassment Resolution, a civilian-staffed harassment prevention and resolution regime, outside the chain of command and reporting to the Chief Administrative Officer. This will ensure employees have access to a trusted, consistent process that is accessible, timely and accountable.
 - The launch of ICHR was in June 2021, and today there are 29 external investigators.
 - The ICHR is on track to be fully staffed and fully operational by July 2022.
 - In addition to addressing individual cases, analysis of external investigation findings will provide important information to help the RCMP prevent workplace harassment and violence to improve the work place.
- Addressing systemic barriers: e.g., identifying, preventing and removing barriers from our policies, programs and operations through Gender-based Analysis+ and a new RCMP Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.
- Recruitment and onboarding: e.g., recruitment modernization plan, examining large-scale changes to Depot and continuing to review the Cadet Training Program.
- Leadership development and training: e.g., integration of Character Leadership in recruitment, training and promotion processes.

Conduct measures

An external review of the RCMP's disciplinary measures and their application is underway, to ensure they meet modern expectations of fairness, transparency and effectiveness. The review will also assess consistency across the organization in the application of conduct measures the first phase of this work will focus on harassment and sexual misconduct, anticipated for completion by January 2022. Subsequent work will examine other forms of misconduct.

Tab 8b Systemic racism (CHRO)

Issue:

To address concerns regarding systemic racism in the RCMP

Proposed response:

- The RCMP is taking a clear stand against all forms of racism and discrimination, in its workplace and in the delivery of policing services to the public.
- The RCMP is an organization where treating others with dignity is expected and respect is earned.
- It is critically important for Canadians to feel protected by the police. The RCMP is committed to taking whatever steps are required to enhance trust between the RCMP and the communities they serve.
- In any interaction with the public, RCMP employees are guided by the RCMP's Bias-Free Policing policy, which is based on the principles of equity and non-discrimination, as well as the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, the *RCMP Act* and the RCMP's core values.
- The RCMP is working with partners to examine the collection and analysis of race-based data to better understand how it delivers services to diverse communities.
- Access to this data will allow the RCMP to review and update its policies, procedures and training to address systemic racism and discrimination, and to ensure the RCMP remains a proactive, nimble and responsive police service for Canadians across the country.
- Internally, the RCMP has launched an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy with a number of measures to address systemic racism throughout the organization.
- The strategy will set the foundation to embed EDI in the RCMP's systems by engaging leadership, supporting clarity, transparency and accountability, enhancing awareness and education and identifying key areas in need of change.
- The 2021-2022 Federal Budget allocated \$75 M over five years and \$13.5 M ongoing to address the issue of systemic racism in the RCMP. This funding will also address parallel discrimination issues under the RCMP's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.
- On December 6, 2021, the RCMP launched the Uniting Against Racism learning series. This learning series was developed in collaboration with both internal and external subject matter experts with lived experience. This course has been made mandatory for all RCMP employees.

Background:

The RCMP faces greater scrutiny amidst the racial reckoning that Black, Indigenous, Asian, and racialized communities experienced throughout the pandemic. This includes tumultuous events, including the death of George Floyd, the discovery of hundreds of Indigenous residential schoolchildren's remains, and the rise of Anti-Asian Hate.

This has resulted in an increase in calls to hold the RCMP, and other government departments and agencies accountable, culminating in the release of the previous parliamentary session's Standing Committee of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, "Report on Systemic Racism in Policing in Canada", just this past June. This report included a variety of recommendations directed at the RCMP to tackle systemic racism. These range from, shortening the response rate time to the Civilian

Rights and Complaint's Commission, to collecting disaggregated race-based data.

Over the past two years, the RCMP has initiated a review of its policies and programs to ensure they are barrier-free for all equity-seeking groups. This included a GBA+ analysis of its recruiting process, which identified areas for improvement such as the expansion of applicant eligibility to Permanent Residents. Further reviews are underway to address areas that are barriers to diverse applicants.

Over the past year, the RCMP has been working towards the development of its first Equity, Diversity and Inclusion strategy. The strategy is designed to establish a strong foundation for equity, diversity and inclusion practice, by being clear and coherent about directions for focused action including on recognizing and living RCMP values that speak to the fundamental dignity of all individuals.

The Strategy will support leaders at all levels of the organization and engage them to establish:

- solid governance;
- clear, transparent and accountable practices;
- stronger education, awareness and training regimes, and
- the foundations for culture change.

The strategy is an important component of the RCMP's response to concerns of systemic racism from the public, the media and government.

The RCMP's robust measures to tackling systemic racism under Vision 150 are not exclusive to external-facing measures. To ensure that the RCMP operates in a manner that is respectful and inclusive of employees from diverse backgrounds, it has formulated various measures to safeguard our employees from systemic racism and harassment. This includes the establishing of the RCMP's Independent Centre for Harassment Resolution, which will provide employees with an accessible reporting tool for workplace harassment and discrimination, outside of their line of management.

Vision 150 bolsters the RCMP's commitment to tackling systemic racism through organizational culture change. The RCMP will accomplish this by implementing key initiatives such as the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, including the RCMP's Anti-Racism training, a new suite of performance metrics, and through renewal of the RCMP's Core Values. The RCMP Senior Executive Committee are fully engaged in the continuum of learning and promoting the course to employees.

The training was designed to develop the knowledge and skills to understand racism and its roots to become informed allies and advocates. Each of these initiatives will work to educate RCMP personnel on systemic racism, discrimination, and unconscious bias, among other social phenomena.

Collection of disaggregated race-based data is a key Vision 150 initiative. The RCMP seeks to use this to determine if certain police intervention methods disproportionately affect certain marginalized communities. The RCMP has been working in collaboration with Statistics Canada, and in consultation with policing partners across the country, to help ensure that the data collected, across multiple mandates and jurisdictions, is reliable, accurate, and respectful of individual privacy rights.

The newly created, Office of RCMP-Indigenous, Co-Development, Collaboration and Accountability (RICCA) has both internal and external-facing roles, providing a culturally-

sensitive setting where employees can seek support, and where solutions to issues related to policing in Indigenous communities are addressed, using a collaborative approach.

Vision 150 will propel the RCMP's efforts in tackling systemic racism in its service delivery and its practices, and will act as a launch pad to regain the public's trust. These initiatives are a testament to the RCMP's firm commitment in tackling systemic racism in the RCMP.

Tab 8c Contract policing (C&IP)

Issue:

The City of Surrey is transitioning from the RCMP and establishing its own municipal police force.

Proposed response:

- The RCMP is Canada's national police force, providing policing services under contract to all provinces and territories, with the exception of Ontario and Quebec, as well as 155 municipalities, including Surrey, British Columbia.
- These services are provided through Police Service Agreements, under which the costs for RCMP policing services are shared between the provincial, territorial or municipal governments, and Canada.
- On February 27, 2020, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General of British Columbia granted approval to create a municipal police board for the City of Surrey, which is the next stage in the plan to transition from the RCMP to a municipal police service.
- The first assignment of Surrey Police Service officers into the Surrey RCMP Detachment took place in December 2021. All parties are now focused on the development of a Joint HR Plan which will outline deployments until May 2023.
- Canada is steadfast in its commitment to continue to collaborate with the Province of British Columbia and the City of Surrey to facilitate an effective and efficient transition of police services.
- A transition of this magnitude is unprecedented, and without a roadmap in the Canadian contract policing landscape.
- The RCMP is working hard with Public Safety Canada and other partners to enable the transition as quickly as possible, while ensuring public and officer safety.

Background:

In November 2018, the City of Surrey unanimously approved a motion to establish its own independent police service.

Under Article 22 of the Municipal Police Unit Agreement (MPUA) between Surrey and the Province of B.C., Surrey may terminate the agreement on March 31st of any year, on condition that the notice was received 25 months prior to the date of the intended termination.

In May 2019, Surrey's Policing Transition Plan was developed in consultation with Vancouver Police Department and was approved in principle by the province, along with changes to address an unidentified number of gaps. The Province of B.C. has since taken responsibility for the transition.

In February 2020, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General of B.C. approved the establishment of the Surrey Police Service (SPS).

Since that time, the RCMP has been working with Public Safety Canada and the Province of B.C. as part of the Surrey Police Transition Trilateral Committee (SPTTC), at both the Assistant Deputy Minister and Officials levels, to oversee and advance work to facilitate an effective transition for all implicated partners. The Surrey Police Board has been established, and the SPS has hired approximately 150 employees, including their Chief Constable and senior management team.

To transition policing service from the RCMP to the Surrey Police Service, the RCMP must transfer, reallocate, redistribute or dispose of all resources and property allocated or acquired under the affected agreement in accordance with new or existing applicable municipal or provincial police service agreements. These activities must be undertaken in coordination with the establishment of the SPS to ensure that public and officer safety is maintained throughout the transition.

The SPTTC has approved a phased and integrated Transition Model to guide efforts. Phase 1 would see SPS officers assigned to work under RCMP command and control. The first cohort of SPS officers began working alongside RCMP officers in December, 2021. Operationalization is facilitated via the signed Memorandum of Understanding between Public Safety and B.C., and the signed Assignment Agreement between the RCMP, SPS, B.C. and the Surrey Police Board. Phase 2 would see RCMP Regular Members assigned to work under SPS command and control. This will require, but is not limited to, SPS procurement and establishment all its own IM/IT systems. New agreement(s) will be required to establish this phase of the transition.

One of the key areas of focus is the identification of risks and liability for the RCMP and Canada, and putting in place effective mitigation measures. For example, the RCMP needs to ensure that it can effectively onboard the SPS officers to ensure public and officer safety. The issues of liability and indemnification have been resolved and captured in the Assignment Agreement signed between the RCMP and various City of Surrey officials.

The SPTTC aims to have the Joint Human Resources/Deployment Plan completed by December 31, 2021. The plan will set the pace for SPS officers to be assigned to the RCMP, as well as RCMP Regular Member demobilization for next 18 months

Tab 8d Coastal gas link protests (C&IP)

Issue:

Journalists arrested in relation to the Wet'suwet'en Coastal GasLink (CGL) protests.

Proposed response:

- The RCMP respects and protects the right to peaceful demonstrations as guaranteed under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
- I am aware of the arrest of two individuals who identified themselves as journalists after being arrested and who have since been released from custody.
- Journalists play a role that is essential and fundamental to democracy in informing the public, challenging the status quo and fostering dialogue on matters of public interest.
- The RCMP employs a measured approach that involves proactive engagement, communication, and facilitation measures by police to support lawful and peaceful protest in an environment safe for protesters, members of the public, and stakeholders, while seeking to protect the fundamental freedoms of peaceful assembly and expression.
- The RCMP remains committed to ensuring that the media have access to observe and report on peaceful, lawful and safe demonstrations.
- The level of police intervention that is applied in any situation is done so in the context of a careful risk assessment that accounts for the likelihood and extent of potential injury and damage to property.
- The RCMP will continue to preserve the peace, protect life and property, and enforce the law, while maintaining police intervention as a last resort.

Background:

Two journalists were arrested on November 19 2021 at the Marten Forest Service Road (FSR) Protest Camp. These individuals were inside structures referred to as "tiny houses" at the time of their arrest. On November 25 2021 a journalist released a video showing the arrests. However, the video does not show what occurred preceding RCMP members' breach of the structures. RCMP officers read the injunction at each structure, and made several calls, over the course of more than an hour, for occupants to exit the structure. The only response from inside the structures were derogatory in nature and refusals. It was not until RCMP officers entered the structures and arrested the individuals that they identified themselves as journalists. The journalists were provided access to counsel and processed for appearance before Justice Church. The standard used by the RCMP for assessment for arrest involving journalists is the 2019 Brake decision. This standard was recently brought forward by Justice Thompson during the Fairy Creek protests, and defines journalists and persons from media outlets as those who are "not actively assisting, participating with or advocating for the protesters about whom the reports are being made; does no act that could reasonably be considered as aiding or abetting the protesters in their protest actions or in breaching any order that has been already made; [and] is not otherwise obstructing or interfering with those seeking to enforce the law or any order that has already been made or is not otherwise interfering with the administration of justice." Both individuals were released from custody, but one journalist was re-arrested on November 22 2021 after assaulting a BC Sheriff, in an incident unrelated to the CGL protests.

The Coastal GasLink (CGL) Pipeline project is a proposed 670 km pipeline to deliver natural gas from Dawson Creek to Kitimat, British Columbia. As part of its engagement with impacted Indigenous groups, CGL concluded 20 benefit agreements with Indigenous groups along the pipeline route, including with four of the five Wet'suwet'en Indian Act bands. Although all the

Wet'suwet'en band councils are in agreement with the project, as it would bring financial benefits to their communities, the Hereditary Chiefs, represented by the Office of the Wet'suwet'en (OW), are in opposition, since the proposed route goes through their traditional territory, to which they assert Aboriginal title. This created a sharp divide in the Wet'suwet'en community and led to protests and blockades.

On December 14, 2018, CGL obtained an Interim Injunction with a Police Enforcement Order to prevent interference with the company's operations. This injunction, intended to prevent anyone from interfering with CGL's legal right to conduct their work, contains an enforcement clause that authorizes the RCMP to arrest any person that they have reasonable and probable grounds to believe is contravening the injunction. The RCMP retains the discretion as to the timing and manner of enforcement. Despite continued dialogue with the OW, who are opposed to the pipeline, protestors demonstrated that they would neither permit the company nor the police to enter the area. The RCMP enforced the Injunction on January 7, 2019, dismantled the protestors' barricade and arrested fourteen (14) individuals, drawing criticism from Indigenous communities and other sectors. In the intervening period, a joint protocol brokered by the RCMP between CGL and Hereditary Chiefs was developed to grant both CGL and the Wet'suwet'en access to the area, the latter for the purpose of traditional activities.

However, on December 31, 2019, subsequent to a second CGL application, the BC Supreme Court vacated the above Interim Injunction and replaced it with an interlocutory version (an Order that is valid until trial). On January 4, 2020, Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs ordered CGL to vacate the territory. The RCMP enforced the interim injunction on February 7, 2020, and over the next three days arrested twenty-two (22) individuals. In response, various groups across the country set up protests and blockades in support of the Wet'suwet'en. One of these, a railway blockade on the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory in Ontario, halted railway activity between Montreal and Toronto for a protracted period. This led to an escalation of rail and road blockades across the country for a number of weeks. On May 14, 2020, high-level talks between the provincial and federal governments and the Wet'suwet'en led to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to guide future negotiations on Indigenous rights and title.

Online rhetoric increased throughout fall 2021, with increased calls for mobilization, leading to protestors once again, establishing themselves in the area. The RCMP has maintained a measured approach to avoid escalation while being proactively engaged, through maintaining contact with Hereditary Chief Woos (Frank Alec) of the Gidimt'en Clan to seek a peaceful resolution. The recent arrival of several known individuals from other major Canadian Indigenous protests have amplified the situation; an increase in inflamed rhetoric making public references to "war" and direct action against police and industry have been prominent on social media amongst key members of the protest groups, and at protest sites. Despite assurances from Chief Woos that he would work for a peaceful resolution, protest activities are becoming increasingly charged. Protestors, and their associated groups, have called for direct action against police and others in previous confrontations.

CGL is now attempting to conduct site preparation work to drill under the Morice River near the 63.5 km of the Morice Forest Service Road (MFSR). This is in the area of the Unist'ot'en Healing Camp in Wet'suwet'en traditional territory. On the morning of November 14, 2021, members of the Gidimt'en Clan announced they were evicting CGL employees from Wet'suwet'en territory. Shortly after, the RCMP reported three blockades had been set up along MFSR, located near Smithers, BC, which provides access to CGL's construction sites. As a result, approximately 700 workers were stranded behind the blockades, with limited access to essential supplies.

The RCMP Community-Industry Response Group (C-IRG) moved into the area and carefully assessed the situation throughout the week. Enforcement action was viewed as a last resort, so as to not further escalate the situation. On November 18, 2021, the RCMP made a decision to mobilize resources to rescue the workers stranded behind the blockades. The RCMP's actions are consistent with the interlocutory injunction order issued by the BC Supreme Court in December 2019, which remains in force. Federal officials are continuing discussions with provincial officials, Wet'suwet'en Nation and Hereditary Chiefs, and CGL with a view of de-escalating the situation and ensuring the safety of all who are on site, and to determine appropriate next steps.

In a related incident, on the afternoon of November 14, 2021, a protest on Canadian National Railway tracks in the proximity of New Hazelton, BC, was also reported. Fifteen protestors were reported to be on the tracks and also blocked the highway, and stated that the protest was to support the eviction of CGL from Wet'suwet'en territory. A total of four trains were stopped by evening before full service resumed on the afternoon of November 15, 2021. There have been other calls for solidarity protests to be organized to support the protests on Wet'suwet'en territory. Police enforcement of the injunction order granted to CGL began on November 18, 2021 in an effort to rescue hundreds of workers who had been blocked in their camp by contemnors. As of November 19, 2021, the Morice Forest Service Road (FSR) is open to traffic and industry is continuing convoy supply and personnel runs to their camps. However, there remains ongoing protest activity in New Hazelton, with contemnors attempting to block trains.

Tab 9 SECU committee overview and member biographies

House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU)

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security reviews the legislation, policies, programs and expenditure plans of government departments and agencies responsible for public safety and national security, policing and law enforcement, corrections and conditional release of federal offenders, emergency management, crime prevention and the protection of Canada's borders.

Chair	Hon. Jim Carr	Liberal
Vice Chairs	Raquel Dancho	Conservative
	Kristina Michaud	Bloc Québécois
Members	Paul Chiang	Liberal
	Pam Damoff	Liberal
	Dane Lloyd	Conservative
	Alistair MacGregor	NDP
	Ron McKinnon	Liberal
	Taleeb Noormohamed	Liberal
	Doug Shipley	Conservative
	Tako Van Popta	Conservative
	Sameer Zuberi	Liberal

Hon. Jim Carr – Liberal

Winnipeg South Centre, Manitoba

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2015.

Education and background

- Served as the Minister of Natural Resources from 2015 to 2018; he was the Minister of International Trade Diversification from 2018 to 2019; and from January to October 2021, served on Cabinet as the Special Representative for the Prairies.
- From 1988 to 1992, he was a member of the Manitoba Legislature.
- Prior to entering federal politics, he was a journalist and worked as an editorial writer and columnist with the Winnipeg Free Press as well as for CBC Radio.

Points of note

- Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU).

Raquel Dancho – Conservative

Kilonan-St. Paul, Manitoba

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2019

Education and background

- Obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at McGill University.

Points of note

- Member of Standing Committee on the status of Women (FEWO).
- Previously had a career with the Manitoba Government.
- Advocate for small business and Canadian farmers.
- Ms. Dancho served in the senior role of Special Assistant to the Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage and was instrumental in facilitating critical relationships between the Minister and historic arts and culture institutions across Manitoba.

Kristina Michaud – Bloc Québécois

Avignon—La Mitis—Matane—Matapédia, Québec

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2019.

Education and background

- Holds a Master's degree in international relations from the Université Laval.
- Worked as a political advisor to interim Parti Québécois leader Pascal Bérubé.

Points of note

- Vice-Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) and member of its Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure (SSEC).
- Bloc Québécois Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Critic.
- MP Michaud was critical of the RCMP's initial response to the Wet'suwet'en crisis. She supported the RCMP's withdrawal from the Wet'suwet'en area and has expressed support for the creation of Indigenous police services as one way to rebuild trust between Indigenous people and law enforcement.

- Since November 2021, MP Michaud has been particularly interested in illegal firearms smuggling and the presence of firearms on Quebec. Her interest is a result of the ongoing gun violence amongst youth in the Greater Montreal Region.

Paul Chiang – Liberal

Markham—Unionville, Ontario

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2021.

Education and background

- Prior to entering federal politics, he had a career in policing that spanned 28 years. He retired as a sergeant with the York Regional Police Service, but also served with the London Police Service and Durham Regional Police.
- In 2013, he was awarded the Police Exemplary Service Medal.

Points of note

- Member of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU).
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion (Diversity and Inclusion).

Pam Damoff – Liberal

Oakville North—Burlington, Ontario

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2015.

Education and background

- Has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Western Ontario.
- Oakville Town Councillor from 2010 to 2015.
- Worked in financial and investment banking positions for 27 years.

Points of note

- Member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) and its Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure (SSEC). Also, a member of the House of Commons Special Committee on Afghanistan (AFGH).
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety.
- Served previously as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indigenous Services and as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health.
- Recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, and a number of other awards for her community service.
- She has expressed concern about the length of time it is taking for the RCMP to review and respond to the CRCC's report related to the death of Colton Boushie.
- She has also advocated for better protection for sexual assault victims.

Dane Lloyd – Conservative

Sturgeon River—Parkland, Alberta

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2017.

Education and background

- Graduated from Trinity Western University with a degree in History and Political Studies.

- Before being elected as a Member of Parliament, he worked as a Parliamentary Advisor to St. Albert-Edmonton MP Michael Cooper, the Honourable Ed Fast who served as the Minister of International Trade, and the Honourable Jason Kenney.
- Serve as a Canadian Army reservist in the Governor General's Foot Guards.

Points of note

- Member of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU).
- Conservative Shadow Minister for Emergency Preparedness.
- Served previously on several committees, including the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology (INDU), the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs (ACVA), the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates (OGGO), and the Standing Committee on Natural Resources (RNNR).
- In June 2021, he introduced Private Member's Bill C-316, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Corrections and Conditional Release Act and the Prisons and Reformatories Act*. The bill sought to amend the *Criminal Code* to add as an aggravating factor for sentencing purposes and as a reason to delay parole the fact that a person who is convicted of certain offences refuses to provide persons in authority with information respecting the location of bodies or remains.

Alistair MacGregor – NDP

Cowichan—Malahat—Langford, British Columbia

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2015.

Education and background

- Graduate of the University of Victoria and Royal Roads University.
- Previously worked in British Columbia's forestry sector.
- Prior to being elected to Parliament, worked as a constituency assistant for an NDP MP in British Columbia.

Points of note

- Currently serving as Critic for Public Safety, Agriculture and Food, and as Deputy Critic for Justice. He has previously served as the NDP's Critic for Senior and Justice and Human Rights.
- Member of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) and the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food (AGRI).
- Has served previously on several Standing Committees including the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights (JUST) and was the Vice-Chair of the Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying (AMAD).
- In November 2021, called for RCMP reform and offered to form an alliance with the LPC to do so.
- Introduced a Private Member's Bill seeking to prohibit investments of Canada Pension Plan in entities that produce weapons or commissioned of human, labour or environmental rights violations. The bill was defeated by both the CP and LPC.
- Commented on the SECU Committee Report on "Systemic Racism in Policing in Canada." Stated that the following recommendations should be implemented: Legislative overhaul of the *RCMP Act*; Better and more robust civilian oversight; A better review and complaints process; The transition away from a para-military force; and, Better Indigenous consultation, inclusion, and partnership in policing services, especially in Indigenous communities.
- During JUST's 2018 study on Human Trafficking in Canada, he sought to understand if the *Criminal Code* is working for successful prosecution of those accused of human

trafficking. He asked a witness, “what are front-line officers and CBSA or our police doing themselves to meet them halfway? Are any strategies being employed to try to actively form those relationships with people who are affected to encourage them to come forward? I think there's a role for agencies to meet them halfway...”

Ron McKinnon – Liberal

Coquitlam-Port Coquitlam, British Columbia

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2015.

Education and Background

- Earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Alberta and an honours diploma in Computer Technology from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.
- Prior to entering federal politics, he was a business owner and a computer systems analyst.

Points of note

- Member of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU).
- Previously served as Chair of the Standing Committee on Health (HESA), Chair of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Health (SHES), Member of Liaison Committee (LIAI), and Member of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights (JUST).
- In the 42nd Parliament, 1st Session, he sponsored Bill C-224, *An Act to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (assistance – drug overdose)*, which received Royal Assent in 2017.

Taleeb Noormohamed – Liberal

Vancouver Granville, British Columbia

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2021.

Education and background

- Graduated from Princeton University with BA, attended the University of Oxford for Graduate/Doctoral Studies, and completed his Master's at Harvard University.
- Prior to entering federal politics, he served as a senior official in the federal government from 2002 to 2007. During his time with the federal government, he was involved with establishing the Cross-Cultural Roundtable on Security. He also served as Director of the Air India Review Secretariat and Special Advisor to the Hon. Bob Rae.
- He was an executive in the technology sector and was a member of the Board of Directors for the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA).

Points of note

- Member of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security.

Doug Shipley – Conservative

Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte, Ontario

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2019.

Education and background

- City Councillor in Barrie from 2010 to 2019.

- Small business owner.
- Former Vice-Chair of the Barrie Police Services Board.

Points of note

- Member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU). Was a previous member of SECU in 2020. Also, previously served on the Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities (TRAN).
- When SECU was studying Systemic Racism in Policing Services in Canada, he expressed interest in strategies that could be easily and quickly put in place by the RCMP to recruit more members, specifically women, from first nations communities.

Tako Van Popta – Conservative

Langley—Aldergrove, British Columbia

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2019.

Education and background

- Holds an undergraduate degree from Trinity Western University and a law degree from the University of British Columbia.
- Had a 30 plus-year law career with McQuarrie Hunter LLP.
- Former director at the Surrey Board of Trade and the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association.

Points of note

- Member of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU).
- Recently completed the Firearms Safety Course in an effort to better understand his constituents' concerns about the assault-style firearms ban. He noted that "the real problem [is] illegal guns and gang violence", including cross-border firearms smuggling.
- Voiced concern in the House of Commons about the economic effects of the Indigenous rail blockades in support of the Wet'suwet'en.
- On the Merlo-Davidson Settlement Agreement, he asked the Commissioner whether she was confident the progress the RCMP is making to address Justice Bastarache's findings "will be effective in restoring the public's confidence" in the RCMP. Additionally, he asked Justice Bastarache whether "the RCMP even be fixed, or does it have to be dismantled? Do we have to have another model of policing altogether?"

Sameer Zuberi – Liberal

Pierrefonds-Dollard, Québec

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2019.

Education and background

- Graduated from Concordia University with a BA in Pure and Applied Mathematics and earned a Law degree from the Université du Québec à Montréal.
- Prior to entering federal politics, held a variety of positions including: Legal Researcher, Educator, and Media and Human Rights Coordinator.
- Served over five years as a Reservist with the Canadian Forces.

Points of note

- Member of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU).
- Previous Member of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights (JUST). Also served on the Standing Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations (REGS) and on the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs (ACVA).

- In 2007, in his capacity with the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations, argued that the federal government should scrap the “no-fly” list.
- In 2007, appeared as a witness on behalf of the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations, before the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) for their study on Bill C-3, *An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (certificate and special advocate) and to make a consequential amendment to another Act*. As part of his testimony, stated that he was not supportive of Bill C-3. The Bill received Royal Assent in 2008.

The Chair of a parliamentary committee is responsible for recognizing members and witnesses who seek the floor, and ensuring that any rules established by the committee concerning the apportioning of speaking time are respected.

When witnesses appear before a parliamentary committee, remember that you are there at their request.

General tips for responding to committee questions

Committee appearances can be stressful events, especially if the dynamics amongst the committee members themselves are challenging. The Government Affairs Unit can help to coach witnesses and make suggestions on how to formulate responses during the appearance.

The following are some general guidelines to keep in mind as you prepare.

- Succinctly respond to committee members' questions through the Chair of the committee. This means that you direct your responses and questions to the Chair of the committee, not the MP or Senator that is asking. MPs and Senators will object if answers are too long, or do not address the question.
- If you are appearing with officials from other federal departments/agencies, agree beforehand which type of questions will be handled amongst each department/agency.
- If the committee members engage in a heated discussion or a back-and-forth across the table, remain silent until the Chair has brought the meeting back to order. It is appropriate to ask for the member's question to be re-stated if need be.
- Regardless of the member's tone in posing the question, always respond to the question politely, respectfully and in a neutral tone.
- Do not interrupt the committee member, even if they change the course of their question multiple times or seem to be rambling on. You may wish to take notes as the member is speaking so that you can tailor your answer accordingly.
- Once the member has finished speaking, make sure you understand the question before answering. Ask for clarification from the Chair or re-state part or the entire question as you understand it.
- Keep your answers brief and factual. Give the committee member the opportunity to ask a follow up question if they wish.
- If you are not sure that you have covered the information that the committee member is looking for, ask "does this answer your question"?
- Use plain language and avoid using acronyms. Your goal is to inform the committee, and using overly technical language or bureaucratic jargon will only confuse or cloud the message you are trying to communicate.
- Avoid contradicting the Minister, senior government officials or the government's policy and taking a position, providing your opinion, stating your personal recommendations or speaking on behalf of others on a given issue.
- It is ok to discuss what the Minister has publically said on the subject. Any relevant comments from the Minister on the subject will be included in the briefing material prepared by the Government Affairs team.
- Do not divulge classified information, Cabinet confidences or any information that contradicts privacy laws.
- If providing opening remarks, deliver them at a steady pace. Remember that interpreters are on the other end translating live. If you are going too fast, the Chair will interrupt and ask you to slow down.

- Use your first language unless you are fully proficient in both official languages, because it will allow you to be more nuanced and precise.

If you do not know the answer to a question

Do not answer in areas that you are not an expert. You may:

1. State that you are not the expert, and if you are comfortable and have the information to do so, attempt to head off the question.

Sample Response: “Mr./Madam Chair, I am not the expert on that policy matter, however, I can tell you that in 2015, there were 72,039 impaired driving incidents, 3,100 (4%) of which involved drug-impaired driving.”

2. State that you are not the expert and offer to get back to the committee in writing.

Sample Response: “Mr./Madam Chair, I am not the right person to answer that question, but if the committee wishes, I would be happy to take that question back and have the RCMP provide a written response”.

3. State that you are not the expert and suggest that the committee re-direct the question to the department who may be best placed to answer the question.

Sample Response: “Mr./Madam Chair, I am not the right person to answer that question. Should the committee wish more information on that topic, I would suggest contacting the Department of Justice who are leading on that issue”.

4. Ask that political positions be re-directed to the Minister.

Sample Response: “Mr./Madam Chair, I cannot speak to decisions regarding the course of action. I would respectfully suggest that the Honourable Member’s question would be best answered by the Minister of Public Safety”.

Handling difficult questions

The dynamics inside a committee room can sometimes be difficult to predict or manage depending on the personalities present and/or the issue being studied. It is not uncommon for committee members to become heated and even antagonistic in their questioning of a witness. Be conscious of your body language and facial expressions (stay neutral) and control your responses.

The following examples are designed to illustrate how a witness may handle these situations and still provide an answer in a calm, objective way.

If the question is hostile, position your statement and continue. (Sample Response: “Looking at it from a broader perspective, I would suggest that the statistical evidence supports the change in the program.”), or simply shut down the question with “*I appreciate your point of view*” and move on.

If the question is inflammatory or false or contains unjustified assumptions, respond with an objective fact. (Sample Response: “Mr./Madam Chair, I respectfully disagree with that comment and think it would be useful to share with the Committee some facts we have on the issue.”)

If a parliamentarian launches a personal attack, shut down the issue quickly in a self-confident and firm way then get right back on topic. (Sample Response: "I'm not sure what the member would like to know Mr./Madam Chair (smile and pause), but if the question relates to our consultations with our stakeholders then...")

Navigating the trouble spots

Maintaining control of the conversation is the key to a smooth appearance. Here are some common situations that can cause witnesses to feel uneasy.

1. Constant interruptions by the committee member, especially when they perceive they are not getting the information they want to hear.

Strategy: Do not interrupt. Wait until the member is finished then continue with, "If I may finish my answer to the Member's previous question first..."

2. Being blind-sided by a question completely unrelated to the topic at hand.

Strategy: Use a two-step approach. Try beginning with, "Mr./Madam Chair, I don't see how this issue is related to what we are talking about here today." If the member persists, then, "Mr./Madam Chair, I am not the right person to answer that questions, but if the committee wishes, I would be happy to take that question back and have the RCMP provide a written response."

3. Rapid fire questions about several topics. Members often do this to try to maximize their time allocation.

Strategy: Do not let it overwhelm you. "Mr./Madam Chair, the member raises many different issues. I rely on your direction here. It may be more helpful to the committee if I could address one issue at a time."

4. Questions/assertions based on incorrect information. Because members have their own researchers and hear testimony from different sources, it is not uncommon for them to put forth a piece of information to see how you respond.

Strategy: Do not take a defensive position against incorrect information; rather correct the member at the earliest opportunity. "Mr./Madam Chair, I would first like to address the statistics quoted by the Senator. The accurate numbers are..."

5. Silence (after responding to a question). This is a common strategy when the committee is trying to get you to say more than you are comfortable saying.

Strategy: Provide a complete response, and then let the silence happen. Nod slightly and wait with anticipation for the next question. This signals that you are confident that you have provided as much information as needed.

Impact of minority government on committees

A minority government changes the dynamics of committee proceedings. It is not a predictable environment and the Government has little control over how committees operate. There is an increase in requests for public servants to appear. Individuals appearing before parliamentary committees will need to be particularly skillful in providing non-partisan information that may not always be popular with committee members.

Virtual Parliamentary committee appearances

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Parliamentary committee appearances are being conducted virtually. Some guidance is provided below to help prepare for the virtual appearance.

Before the scheduled appearance, there will be two technical tests done by the House of Commons. The first one is a more extensive testing and should be done as early as possible, while the second is an audio test on the day-of the meeting. Senior officials are expected to sign into the meeting 15-20 minutes early to complete the audio testing.

During the appearance:

- Make sure to change your language option on the Zoom app if you wish to switch languages while speaking. If you're speaking in English, make sure your 'language' selection is English; and French vice-versa. This assists the interpreters with the simultaneous interpretation of your testimony.
- Ensure the microphone is no further than one inch away from your mouth when you are using a wired headset.
- Dress and act appropriately at all times since you are expected to have your camera on for the duration of the meeting.
- Ensure that all devices being used to participate in the meeting are plugged in and that the video and audio setting are set correctly.

Note that unlike in-person meetings, it will be difficult to read committee members' body language and facial expressions, so avoid presumptions that may be implied in language.

Appearances for clause-by-clause consideration of a bill

On rare occasions, the RCMP may be invited to appear before a committee for clause-by-clause consideration of a bill. During these appearances, officials may be asked to discuss the effect of potential amendments, sometimes without having seen the amendments in advance. Parliamentarians may ask officials for their opinions on amendments. In this case, officials need to focus on the effect of the amendment (and they can say whether it would be contrary to the Government's approach on the bill), rather than their opinion of the amendment.