

GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

- Our Government is committed to taking all measures necessary to reduce gun violence in this country.
- We plan to implement the gun-control strategy in a multistep process. We will move quickly on a ban on assault-style firearms with information on a buy-back program to follow. We remain committed to treating law-abiding citizens fairly.
- Building on our achievements to combat gun and gang violence, we are investing \$50 million per year for five years to help municipalities keep their communities safe and will work with provinces and territories to help municipalities further restrict handguns.
- To address diversion of firearms into the illicit market and protect the most vulnerable, we will introduce stronger penalties for gun smuggling, a temporary licence suspension regime for those suspected of posing a danger to themselves or others and to strengthen safe storage laws.

MESURES POUR RÉDUIRE LA VIOLENCE LIÉE AUX ARMES À FEU

- Le gouvernement s'engage à prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour réduire la violence liée aux armes à feu à l'échelle du pays.
- Nous prévoyons implanter la stratégie de contrôle des armes à feu en plusieurs étapes. Ainsi nous allons agir rapidement pour interdire les armes à feu de style armes d'assaut, et l'information suivra au sujet d'un programme de rachat.
- Faisant fond sur ce que nous avons déjà accompli pour combattre la violence liée aux armes à feu et aux gangs, nous investissons 50 millions de dollars par année pendant cinq ans pour aider les municipalités à protéger leurs résidents, et nous allons travailler avec les provinces et les territoires pour aider les municipalités à limiter encore davantage l'accès aux armes à feu.
- Pour protéger les plus vulnérables et empêcher le détournement des armes à feu vers le marché noir, nous allons durcir les sanctions pour la contrebande, introduire un régime de suspension du permis pour les personnes soupçonnées de présenter un danger pour elles-mêmes ou autrui, et enfin, renforcer les lois sur la sûreté de l'entreposage.

BACKGROUND

- Firearms-related homicide doubled from 2013 to 2017 (134 to 267). Shootings have now become the most common method of homicide. According to police, gang violence accounted for approximately 52% of firearms-related homicides in 2017.
- This rising firearms-related violence is fueling public concern and giving rise to demands for federal action to curtail the availability of firearms in Canada.

Guns and Gangs

- The Government has made federal investments of up to \$327.6 million over five years, and \$100 million ongoing, to establish the Initiative to Take Action Against Gun and Gang Violence. The majority of resources, approximately \$214 million over 5 years is allocated to provinces and territories (PTs) to combat the issue of gun and gang violence in communities across Canada. These resources complement existing efforts under the National Crime Prevention Strategy through the Youth Gang Prevention Fund, which received additional \$8 million over four years beginning 2019.
- Ten PTs have signed multi-year funding agreements under the GGVAF. PEI is currently in the process of negotiating and finalizing their contribution agreements so funding may flow as soon as possible. The Government also provided \$86 million to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canada Border Services Agency to enhance firearms investigations and strengthen controls at the border to prevent illegal firearms from entering the country.

Bill C-71, An Act to amend Certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms

- Bill C-71, An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019.
- Provisions clarifying that seized firearms are considered forfeited to the Crown have come into force, as have those allowing remaining long-gun registration records to be transferred to Quebec.
- Provisions related to licence verification, eligibility, vendor record-keeping and transportation will be brought into force, once the necessary administrative changes have been made, funding has been approved and the associated regulations have been tabled in Parliament.

DEPARTMENT/MINISTÈRE	PCO SECRETARIAT DU BCP	
	PCO POLICY ANALYST	CONTACT INFO
Public Safety Canada		

CONTEXTE

- Entre 2013 et 2017, le nombre d'homicides liés aux armes à feu a doublé, (de 134 à 267). Les fusillades sont maintenant devenues la méthode la plus courante pour commettre des homicides. Selon les services de police, les gangs sont responsables d'environ 52 % des homicides liés aux armes à feu de 2017.
- Cette hausse de la violence liée aux armes à feu alimente l'inquiétude de la population et suscite des demandes afin que le gouvernement fédéral prenne des mesures pour réduire la disponibilité des armes à feu au Canada.

Armes à feu et gangs

- Le gouvernement a fait des investissements fédéraux pouvant atteindre 327,6 millions de dollars sur cinq ans, et 100 millions de dollars par année par la suite, pour mettre en œuvre l'Initiative de lutte contre la violence liée aux armes à feu et aux gangs. La plus grande partie des ressources, soit environ 214 millions de dollars sur cinq ans, est destinée aux provinces et aux territoires afin de lutter contre la violence liée aux armes à feu et aux gangs dans les collectivités partout au Canada. Ces ressources s'ajoutent aux efforts actuels déployés dans le cadre de la Stratégie nationale pour la prévention du crime par l'entremise du Fonds de lutte contre les activités des gangs de jeunes, qui a reçu huit millions de dollars de plus sur quatre ans, à compter de 2019.
- Dix provinces et territoires ont signé des accords de financement pluriannuels dans le cadre du Fonds d'action contre la violence liée aux armes à feu et aux gangs. Le Québec et l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard négocient et finalisent présentement leur accord de contribution afin que les fonds puissent être versés dès que possible. Le gouvernement a aussi accordé 86 millions de dollars à la Gendarmerie royale du Canada et à l'Agence des services frontaliers du Canada afin d'améliorer les enquêtes relatives aux armes à feu et de renforcer les contrôles à la frontière en vue d'empêcher l'entrée d'armes illégales au pays.

Projet de loi C-71, *Loi modifiant certaines lois et un règlement relatifs aux armes à feu*

- Le projet de loi C-71, *Loi modifiant certaines lois et un règlement relatifs aux armes à feu* a reçu la sanction royale le 21 juin 2019.
- Les dispositions précisant que les armes à feu saisies sont considérées comme étant confisquées au profit de la Couronne sont entrées en vigueur, tout comme celles permettant le transfert au Québec des dossiers d'enregistrement des armes d'épaule restants.
- Les dispositions relatives à la vérification des permis, à la tenue des dossiers des fournisseurs et au transport entreraient en vigueur par décret, une fois les changements administratifs nécessaires apportés, le financement approuvé et les règlements connexes déposés au Parlement.

DEPARTMENT/MINISTÈRE	PCO SECRETARIAT DU BCP	
	PCO POLICY ANALYST / ANALYSTE DES POLITIQUES DU BCP	CONTACT INFO
Public Safety Canada / Sécurité publique Canada		

Government Measures to Reduce Gun Violence

Issue: The Government of Canada's commitments to strengthen gun control and ban assault-style firearms.

Proposed Response:

- **Our Government is committed to taking all measures necessary to reduce gun violence in this country.**
- **We plan to implement the gun-control strategy in a multistep process. We will move quickly on a ban on assault-style firearms with information on a buy-back program to follow. We remain committed to treating law-abiding citizens fairly.**
- **Building on our achievements to combat gun and gang violence, we are investing \$50 million per year for five years to help municipalities keep their communities safe and will work with provinces and territories to help municipalities further restrict handguns.**
- **To address diversion of firearms into the illicit market and protect the most vulnerable, we will introduce stronger penalties for gun smuggling, a temporary licence suspension regime for those suspected of posing a danger to themselves or others and to strengthen safe storage laws.**

Background:

Firearms-related homicide doubled from 2013 to 2017 (134 to 267) but fell slightly in 2018 (249). Shootings have now become the most common method of homicide. According to police, gang violence accounted for approximately 52% of firearms-related homicides in 2017 and 51% in 2018.

This rising firearms-related violence is fueling public concern and giving rise to demands for federal action to curtail the availability of firearms in Canada.

Guns and Gangs

The Government has made federal investments of up to \$327.6 million over five years, and \$100 million ongoing, to establish the Initiative to Take Action Against Gun and Gang Violence. The majority of resources, approximately \$214 million over 5 years is allocated to provinces and territories (PTs) to combat the issue of gun and gang violence in communities across Canada. These resources complement existing efforts under the National Crime Prevention Strategy through the Youth Gang Prevention Fund, which received additional \$8 million over four years beginning 2019.

Ten PTs have signed multi-year funding agreements under the GGVAFF. PEI is currently in the process of negotiating and finalizing their contribution agreements so funding may flow as soon as possible. The Government also provided \$86 million to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canada Border Services Agency to enhance firearms investigations and strengthen controls at the border to prevent illegal firearms from entering the country.

Bill C-71, An Act to amend Certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms

Bill C-71, An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019.

Provisions clarifying that seized firearms are considered forfeited to the Crown have come into force, as have those allowing remaining long-gun registration records to be transferred to Quebec.

Provisions related to licence verification, eligibility, vendor record-keeping and transportation will be brought into force, once the necessary administrative changes have been made, funding has been approved and the associated regulations have been tabled in Parliament.

Contacts:

Prepared by: ██████████ Senior Policy Analyst, Policy Development, Guns and Gangs, ██████████
Approved by: Ellen Burack, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Safety and Countering Crime Branch, 613-990-2703

Mesures pour réduire la violence liée aux armes à feu

Sujet : Les engagements du gouvernement par rapport aux armes à feu et l'interdiction des armes à feu style armes d'assaut.

Réponse Suggérée :

- **Le gouvernement s'engage à prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour réduire la violence liée aux armes à feu à l'échelle du pays.**
- **Nous prévoyons implanter la stratégie de contrôle des armes à feu en plusieurs étapes. Ainsi nous allons agir rapidement pour interdire les armes à feu de style armes d'assaut, et l'information suivra au sujet d'un programme de rachat.**
- **Faisant fond sur ce que nous avons déjà accompli pour combattre la violence liée aux armes à feu et aux gangs, nous investissons 50 millions de dollars par année pendant cinq ans pour aider les municipalités à protéger leurs résidents, et nous allons travailler avec les provinces et les territoires pour aider les municipalités à limiter encore davantage l'accès aux armes à feu.**
- **Pour protéger les plus vulnérables et empêcher le détournement des armes à feu vers le marché noir, nous allons durcir les sanctions pour la contrebande, introduire un régime de suspension du permis pour les personnes soupçonnées de présenter un danger pour elles-mêmes ou autrui, et enfin, renforcer les lois sur la sûreté de l'entreposage.**

Contexte :

Entre 2013 et 2017, le nombre d'homicides liés aux armes à feu a doublé, (de 134 à 267) mais ont légèrement diminué en 2018 (249). Les fusillades sont maintenant devenues la méthode la plus courante pour commettre des homicides. Selon les services de police, les gangs sont responsables d'environ 52 % des homicides liés aux armes à feu de 2017 et 51 % en 2018.

Cette hausse de la violence liée aux armes à feu alimente l'inquiétude de la population et suscite des demandes afin que le gouvernement fédéral prenne des mesures pour réduire la disponibilité des armes à feu au Canada.

Armes à feu et gangs

Le gouvernement a fait des investissements fédéraux pouvant atteindre 327,6 millions de dollars sur cinq ans, et 100 millions de dollars par année par la suite, pour mettre en œuvre l'Initiative de lutte contre la violence liée aux armes à feu et aux gangs. La plus grande partie des ressources, soit environ 214 millions de dollars sur cinq ans, est destinée aux provinces et aux territoires afin de lutter contre la violence liée aux armes à feu et aux gangs dans les collectivités partout au Canada. Ces ressources s'ajoutent aux efforts actuels déployés dans le cadre de la Stratégie nationale pour la prévention du crime par l'entremise du Fonds de lutte contre les activités des gangs de jeunes, qui a reçu huit millions de dollars de plus sur quatre ans, à compter de 2019.

Dix provinces et territoires ont signé des accords de financement pluriannuels dans le cadre du Fonds d'action contre la violence liée aux armes à feu et aux gangs. Le Québec et l'Île du Prince Édouard négocient et finalisent présentement leur accord de contribution afin que les fonds puissent être versés dès que possible. Le gouvernement a aussi accordé 86 millions de dollars à la Gendarmerie royale du Canada et à l'Agence des services frontaliers du Canada afin d'améliorer les enquêtes relatives aux armes à feu et de renforcer les contrôles à la frontière en vue d'empêcher l'entrée d'armes illégales au pays.

Projet de loi C-71, Loi modifiant certaines lois et un règlement relatifs aux armes à feu

Le projet de loi C-71, Loi modifiant certaines lois et un règlement relatifs aux armes à feu a reçu la sanction royale le 21 juin 2019.

Les dispositions précisant que les armes à feu saisies sont considérées comme étant confisquées au profit de la Couronne sont entrées en vigueur, tout comme celles permettant le transfert au Québec des dossiers d'enregistrement des armes d'épaule restants.

Les dispositions relatives à la vérification des permis, à la tenue des dossiers des fournisseurs et au transport entreraient en vigueur par décret, une fois les changements administratifs nécessaires apportés, le financement approuvé et les règlements connexes déposés au Parlement.

Personnes-ressources :

Préparée par : ██████████, analyste principale des politiques, Élaboration des politiques, Armes à feu et gangs,

Approuvé par : Ellen Burack, sous-ministre adjointe, Secteur de la sécurité communautaire et de la réduction du crime, 613-990-2703

Lacroix-Menard, Gabriel (PS/SP)

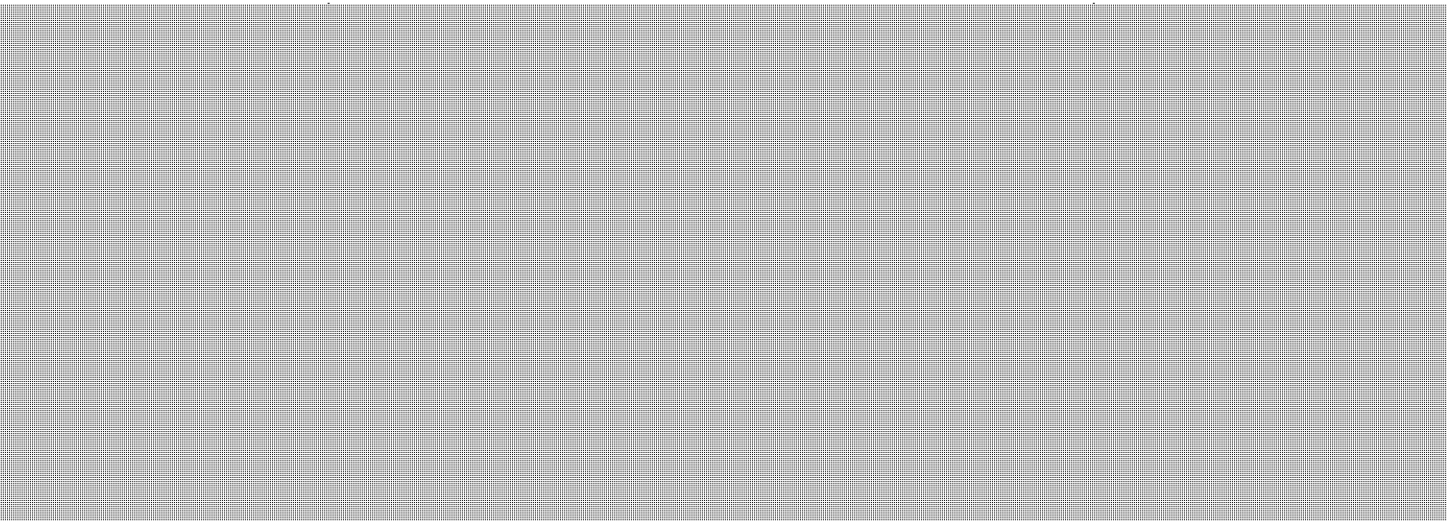
From: [REDACTED] **s.17**
Sent: Thursday, November 22, 2018 3:16 PM
To: Taylor, Matthew
Cc: [REDACTED]; DeMan, Jeremy (PS/SP)
Subject: RE: Quick analysis of CPC proposals on guns

Categories: A-2919-00184 **s.21(1)(a)**

Sorry for the delay, Matt – please see our input below. Big thanks to [REDACTED] and Jeremy.

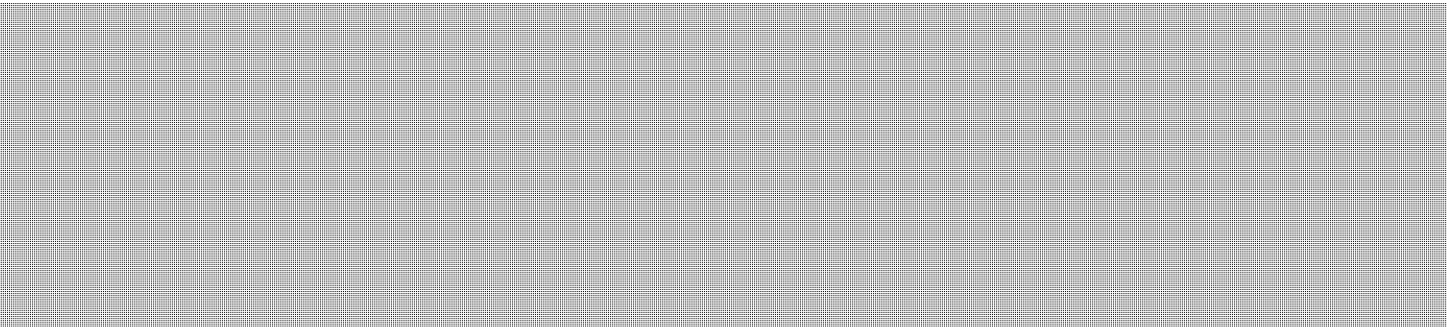
1. Prison time for knowingly possessing a smuggled gun

The vast majority of gun crimes are committed with illegally obtained firearms. A particularly high number are committed with firearms illegally smuggled into the country. There is no legitimate reason to be in possession of a firearm that has been smuggled into Canada. That is why a Conservative government under Andrew Scheer will ensure that anyone who is knowingly in possession of a smuggled gun is sent to federal prison.



2. Tackling “straw purchases”

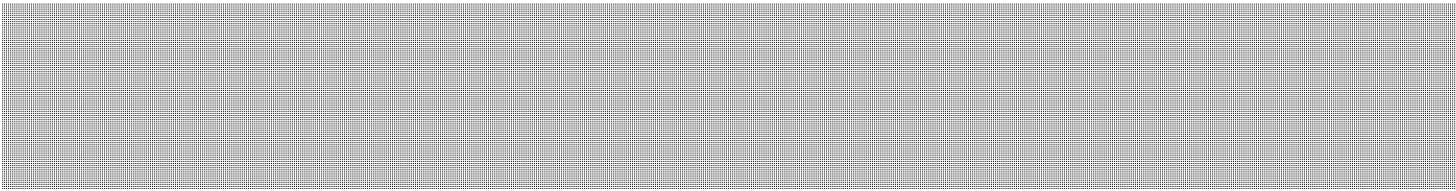
Law enforcement and municipal leaders have flagged concerns around guns purchased legally being diverted into the hands of criminals. A Conservative government led by Andrew Scheer will ensure that anyone found to engage in this behaviour will face serious consequences, including prison time and a lifetime ban from owning firearms.



3. Create a CBSA Firearms Smuggling Task Force

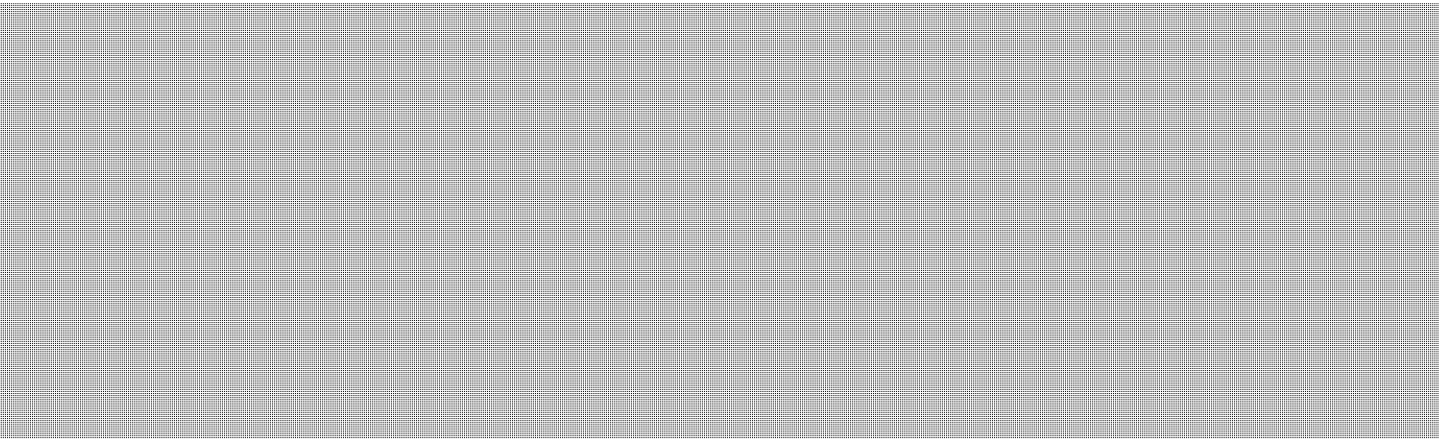
s.21(1)(a)

Many guns used in crime are illegally smuggled into Canada by organized crime. A Conservative government led by Andrew Scheer will create a CBSA Firearms Smuggling Task Force. This task force will oversee an increase of frontline officers, deployment of new technology, and further use of criminal intelligence. They will also be authorized to work with law enforcement counterparts on both sides of the border to identify smuggling routes, and ensure that smugglers and those employing them are put behind bars where they belong.



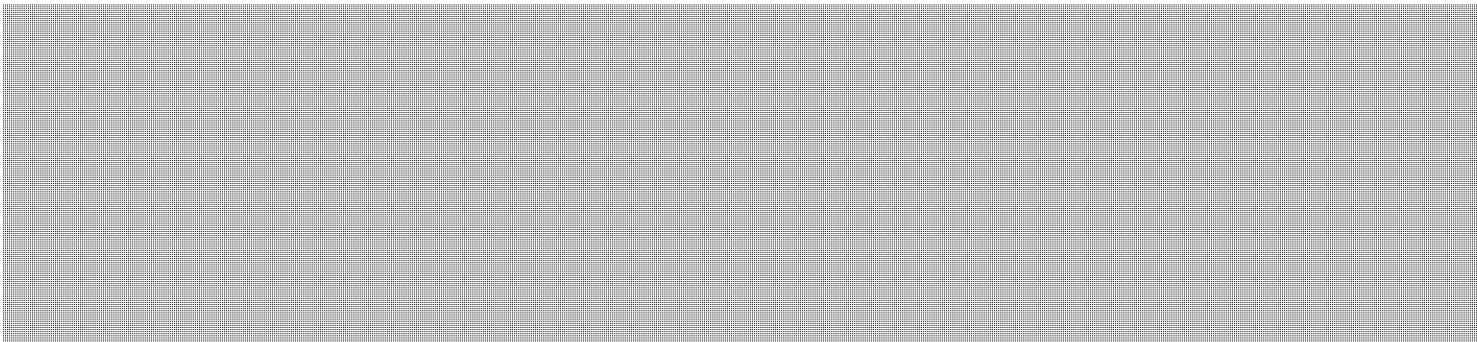
4. Temporary gun seizures for detained mental health patients

It is important to ensure that individuals who are mentally unstable do not have access to firearms. Provinces have established legislation relating to detaining individuals experiencing mental health distress for their own protection. However, there is a patchwork approach between provinces as to how those who have firearms licenses are dealt with. A Conservative government led by Andrew Scheer will ensure that any firearms owner detained under provincial mental health legislation will immediately have their firearms seized. They will be able to apply, after a period of time, to have their property returned if they can demonstrate that their condition has stabilized.



5. Lifetime firearms ban for violent and gang criminals

Gun laws need to target criminals, not law-abiding gun owners. Individuals who have demonstrated serious violent behaviour or have been involved in gang activity have forfeited the right to ever be trusted to own a firearm. A Conservative government by Andrew Scheer will make lifetime firearms bans mandatory for all serious personal injury offences and gang crimes.



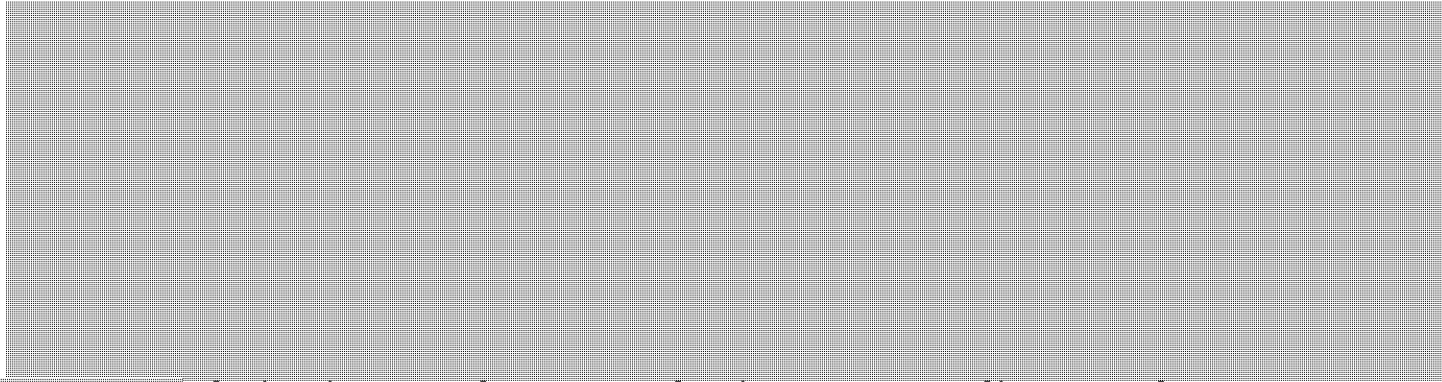
6. New penalties for selling guns to prohibited users

When the courts decide that an individual should never be trusted to own a firearm, government should uphold

that decision. Any individual who knowingly provides a firearm to an individual who is the subject of a gun ban is committing a serious crime. A Conservative government led by Andrew Scheer will ensure that these individuals face serious prison time and that they themselves will be prohibited from owning a firearm for life.

7. New tools for police to solve gun crime

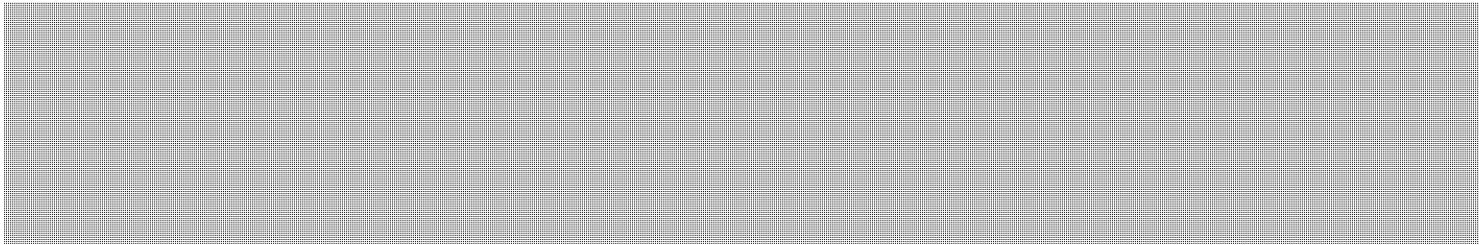
Law enforcement agencies across Canada have continually said that they face challenges getting convictions for firearms crime. A Conservative government led by Andrew Scheer will take steps to improve this situation by encouraging firearms manufacturers to improve traceability, require the submission of ballistic data on crime guns, and by ensuring that the RCMP crime lab is appropriately resourced.



s.17

Tel | Tél :

From: Taylor, Matthew [mailto:Matthew.Taylor@justice.gc.ca]
Sent: Thursday, November 22, 2018 2:14 PM
To: Budgell, Alexandra (PS/SP); Robichaud, Nicole (RCMP); DeMan, Jeremy (PS/SP); [redacted] (PS/SP); Dawson, Donald; Butler, Kim
Cc: Clarke, Paula; Harvey, Jolene (RCMP)
Subject: RE: Quick analysis of CPC proposals on guns



From: Taylor, Matthew
Sent: November 22, 2018 10:53 AM
To: Budgell, Alexandra (PS) ; Robichaud, Nicole (RCMP) ; DeMan, Jeremy (PSEPC-SPPCC) ; [redacted]
Dawson, Donald
Cc: Clarke, Paula ; Harvey, Jolene (RCMP)
Subject: Quick analysis of CPC proposals on guns
Colleagues,

We've been asked to provide our Minister's office with an analysis of the CPC recent statements on gun crime. Can I ask you all to look at the items below and provide me with any information you think relevant by 200PM today. In the interest of time, I have included colleagues from PS and RCMP legal, ADM Eid and [redacted] you, for PS client.

To the extent that the issues flagged below are operational, I will note as much in our response but would appreciate being able to provide any relevant context/background from client perspective on those items.

Thanks,
Matt

1. Prison time for knowingly possessing a smuggled gun

The vast majority of gun crimes are committed with illegally obtained firearms. A particularly high number are committed with firearms illegally smuggled into the country. There is no legitimate reason to be in possession of a firearm that has been smuggled into Canada. That is why a Conservative government under Andrew Scheer will ensure that anyone who is knowingly in possession of a smuggled gun is sent to federal prison.

2. Tackling "straw purchases"

Law enforcement and municipal leaders have flagged concerns around guns purchased legally being diverted into the hands of criminals. A Conservative government led by Andrew Scheer will ensure that anyone found to engage in this behaviour will face serious consequences, including prison time and a lifetime ban from owning firearms.

3. Create a CBSA Firearms Smuggling Task Force

Many guns used in crime are illegally smuggled into Canada by organized crime. A Conservative government led by Andrew Scheer will create a CBSA Firearms Smuggling Task Force. This task force will oversee an increase of frontline officers, deployment of new technology, and further use of criminal intelligence. They will also be authorized to work with law enforcement counterparts on both sides of the border to identify smuggling routes, and ensure that smugglers and those employing them are put behind bars where they belong.

4. Temporary gun seizures for detained mental health patients

It is important to ensure that individuals who are mentally unstable do not have access to firearms. Provinces have established legislation relating to detaining individuals experiencing mental health distress for their own protection. However, there is a patchwork approach between provinces as to how those who have firearms licenses are dealt with. A Conservative government led by Andrew Scheer will ensure that any firearms owner detained under provincial mental health legislation will immediately have their firearms seized. They will be able to apply, after a period of time, to have their property returned if they can demonstrate that their condition has stabilized.

5. Lifetime firearms ban for violent and gang criminals

Gun laws need to target criminals, not law-abiding gun owners. Individuals who have demonstrated serious violent behaviour or have been involved in gang activity have forfeited the right to ever be trusted to own a firearm. A Conservative government by Andrew Scheer will make lifetime firearms bans mandatory for all serious personal injury offences and gang crimes.

6. New penalties for selling guns to prohibited users

When the courts decide that an individual should never be trusted to own a firearm, government should uphold that decision. Any individual who knowingly provides a firearm to an individual who is the subject of a gun ban is committing a serious crime. A Conservative government led by Andrew Scheer will ensure that these individuals face serious prison time and that they themselves will be prohibited from owning a firearm for life.

7. New tools for police to solve gun crime

Law enforcement agencies across Canada have continually said that they face challenges getting convictions for firearms crime. A Conservative government led by Andrew Scheer will take steps to improve this situation by encouraging firearms manufacturers to improve traceability, require the submission of ballistic data on crime guns, and by ensuring that the RCMP crime lab is appropriately resourced.

This e-mail message may contain privileged and confidential information. Any unauthorized use or disclosure is prohibited. Le présent courriel peut contenir de l'information privilégiée et confidentielle. Il est interdit de l'utiliser ou de la divulguer sans autorisation.

Lacroix-Menard, Gabriel (PS/SP)

From: Tomlinson, Jamie (PS/SP)
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2019 1:26 PM
To: Moreau, Ken (PS/SP)
Cc: Carty, Alexis (PS/SP); Koops, Randall (PS/SP)
Subject: FW: Comms survey of Minister Blair firearms/handgun comments during the election.
Attachments: PS-SP-#3416013-1-PSP MM - Minister Blair - Quotes - Firearms.DOCX

As requested.

-----Original Message-----

From: Moreau, Ken (PS/SP) <ken.moreau@canada.ca>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2019 10:24 AM
To: Tomlinson, Jamie (PS/SP) <jamie.tomlinson@canada.ca>
Cc: Carty, Alexis (PS/SP) <alexis.carty@canada.ca>; Koops, Randall (PS/SP) <randall.koops@canada.ca>
Subject: Comms survey of Minister Blair firearms/handgun comments during the election.

Would you be so kind as to compile at Monik's request.
Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

Lacroix-Menard, Gabriel (PS/SP)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 1:14 PM
To: Clarke, Paula
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: CISC Firearms Threat Assessment
Attachments: NSFTA 2018-19.pdf; Final SG Assessment eng.pdf; CISC_NCIE 2018-19 Illicit_Drugs_Public_FINAL.pdf

Good afternoon.

Further to my email this morning, I'm pleased to inform you I have received the Firearms Threat Assessment I requested from the RCMP. We have also been provided with two other related reports on drugs and street gangs that provide additional relevant information.

Further to a request from the RCMP, please ensure that information obtained from the Protected B products are not included in any public-facing material.

Best
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 8:39 AM
To: 'Clarke, Paula'
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Follow-Up Re: border interceptions firearms statistics

Good morning Paula.

I'm happy to tell you that the CBSA has shared the data we wanted on firearms smuggling. It has been provided via screenshot in the email below. I've been following up with the CISC regarding their firearms threat assessment, and expect to hear back today.

NOTE: Information is Originator Controlled. CBSA has asked to review any use of this data in official documents.

I trust this is useful.

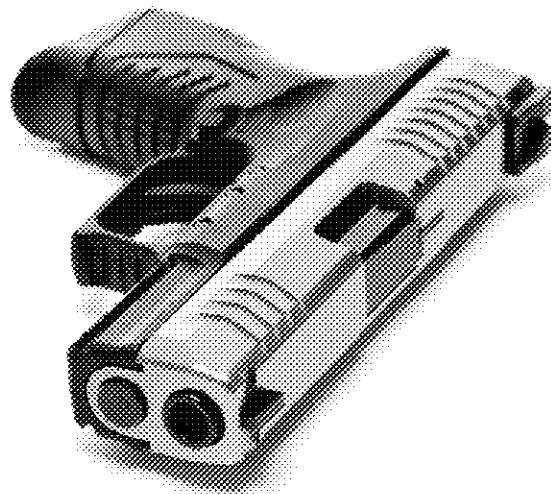
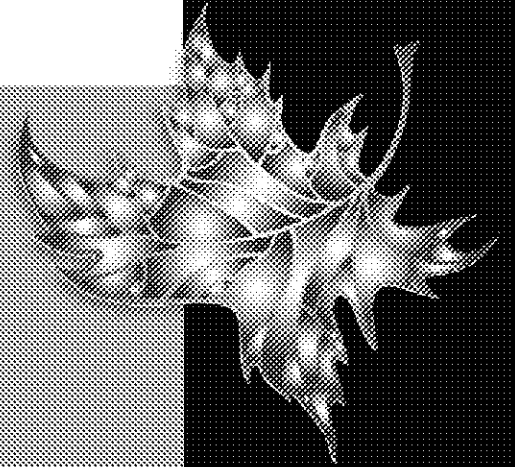
Best
[REDACTED]



CISC | SCRC

**Criminal Intelligence Service Canada
Service Canadien de renseignements criminels**

2018-19 NATIONAL STRATEGIC FIREARMS THREAT ASSESSMENT



PROTECTED B

Introduction

The 2018-19 National Strategic Firearms Threat Assessment (NSFTA) is a bi-annual assessment of the illicit firearms situation in Canada, produced in support of the Initiative to Combat the Criminal Use of Firearms (ICCUF).

The NSFTA assesses the threat posed by illicit firearms in Canada, with an aim of informing decision-makers at the strategic and the operational levels, and to enhance the understanding of illicit firearms trafficking in Canada.

Caveat for Information

The 2018-19 National Strategic Firearms Threat Assessment was produced by Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC). This assessment remains the property of CISC Central Bureau.

This document, or any part of its contents, is not to be used or disseminated outside your agency without the prior written consent of the Director General of CISC. The full protection of the document and its contents is the responsibility of your agency. Appropriate safeguards must be established for the safekeeping of this document and its contents. This document is to be safeguarded according to regulations for storing and handling Protected B material.

The information in this document falls under third party rule. It is not to be reclassified, copied, or reproduced without the consent of CISC. Information contained in this assessment is not to be used in affidavits, court proceedings or subpoenas, or for any other judicial purposes.

Inquiries on this product should be directed to the Director General, Criminal Intelligence Service Canada, at RCMP.CISC-SCRC.GRC@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Key findings

- Over 508 organized crime groups (OCG) in Canada use violence to further their criminal activities, and most of these groups rely on firearms.
- Approximately 9 of every 10 organized crime-related homicides are committed with a firearm.
- Cities with higher volumes of firearms-related violence have a significant street gang presence, and firearm-related violence appears to follow the geographic expansion of street gangs.



s.16(2)

- Street gangs engage in spontaneous, opportunistic shootings and firearm-related homicides, many of which are precipitated by the [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Handguns are the most commonly used firearm in homicides committed in urban areas. Urban street gangs, specifically in Ontario, are believed to increasingly rely on handguns rather than long guns (rifles and shotguns).
- Long guns are most frequently used in homicides committed in rural areas, especially in the Prairie provinces.
- Long guns make up the vast majority of criminal investigation seizures in Canada, which suggest that they may be used in other type of violent crimes (i.e. intimidation, robberies).
- [REDACTED]
- Most successfully traced handguns in Ontario used in violent crimes are sourced in the United States, while rifles/shotguns are sourced domestically.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]



Overview of Firearm Seizures

- **The total number of annual seizures of firearms has been relatively constant in the past two years**
- **Most firearms seized are long guns (rifles and shotguns), which are primarily sourced in Canada, through legal channels before being diverted to the illicit market**

There has been little variation in the number and types of firearm seizures in Canada in the past two years, with rifles and shotguns accounting for approximately 80% of seizures. Of the 25,481 firearm seizures in 2017, 17,787 (70%) were the result of criminal investigations, with the majority of those seizures linked to the illicit drug market or organized crime activities.

The highest overall number of firearms seized was in Quebec. As per every province, however, long guns are by far the firearm most often seized by 75% to 85%. Handgun seizures are more prevalent in Ontario and British Columbia accounting for about 25% of seizures. In most other provinces, handguns account for less than 15% of seizures. Handgun seizures are, however, increasing in Alberta, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Saskatchewan. (See Table 1)

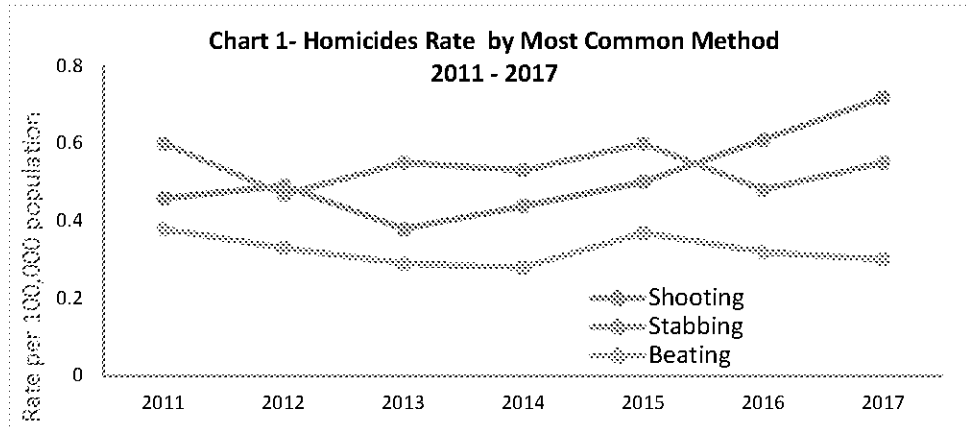
Table 1. Handguns and Long guns Seizures per Province in 2017

Province	Handgun		Rifle/Shotgun	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
AB	611	675 ↗	2640	3645 ↓
BC	1122	1045 ↓	3319	3284 ↓
MB	143	105 ↓	710	686 ↓
NB	68	94 ↗	861	715 ↓
NL	19	13 ↓	261	207 ↓
NS	106	134 ↗	837	881 ↗
ON	1602	1537 ↓	4774	4402 ↓
PEI	54	5 ↓	121	44 ↓
QC	743	717 ↓	6057	6204 ↗
SK	82	83 ↗	785	601 ↓

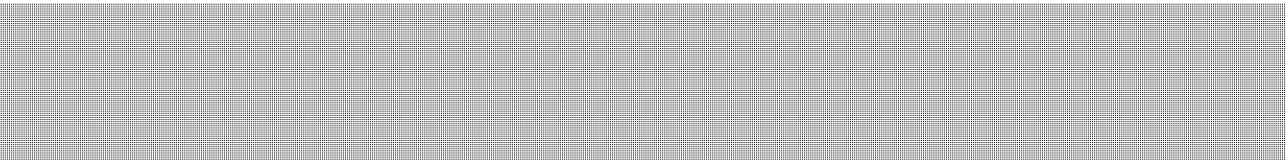
Organized Crime Related Firearm Violence

- [REDACTED]
 - **Approximately nine out of every ten organized crime-related homicides is committed with a firearm**
 - **Most OCGs in Canada have access to, or use firearms, to further their criminal activities**
 - **Street gangs engage more frequently in shootings and firearm-related homicides compared to other types of OCGs**
- s.16(2) • **Street gang-related firearm violence is spontaneous,** [REDACTED]

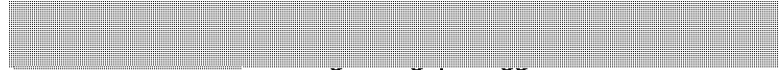
Law enforcement reporting suggests that OCGs increasingly rely on firearms to support their criminal activities. This parallels a 42% increase in firearm-related violent crime since 2013. The rate of firearm-related violent offences increased in 2017, for the fourth year in a row, in conjunction with the number and rate of firearm-related homicides (Chart 1).



Source: Statistics Canada



Street gangs are more often involved in firearm-related homicides and more frequently in shootings than other OCGs.



[REDACTED] British Columbia and Alberta are seeing an increase in the number of gangs, coinciding with an increase in firearm-related violence. In fact, cities with higher volumes of firearm-related violence in 2017 (Table 2) also had a significant number of street gangs and members within their borders.



Table 2: Reported Violations of Firearm Discharges with Intent in 2016 and 2017

CITY	2016	2017
CALGARY	10	22
EDMONTON	37	23
HAMILTON	9	29
MONTREAL	77	58
OTTAWA	48	61
REGINA	20	13
SASKATOON	6	11
TORONTO	387	379
VANCOUVER	55	40

Source: Statistics Canada

s.16(2)

Unlike other OCGs, such as Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs) and the Italian Mafia, street gang violence is not generally strategic or necessarily related to drug trafficking. Increasingly, street gang-related violence is spontaneous and opportunistic, and is associated to rivalries, rather than an expanding criminal enterprise.

The firearm-related threat posed by street gangs is increasing. Street gangs are expanding beyond their traditional local base of operations nationally and internationally. This expansion is frequently followed by a rise in firearms-related violence in the areas in which they relocate or expand.



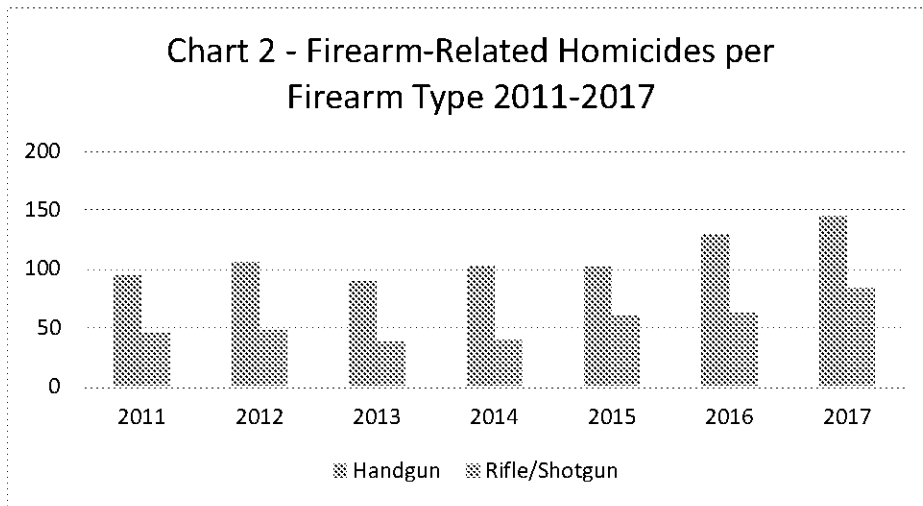
This is particularly concerning in densely populated urban areas, where stray bullets pose a significant threat.

s.16(2)

Types of Firearms Used: Handguns vs Long Guns

- Handguns are almost exclusively used in firearm violence in large urban centres
- Long guns and shortened shotguns are the types of firearms most frequently used in violent crimes in rural areas, especially in the Prairie provinces
- The increasing use of handguns is attributed to street gangs in most provinces

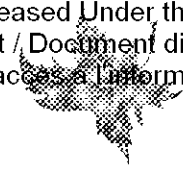
While handguns represent only 15-25% of overall firearm seizures, they are the most common type of firearm used in firearm-related homicides, accounting for 55 % of incidents (Chart 2). Handguns are more commonly used in urban areas (63%) and rifles/shotguns used in rural areas (66%).



Source: Statistics Canada

Handguns are almost exclusively used in firearm-related violence in large urban centres. For example, in both Toronto and Ottawa, handguns were used in the majority of shootings in 2017 and 2018. Notably, street gangs operating in urban areas, particularly in Ontario, are predominantly using handguns. As street gangs from the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), where demand for handguns remains high, are now expanding and operating in ██████████ the demand for handguns in these provinces will likely increase.

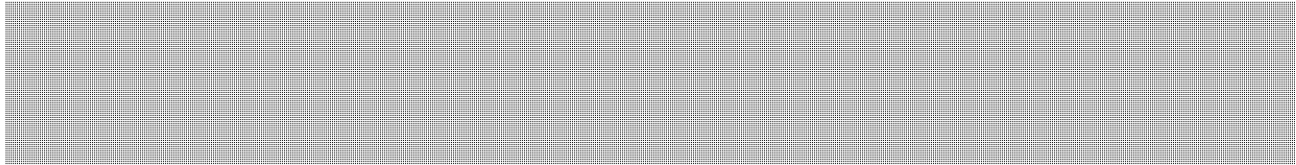
Outside of Ontario, long guns and shortened shotguns are the firearms most frequently used in rural areas, especially the Prairie provinces. The most important players in violent crimes in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are ██████████ that rely primarily on long guns.



Sources of illicit firearms

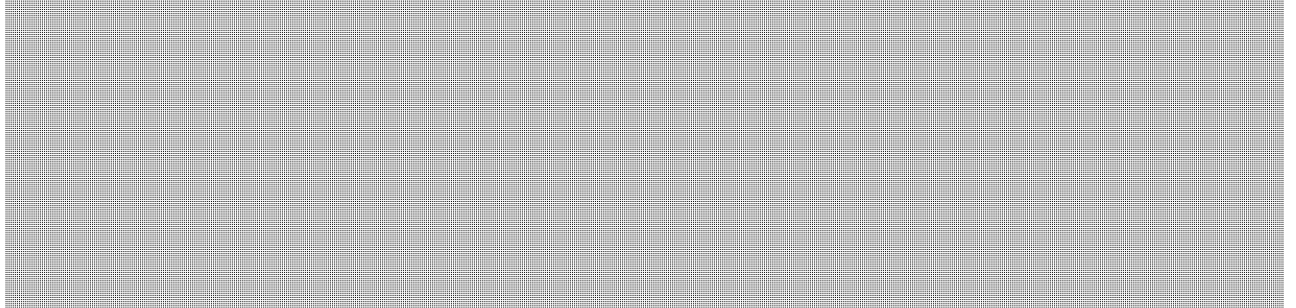
- **Handguns used in violent crimes appear to be primarily sourced in the US, while rifles/shotguns are sourced domestically**
- **Long guns are mostly sourced through firearm theft or diversion from the legal market after being purchased legally**

Domestic vs Smuggled

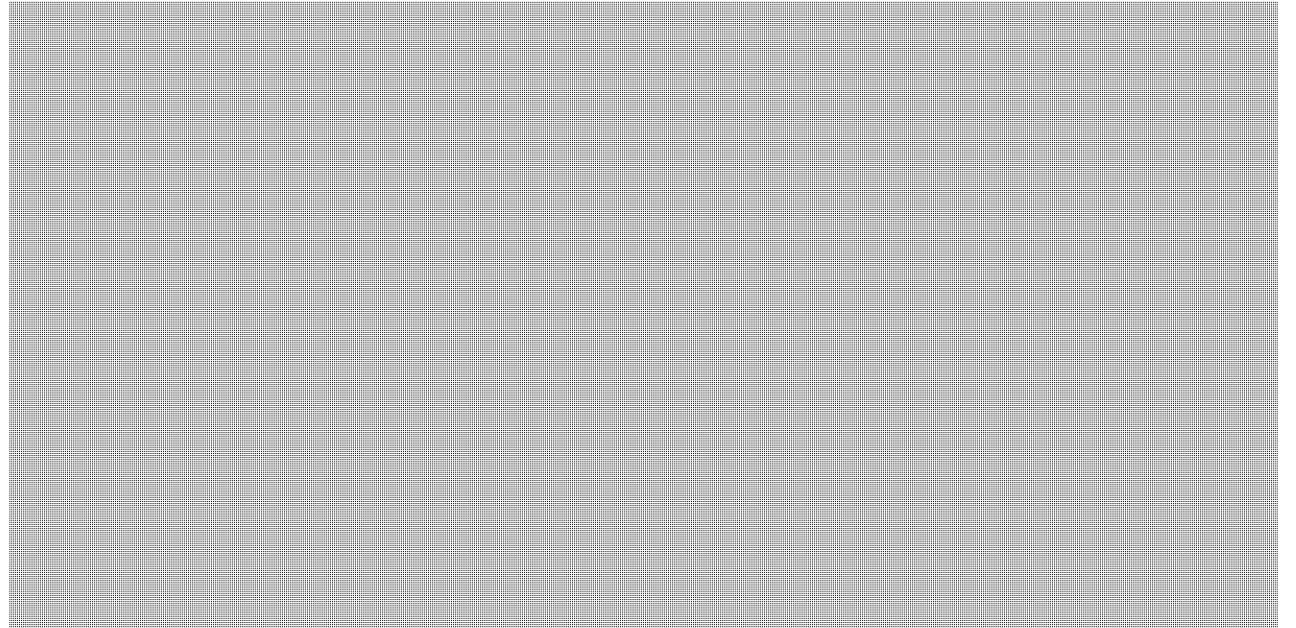


Cross-Border Smuggling

Most illicit handguns entering Canada are smuggled from the US. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC),

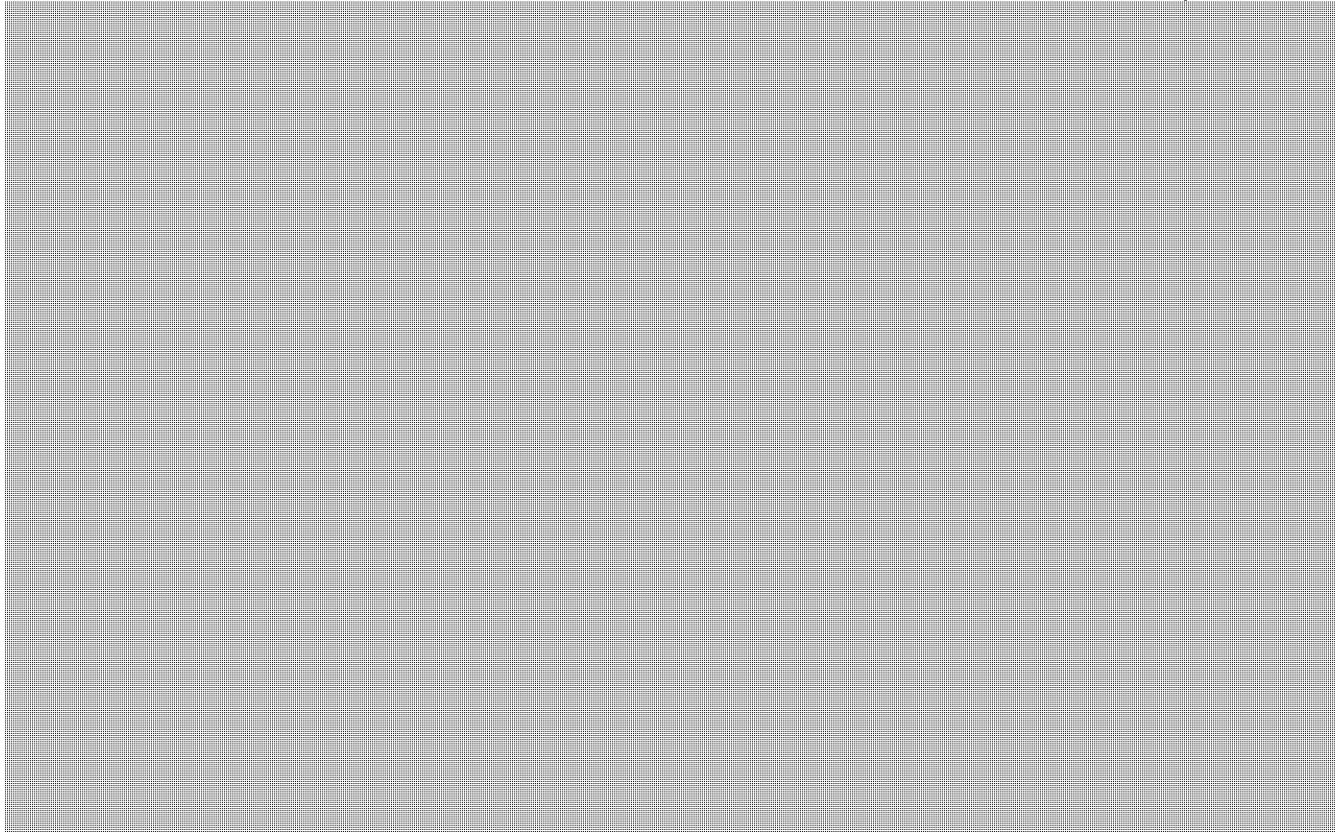


The most commonly smuggled firearms are restricted or prohibited firearms that are difficult to obtain domestically. A higher demand for handguns has been observed in Ontario, and correlates with rising illicit firearm smuggling activities.



s.16(2)

s.16(1)(c)



Straw Purchasing

Straw purchasers are licensed individuals who legally acquire firearms in order to divert them to the illicit market. In Canada, there is no limit on the amount of firearms (restricted or non-restricted) that individuals can acquire, provided they hold a valid license.

[REDACTED], the large pool of legal, domestically-sourced firearms available in Canada lessens the need for cross-border smuggling. [REDACTED]



Page 24

**is withheld pursuant to section
est retenue en vertu de l'article**

16(2)

**of the Access to Information
de la Loi sur l'accès à l'information**

Page 25

**is withheld pursuant to sections
est retenue en vertu des articles**

16(1)(c), 16(2)

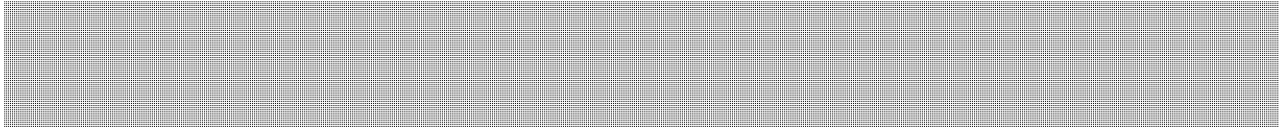
**of the Access to Information
de la Loi sur l'accès à l'information**

s.16(2)

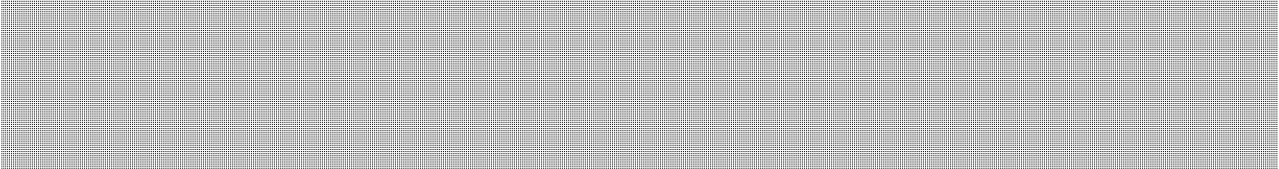
Firearm Theft

Most of the occurrences of firearm theft resulted in multiple firearms being stolen. In some provinces, such as Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, firearm theft continues to be the most important source of illicit firearms.

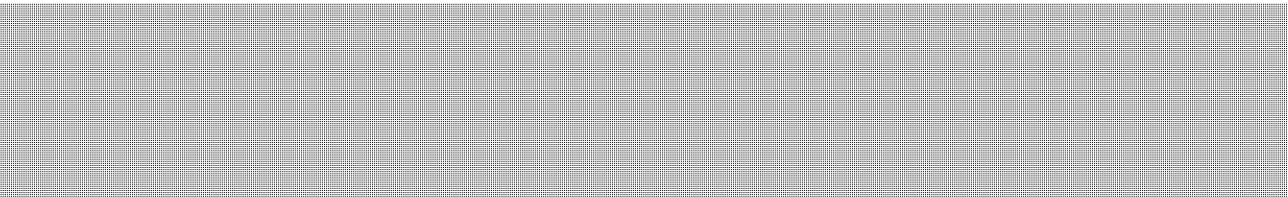
According to Statistics Canada, the number of break and enters (B&E) relating to firearms theft is increasing. There were 516 occurrences in 2016 and 750 in 2017. More than one firearm is usually stolen during each occurrence.



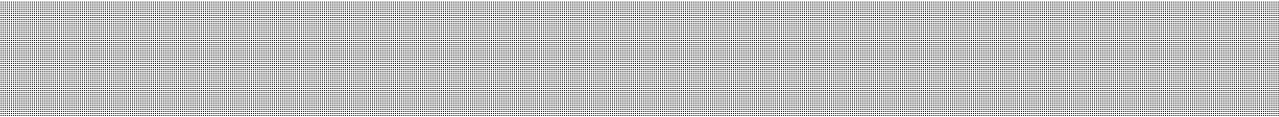
There is also an increasing number of commercial robberies involving firearm licensed stores across Canada, notably in Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. Each resulted in the theft of several non-restricted and restricted firearms, most often handguns. In March 2017 and November 2018, nine commercial robberies resulted in the theft of 245 handguns in five different Canadian provinces. A single robbery in an Alberta hardware store in November 2018 resulted in the theft of 40 shotguns/rifles.



Illicitly Manufactured Firearms



Illicitly manufactured firearms are most often handguns.



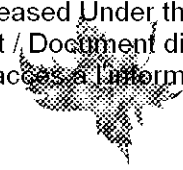
Although they do not account for a large proportion of seized firearms, similar models of manufactured firearms are being seized in Montreal (Quebec), and Vancouver and the Lower Mainland (British Columbia). Canadian firearm laws restricting handgun purchases, in addition to increasing proactive law enforcement actions targeting straw purchasers and smugglers, may be prompting OCGs to become more involved in the production of such illicit firearms in Canada, as well as the trafficking of related firearm parts.

Page 27

**is withheld pursuant to section
est retenue en vertu de l'article**

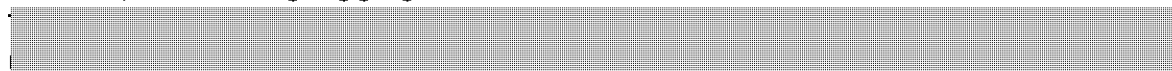
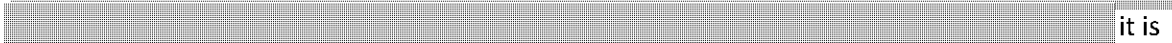
16(2)

**of the Access to Information
de la Loi sur l'accès à l'information**



Future Considerations for Canadian Law Enforcement

- Handguns will continue to pose the greatest threat in densely populated urban areas, while modified/shortened long guns will continue to be more frequently used in urban and rural areas in the Prairies.
- Since handguns are a popular choice among street gangs, for their concealability and the status they provide, the demand for these firearms will remain significant. Given that spikes in shooting incidents follow the geographical movement of street gang members, notably those involved in urban violence, firearm-related violence will continue to increase in areas where gangs are trying to establish their presence, most significantly in areas where Toronto-based gangs operate (around the GTA and in Northern Ontario), in rural areas of the Prairies where urban-based Indigenous street gangs are expanding their operations, as well as in the Lower Mainland (British Columbia) where an ongoing gang conflict continues to worsen.

- 
 it is likely that the demand for handguns in the province will continue to increase.

- A reduction in the domestic availability of handguns will not lead to a reduction in overall violent crimes, as firearms continue to account for only a small percentage of overall violent crimes involving OCGs.
- Legislative changes further restricting handgun ownership in Canada are likely to have little immediate effect on firearm-related violence, as the majority of those committing violent acts with handguns are already legally prohibited from purchasing or possessing them. Furthermore, handguns are not the most common type of firearm used in firearm-related crimes in rural areas.

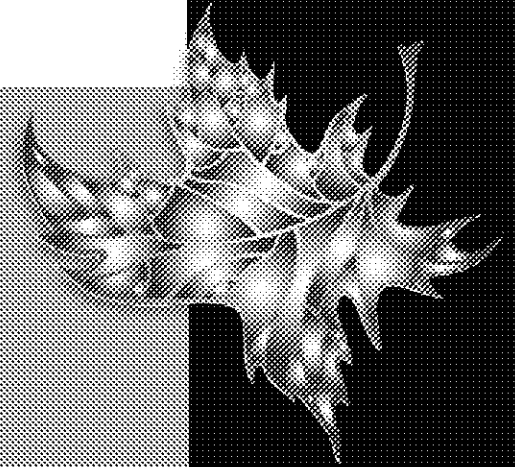
- 



CISC | SCRC

Criminal Intelligence Service Canada
Service Canadien de renseignements criminels

2019 NATIONAL STREET GANG ASSESSMENT



PROTECTED B



Caveat for Information

The 2019 National Street Gang Assessment was produced by Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC). This assessment remains the property of CISC Central Bureau.

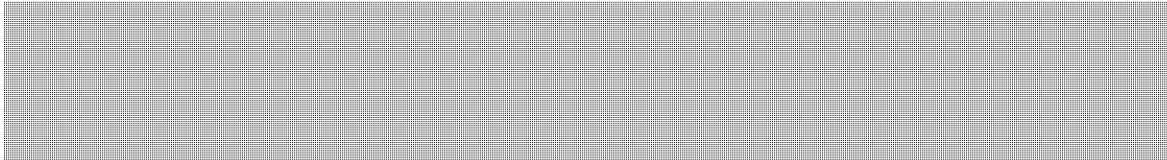
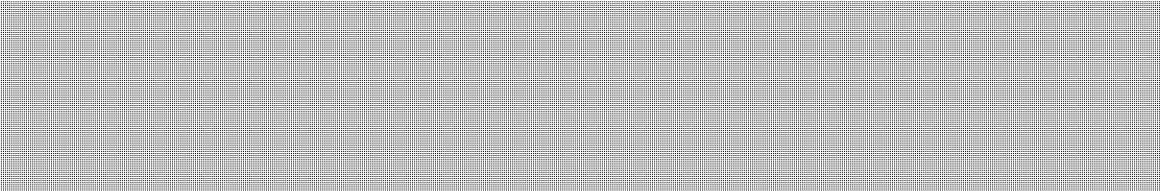
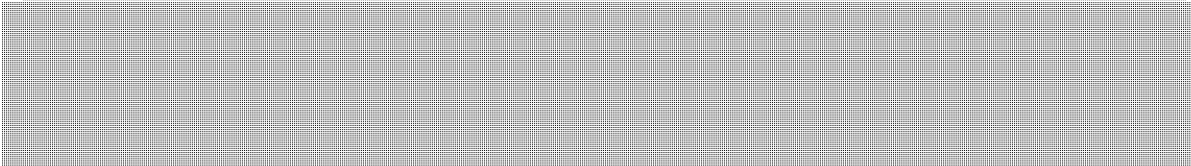
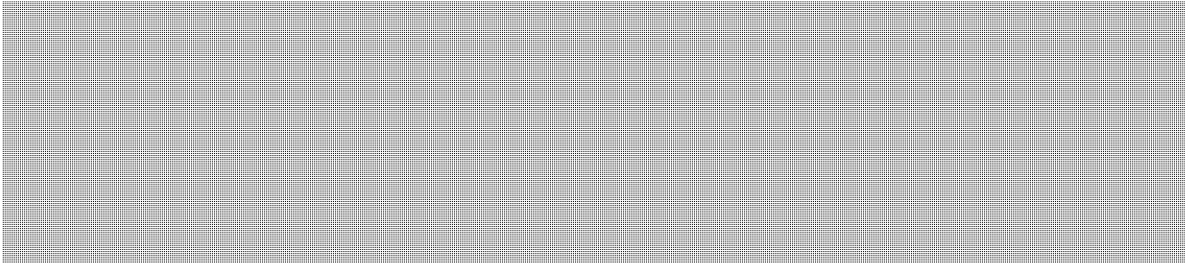
This document, or any part of its contents, is not to be used or disseminated outside your agency without the prior written consent of the Director General of CISC. The full protection of the document and its contents is the responsibility of your agency. Appropriate safeguards must be established for the safekeeping of this document and its contents. This document is to be safeguarded according to regulations for storing and handling Protected B material.

The information in this document falls under third party rule. It is not to be reclassified, copied, or reproduced without the consent of CISC. Information contained in this assessment is not to be used in affidavits, court proceedings or subpoenas, or for any other judicial purposes.

Inquiries on this product should be directed to the Director General, Criminal Intelligence Service Canada, at RCMP.CISC-SCRC.GRC@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

s.16(2)

Key Findings

- 
- Street gangs continue their involvement in high-visibility crimes including shootings, drug distribution and sex crimes, causing them to come to the attention of the media, and subsequently the general public, more frequently than higher-level, more insulated organized crime groups.
- Although street gangs are present in most areas of the country, and collectively represent a national level issue, their composition and operations vary to some degree from region to region. Dedicated resources responsible for information and intelligence sharing among all agencies, including best practices and training, will assist with the preparation and response to the territorial spread of street gangs.
- 
- 
- Although some street gangs maintain a core group of longstanding members, gang membership is reportedly becoming more fluid, with alliances and rivalries among members and groups often quickly shifting. Additionally, 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.
- 

s.16(2)

Introduction

Although street gangs have long been present in Canada, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the purpose of this assessment is to provide an updated, national strategic intelligence picture on the current street gang situation in Canada, with a focus on how street gangs fit into the Canadian criminal landscape, and a look at the potential evolution of street gangs into more sophisticated organized crime groups.

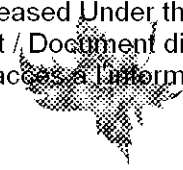
In 2012, Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC), in partnership with all provincial bureaus, developed an eight point threat criteria, which remains the only nationally accepted tool used to assess the threat posed by all organized crime groups in Canada. Despite their violent tendencies, disregard for public safety, and extensive involvement in street level criminal activities, the majority of street gangs score relatively low in relation to the eight point threat criteria, as the criteria were initially developed to rank order the most significant organized crime threats in the country, and violence represents only one of the eight criteria. [REDACTED]

Although street gangs can be defined as criminal organizations as outlined in the Criminal Code of Canada, there remains significant value in further assessing street gangs for intelligence purposes, with more of an emphasis placed on their involvement in street level violence. Consequently, in 2018, CISC embarked on the development of a standardized street gang definition to be used solely for intelligence purposes. With the assistance of the National Street Gang Working Group, the following working definition was developed, approved, and forms the basis for group inclusion in this intelligence assessment:

“A group of (3) three or more people, formally or informally organized, which has a common name or common identifying sign/symbol or other indicia of membership, whose members use violence explicitly to support, individually or collectively, a pattern of street level criminal activity.”

Key Assumptions/Issues

[REDACTED] CISC acknowledges that this definition is subject to change in the future, and will likely be modified to better reflect the changing nature of the threat posed by street gangs in Canada.



CISC is committed to continued consultations with street gang experts to ensure the definition remains current, applicable, and reflective of the overall situation in Canada.

Throughout the information collection and analysis effort, CISC identified that the number of street gangs that are believed to be currently operating in Canada, and intelligence reporting on these groups, is most likely underreported at both a provincial and national level. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Furthermore, it was identified that the street gang situation in many areas of the country remains fluid, with the gang names, membership, alliances and/or rivalries among street gangs frequently shifting, making [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Finally, following the information collection and analysis efforts of CISC and partner agencies, a discrepancy was identified between the number of street gangs identified and reported to be active in Canada, and the number of street gangs that were reported and assessed via the Integrated Threat Assessment Process (ITA). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

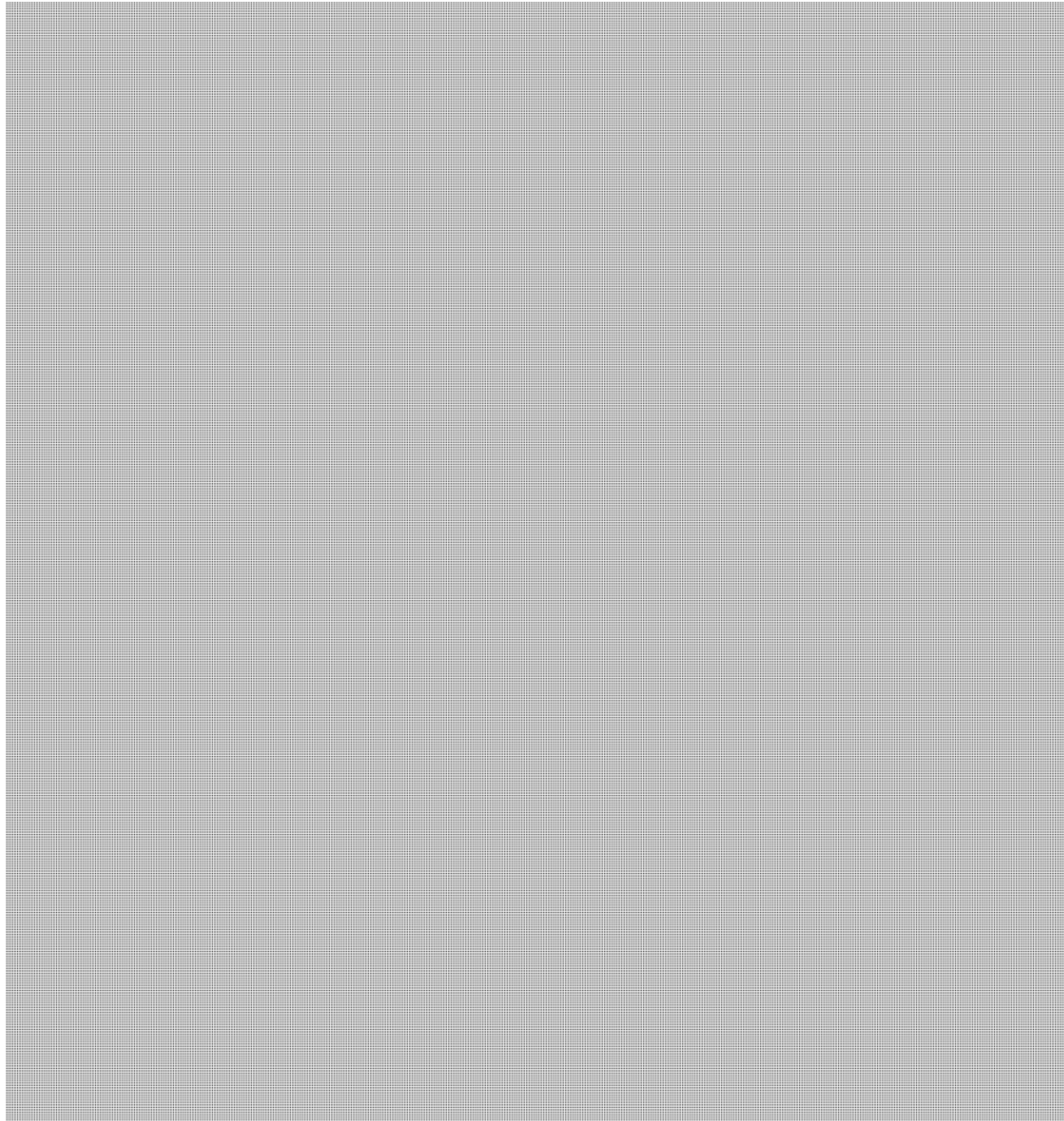
Conversely, CISC acknowledges there are several factors that have likely contributed to the decrease in the number of reported street gangs, including the use of the new definition which is narrower in scope and has likely led to the exclusion of higher-level organized crime groups that would have previously been included in 2009. Additionally, a number of more recent challenges have been

¹ Although a preliminary analysis was conducted on these additional 20 street gangs, and the information collected was used in identifying general trends, these street gangs were not included in the overall statistics regarding "profiled groups", as they were not formally profiled via the 2019 ITA process.

ⁱ Numbers reported are based on information provided by law enforcement agencies across Canada through submissions from the 2005 & 2018 CISC National Street Gang Workshop, intelligence reports and 2009 and 2019 provincial integrated threat assessments. Statistics were not available for every street gang per province.

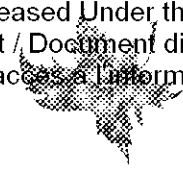
s.16(2)

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE CANADA / PROTECTED B



Street Gangs: Where they fit in the Criminal Landscape

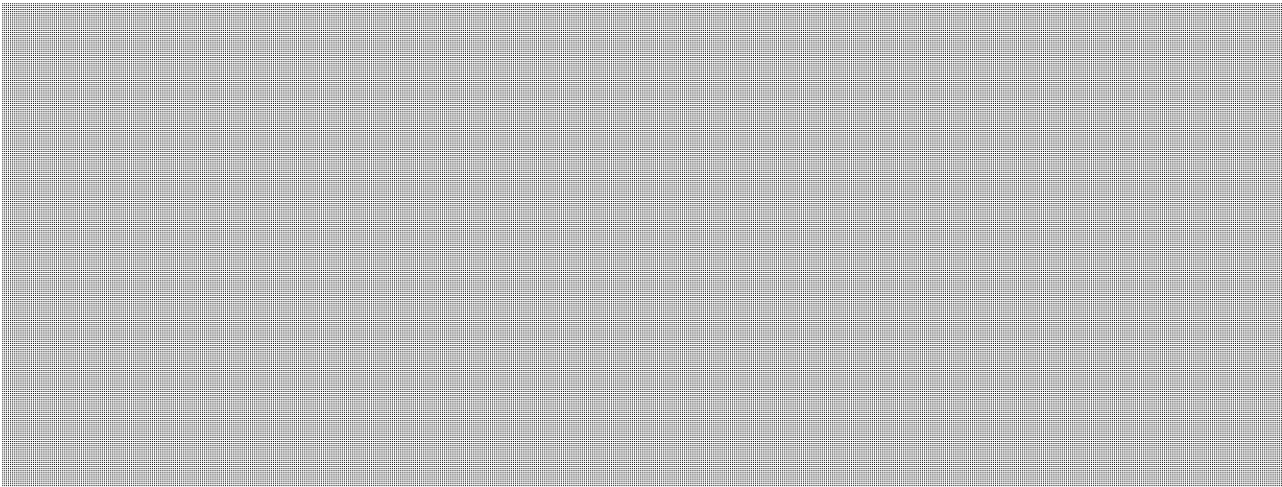
Despite often being considered a local and/or municipal problem, street gangs continue to play a distinct role in the greater Canadian criminal landscape, and pose a significant public safety threat given their involvement in openly violent activities. Furthermore, despite their generally low overall threat score, street gang involvement in relatively high-visibility crimes, including shootings, retail drug trafficking, and human trafficking/sex trade offences, often quickly comes to the attention of the news media, and



subsequently the general public. In such cases, an urgent and more reactive law enforcement response from a public safety perspective is often required, placing additional strain on policing resources that could otherwise be spent on more proactive, intelligence-led investigations.

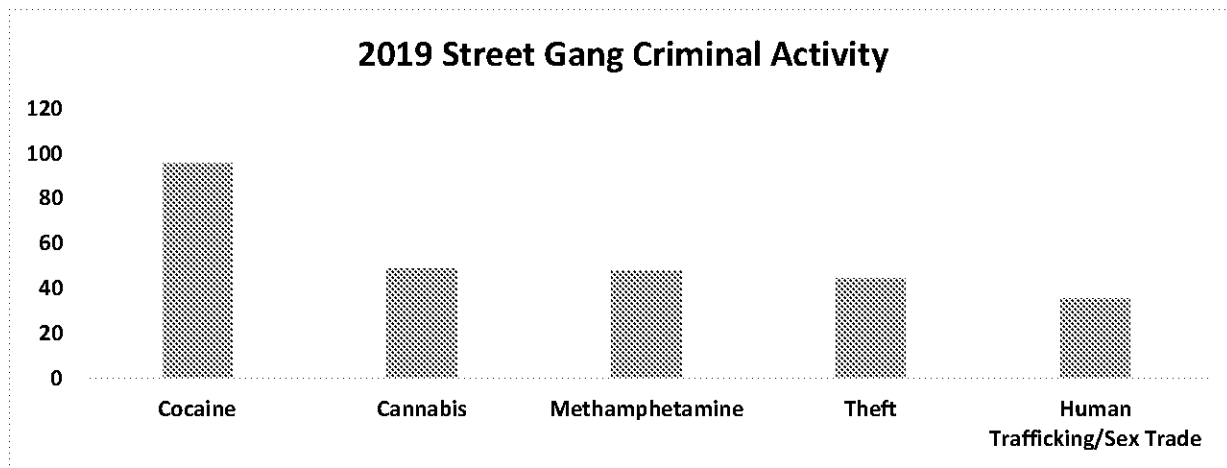
In 2019, 121 identified street gangs in Canada were reported and assessed via the ITA process, representing approximately 18% of all assessed Canadian-based organized crime groups. The majority of those street gangs (97) were assessed as low-level threats, consistent with the expectation that street gangs usually score lower in threat level when compared to more entrenched organized crime groups,

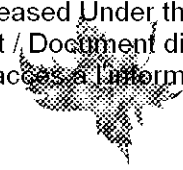
Although street gangs are generally assessed as low-level threats from a national perspective, many of these groups continue to pose a significant regional public safety concern given their involvement in street level violence and criminal activity within their local municipalities.



Although by definition all of the street gangs identified in this report are violent in some capacity, approximately 88% (106) of all assessed street gangs currently score high in violence, indicating that they use violence either as an offensive tactic, an integral part of strategy, or use weapons to further their criminal activities.

Figure 2





As identified in Figure 2, street gangs continue to be heavily involved in illicit drug markets, primarily in a retail to mid-level distribution role, with cocaine, cannabis, and methamphetamine being the most popular. Street gangs also continue their involvement in theft-related activities, including break and enters and home invasions. Additionally, approximately 36 of the 121 profiled street gangs are reportedly involved to some degree in human trafficking/sex trade activities.

In addition to general criminal involvement, the geographical scope of street gangs, and the potential for expansion, continues to raise concern as street gang members become more mobile. At present, approximately 71% (87) of the 121 assessed street gangs are believed to have a multijurisdictional scope of operations, suggesting that they have expanded their operations outside of their group base to further their criminal activities.

Other Trends

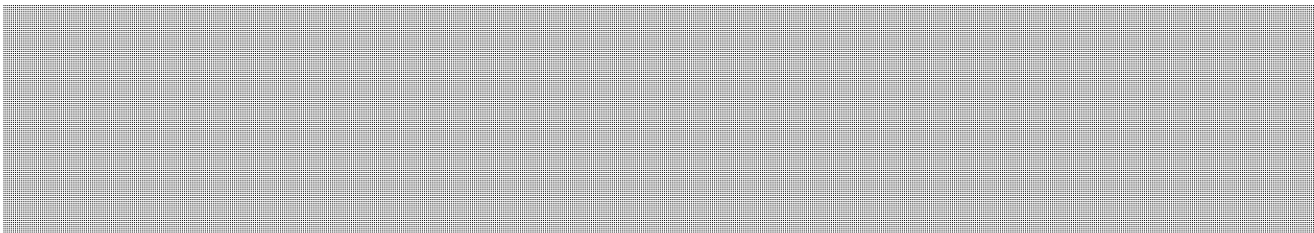
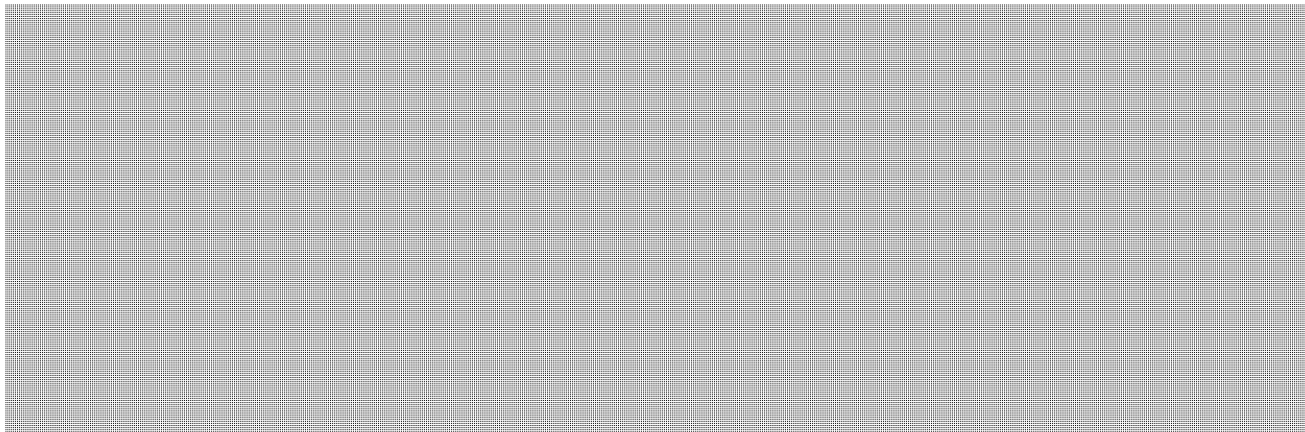


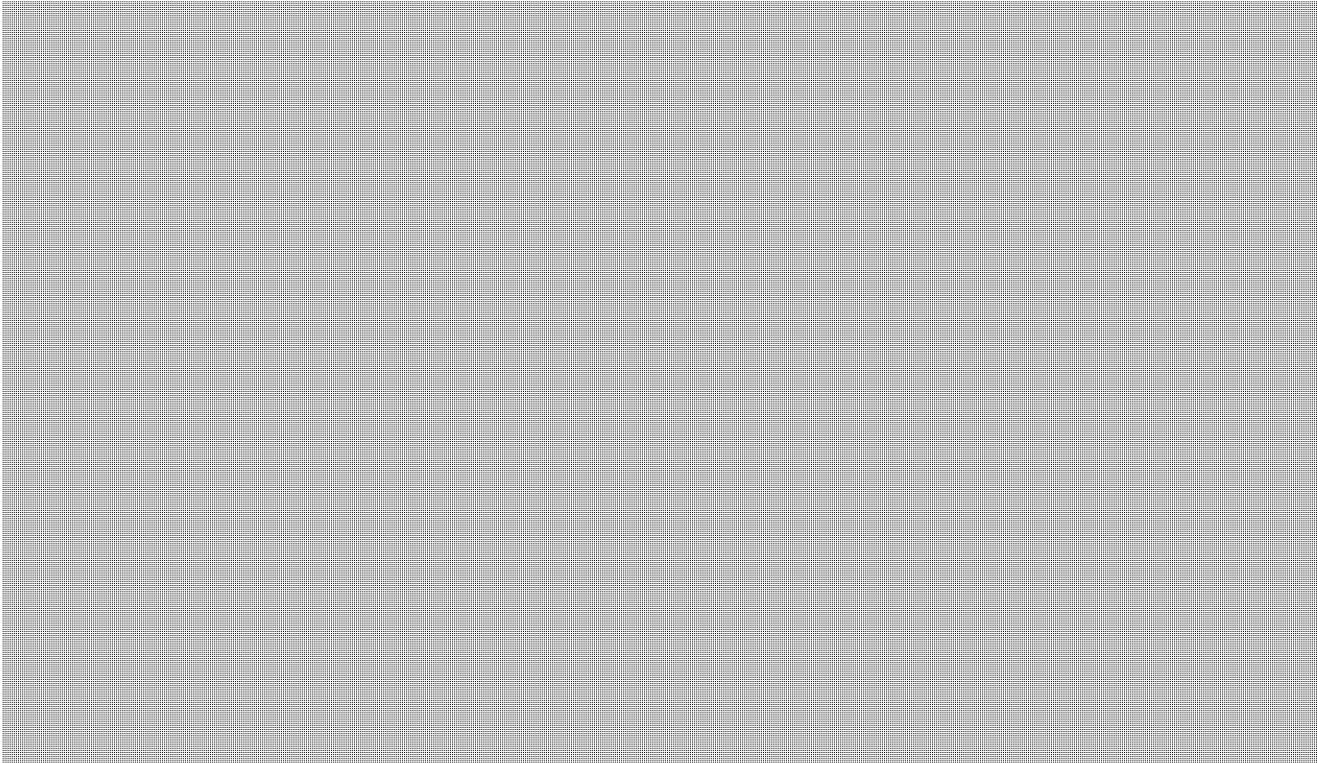
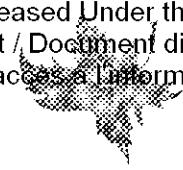


Street Gangs: The evolution to higher-level organized crime

The evolution of street gangs to that of higher-level organized crime groups is of particular concern. A recent analysis conducted by CISC on organized crime groups in Canada, identified that approximately 70% of all current national high-level threat groups in Canada were previously assessed as medium level threats within the last 5 years. Although many of these groups have been targeted by law enforcement in some capacity over the years, many have shown resilience to law enforcement actions, and are now believed to pose a more significant threat than in the past.

Generally, high-level threat groups exhibit at least some degree of longevity within the Canadian criminal landscape, and as these groups' geographical scope of operations expands, and they diversify their involvement in criminal markets, and cultivate additional criminal linkages with other criminal groups, they progress in threat-level.

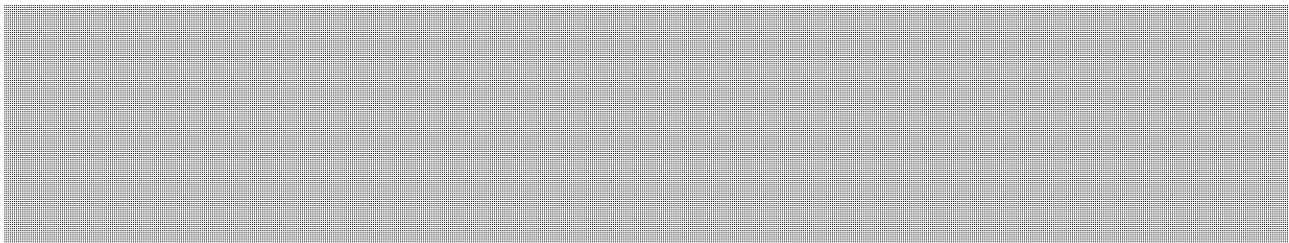




The geographical dispersion of street gangs currently posing a medium-level of threat corresponds with additional intelligence suggesting that British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec are all facing the evolution of street gangs to higher-level organized crime.

Way Forward

As street gangs remain active in many regions across Canada, CISC will continue to monitor the threat posed by all street gangs. Although the type of threat posed by street gangs varies, at least to some degree by region, CISC will continue to facilitate the sharing of street gang-related intelligence at a national level. Should street gangs continue to expand their scope of operations, and become more criminally associated to higher-level organized crime groups, the sharing of both strategic and tactical level intelligence at national, provincial, and municipal levels will become increasingly important. The sharing of best practices, as well as enforcement strategies and strategic intelligence across various regions will assist gang investigators, as well as senior management, in combatting the spread of street gangs in their respective regions.



**Pages 39 to / à 42
are withheld pursuant to section
sont retenues en vertu de l'article**

16(2)

**of the Access to Information
de la Loi sur l'accès à l'information**



Lacroix-Menard, Gabriel (PS/SP)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 12:24 PM
To: [REDACTED]
 (PS/SP)
Subject: FW: Firearms and Gs and Gs requests
Attachments: PS-SP-#3506109-1-The Origins of Firearms used in Firearm-related Violent Crime.DOCX

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Thursday, February 13, 2020 1:00 PM
Flag Status: Flagged

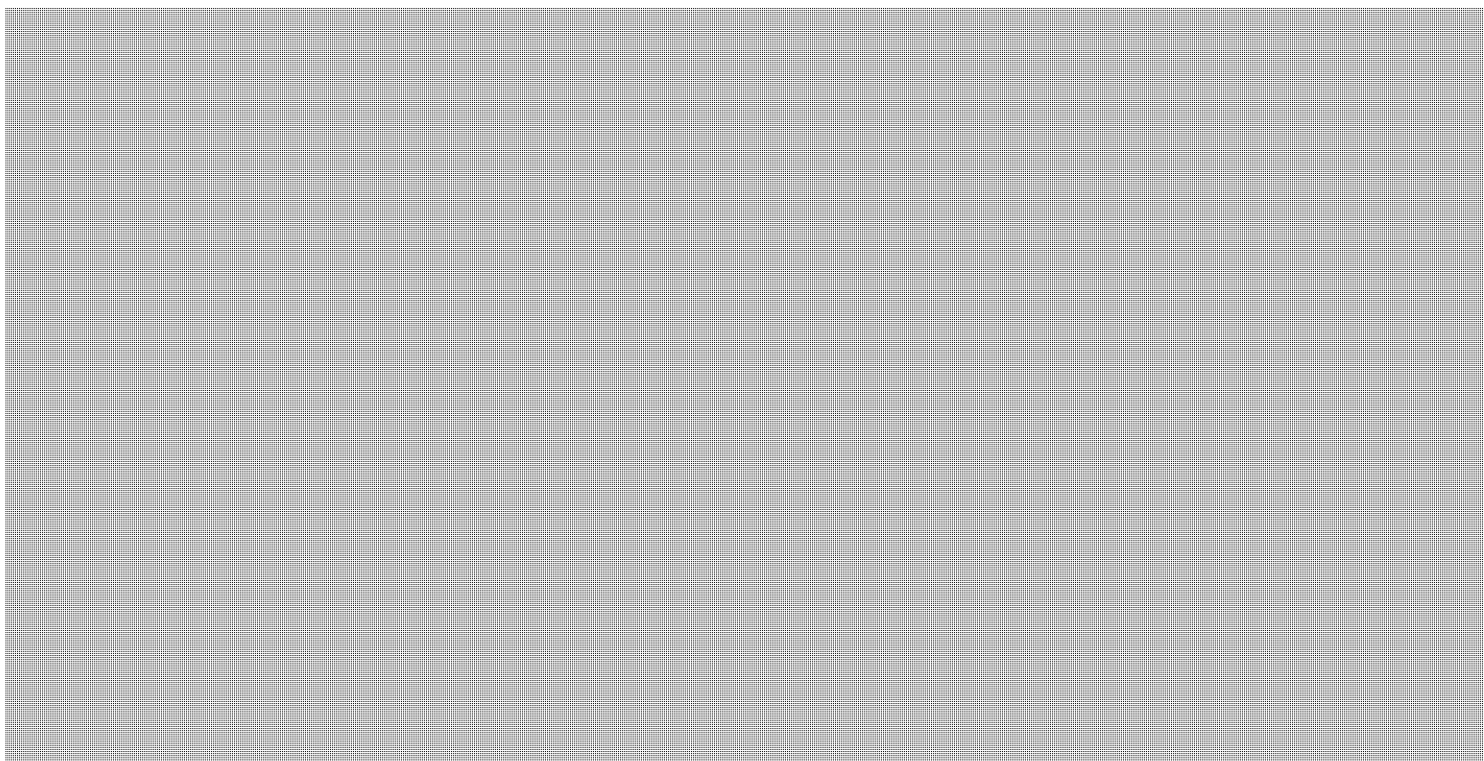
Team,

For your review and comments – please and thanks, [REDACTED]

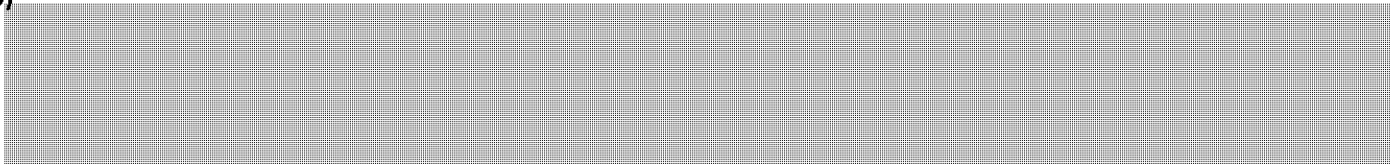
From: Elleithy, Amr (PS/SP)
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 12:09 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Koops, Randall (PS/SP) ; Diamantopoulos, Viletta (PS/SP) ; Doiron, Mackenzie (PS/SP) ; Mugford, Rebecca (PS/SP) ; [REDACTED] ; Champoux, Elizabeth (PS/SP) ; Sirois, Geneviève (PS/SP) ; Wright, Christina (PS/SP)
Subject: FW: Firearms and Gs and Gs requests

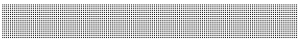
Hi [REDACTED]

At the workplan 20-21 consultation meeting, you have highlighted four priority research questions that you would like the Research Division to work on. These research issues/questions are:



s.21(1)(b)



To ensure synergy, I have looped in our Crime Prevention Policy colleagues as they may have some advice to offer as this question would entail developing some evidence-informed guidelines that can be used to tailor the funding to appropriate areas (e.g., rather than simply spending the resources on ).

We have started to allocate some resources to start working on this issues.

Please let me know if we have covered everything you have identified. The Research Team would be happy to make modifications and respond to any urgent request for research support.

On behalf of the Research Team,

Amr Elleithy, Ph.D.
Director , Research Division / Directeur de la recherche
Research, Intergovernmental Affairs and Horizontal Policy/Secteur de la sécurité communautaire et de la lutte contre le crime
Community Safety and Countering Crime Branch/Secteur de la Sécurité communautaire et de la reduction du crime.
Public Safety Canada/Securité publique Canada
340 Laurier Avenue West, 12th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5K3
Tel.: 613 949-1508
E-mail: amr.elleithy@canada.ca



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

The Origins of Firearms used in Firearm-related Violent Crime

Firearms used in gun violence may be acquired licitly or illicitly. Although national statistics on the origin of firearms used in Canadian crimes are currently unavailable, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Domestic long guns used in crimes are primarily sourced through break-and-enters and the use of straw purchasers (i.e., a licenced individual who purchases a gun legally and then diverts the firearm to the illicit market) (CISC, n.d.).

Smuggling

Illicit handguns entering Canada are largely smuggled from the United States (CISC, n.d.). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(CISC, n.d.). Smuggled firearms are most commonly prohibited or restricted firearms that are difficult to acquire in Canada [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s.16(1)(c)(i)
s.16(2)(b)

Straw Purchasing

[REDACTED]

s.13(1)(c)

s.16(2)

Some research suggests that straw purchasing and other unreported gun sales are an important source of illicit firearms. [REDACTED]

Theft

Break and enter to steal a firearm has more than tripled since 2009 (0.9 versus 2.9 incidents per 100,000 population in 2009 and 2018, respectively; Clermont, 2019). [REDACTED]

According to CISC (n.d.), firearm theft is the most important source of illicit firearms in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. Commercial robberies involving firearm licensed stores is also increasing, particularly in Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia, where several restricted and non-restricted firearms are stolen, most frequently handguns (CISC, n.d.).

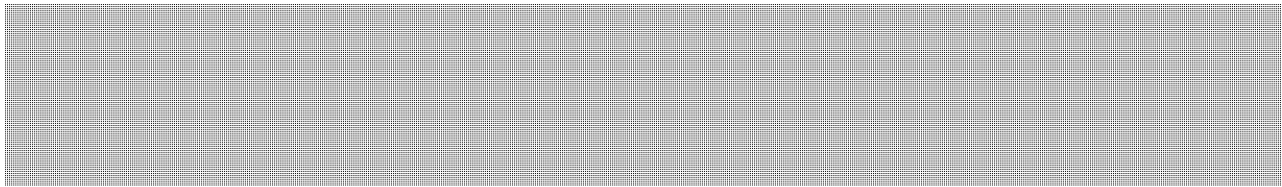
Illicit Manufacturing

[REDACTED] Ghost guns, which are most commonly handguns, [REDACTED]

It is important to recognize there are limitations in our knowledge about the origin of crime guns. Not all firearms are recovered from firearm-related violent crimes (e.g., 34-42% of homicide guns in 2015/2016; Statistics Canada, 2018b); [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A 2017 British Columbia Task Force on Illegal Firearms indicated that the National Weapons Enforcement

s.16(2)(a)



References

- BC Task Force on Illegal Firearms (2017). *Illegal firearms task force: Final report*.
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/police/publications/government/iftf_final_report_pdf.pdf
- Clermont, Y. (2019, August 30). *Firearm-related crime in Canada*. Unpublished PowerPoint presentation delivered to the Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee.
- Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (n.d.) *2018-19 national strategic firearms threat assessment*. Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Criminal Intelligence Service Canada.
- Morselli, C., Petit, S., Turcotte, M., & Gagnon, C. (2010). *Identifying illegal firearm market acquisition patterns – final report*. Public Safety Canada. Retrieved from <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsracs/pblctns/archive-dntfng-llgl-frrms-2010/index-en.aspx>
- Statistics Canada (2018b). Firearm-related violent crime in Canada. *Juristat Bulletin—Quick Fact*. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-005-x/2018001/article/54962-eng.htm>

Quotes from Articles and Transcripts – Minister Blair on Firearms
(2019-09-11 – 2019-10-21)
RDIMS # 3416013



Table of Contents / Table des matières



SELECTED QUOTES / CITATIONS CHOISIES

SOCIAL MEDIA / MÉDIAS SOCIAUX



Selected Quotes / Citations choisies



Blair: "The violence in our communities is completely unacceptable and it demands the best action from all of us. I've been dealing with gun violence in the city of Toronto for several decades. And those types of incidents can have an impact on people's sense of safety and security. And I think we need to make sure that the police have the resources they need to respond appropriately to apprehend the offenders and the criminal justice system will deal with them. But we've also got to look at prevention. And I know from experience there are a number of very significant things that can and must be done in our communities to reduce and suppress the incidents of violence and also to change the circumstances in our communities that's giving rise to that violence in the first place. And that means helping young people make better choices and strengthening the resilience of communities and so that's our plan quite frankly."

Blair: "The Liberals have been talking to Canadians and certainly I've had many conversations with Mayor Tory. Within the city of Toronto we're prepared to take the steps that are necessary to make it more difficult for criminals to get their hands on firearms particularly handguns to make sure that those who do acquire them use them illegally are far more likely to get caught with little consequences."

Blair: "We're talking about restrictions on firearms which will make them far more difficult for criminals to gain access to. And let me just give you some examples. One of the things that we are seeing is quite a number of use of handguns are getting into the hands of criminals as a result of theft. They're being stolen from retailers across the country and from private homes. And so the storage of those weapons is absolutely critical to make sure that they're more difficult to steal. And yet our current laws do not provide for our homeowners with enough information about what they need to do."

Blair: "But I think what you're hearing is we are looking at all the measures which will be effective in keeping our communities safe and making it far more difficult for criminals to gain access to guns now and that can include by the way, within the city, Mayor Tory and I've been discussing

this, additional restrictions on where a firearm can be possessed or stored within a municipality to make it far more difficult for people in those municipalities to gain access criminally to guns.”

Blair: “Well I would I would just simply point out in twenty thirteen The Conservative government took one point two billion dollars out of our federal security services including nearly 400 million dollars over the CBSA. We’ve been putting that money back and we’ve been putting those resources back at the border. Contrary to to Andrew’s assertions eighty nine billion dollars was dedicated specifically to CBSA and the RCMP to deal with firearms coming across our border and what’s the result. It has been significant CBSA has seized several hundred firearms at the border this year.”

Blair: “Well it it’s difficult to determine but what is important is they’re not simply doing the goal line defence. They’re certainly doing an excellent job at our border and we’ve provided them with new technologies including x rays Technologies a significant increase in dogs because that low tech response is also quite effective. Additional people and in addition conditional potential intelligence gathering. But we’ve also given money but who can restore the RCMP whose capacity to conduct criminal investigations into the criminal organizations responsible for bringing those those guns across the border. This is an organized criminal activity and they’re motivated by profit. In 2013, the Conservatives cut the funding for the RCMP and they closed all 12 integrated proceeds of crime units across this country. And so when they talk about you know making investments, I would just simply remind them that we put \$214 million into municipal and Indigenous police service to deal with gun and gang violence in the city just a few weeks ago and made the announcement with the Ontario government of \$65 million for police services in this country.”

Blair: “Just let me correct some things, that misinformation that’s just been provided. We actually made available for you know 47 billion dollars for anti gang initiatives for for policing and communities right across this country in 2017. We went to the provinces. The money has to be distributed to the municipal police services and to municipalities through the provinces. In the spring I had a meeting with the Ontario government and said here’s \$65 million, you need to move on this. You need to accept it and begin allocating it to your municipalities, they accepted it. At that time only \$11 million, we’ve had further discussions with them. They now have all 65 million dollars available to them and I urge municipalities across Ontario and across Canada to reach out to their provincial governments and give get access to the funding that we’ve provided. I also mentioned a couple of other things. You know we brought forward new firearms legislation that just as an example provides for more enhanced background checks for people who can, who are acquiring firearms. The Conservatives have promised to repeal that and quite frankly I see no sense at all in getting rid of enhanced background checks.”

Blair: “And I couldn’t agree more. And for example I went to Surrey B.C. and we’ve been working with the municipality of Surrey. We provided \$7.5 million for ten community organizations that work with kids in that community. And their youth workers and social workers working in that community to work with young people to help them make better choices. We’ve also made significant investments in job creation and housing and providing better services in those communities. And I think Andrew makes an important point as well. I’ve worked in some of the poorest neighbourhoods in Toronto and I’ve dealt with gun violence. I know from experience that you know you need to conduct investigations and deal with those violent people who represent such a significant threat to society. But if you don’t go into communities and deal with issues of social justice within those communities then you’re just going to have generation after generation getting into this type of activity.”

Blair: “Yes maam and so we need to make sure that the police have the resources. I can tell you again, I was police chief in Toronto for 10 years and during that 10 years we never got a nickel from the Harper government to deal with gun and gang violence. Nothing. And so as soon as we formed a government, we went to the police services, first of all, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, but I went and met with police chiefs right across the country and said what do you need? And they said we don’t just need policing resources, we need investments in our community. We need to work with kids.”

Blair: “That’s just the politics of resentment. The fact is we provided \$65 million to the province of Ontario and it’s precisely because the province of Ontario has that relationship of oversight.”

Interview with CBC Radio’s The Current (2019-09-17)

Blair: "I believe that there are some weapons that should be prohibited. (...) Prohibited, yes. I have recommended that there are certain weapons that are currently not prohibited that should be prohibited, which means no one should be allowed to have those weapons". Interview with CBC's The Fifth Estate (2019-09-20)

Blair: "It would have done some very significant important things. First of all, the gun that was used in that mass shooting was stolen from a gun retailer in Saskatchewan. Somebody broke into their store, cut a metal cable securing those weapons, made off with 25 handguns, one of them ended up on the streets of Toronto, one was used in that terrible shooting. We have proposed today new regulations that would require all of those firearms to be stored in a far more secure way, in a safe or a vault, to make them much harder to steal. We've also proposed new regulations that would enable us to identify red flag situations. You know a dangerous situation where a gun is present could be a deadly situation. And so where there's an indication that first of all someone might be involved in a domestic or neighbour dispute where there's a high degree of violence potentially, we want to make sure we remove firearms from that situation and suspend any licenses to allow anybody to acquire additional guns. In case of suicide, the presence of a firearm exponentially increases the risk there. And for individuals who are online spouting hate and advocating violence against religious minorities, LGBT members, women or little kids, or any particular group, we want to be able to ensure that the police, but also the community, the doctors, teachers, and victims have the ability to take action to suspend that individual's license to make sure that they do not have access to firearms."

Blair: "And again, just to be really clear, Don, so everybody understands what we are in fact proposing, it's new measures with respect to handguns that will require more secure storage. Right now the requirement is that a handgun be stored in a nontransparent locked container or room which is difficult to break into. It clearly is insufficient, and the vast majority of responsible and conscientious gun owners actually store their guns in safes or vaults, and we're going to require everyone who chooses to own a handgun to store it in a way that's secure in a safe or a vault so that it is not readily stolen and end up on the streets of Toronto. You there are three different ways, or any other city or community in this country, there are three different ways in which guns end up in the hands of criminals. Some are smuggled across the border as you've already indicated, some are stolen from legal gun owners, and some are legally diverted because there are some, unfortunately, license holders who go out and buy guns and then sell them at an enormous profit to criminals. So we're taking effective measures to stop all of those things."

Blair: "Every gun that is stolen and ends up on the street represents a significant risk to Canadians right across this country, and so we are going to put in every place in Canada new requirements for secure storage so that those guns are going to be a heckuva lot of harder to steal. But we're also working with municipalities because they have certain vulnerabilities, they have issues with respect to guns on their streets, and if they wish to enact additional measures that will place additional restrictions on where and how a gun can be stored and used within their municipality, we want to work with them to do that, but in every place in Canada, every restricted firearm, which are the handguns, they must be stored in a secure way. We also are bringing in additional measures so that criminals who buy them legally and sell them illegally will get caught and face certain consequences. They do it for profit. We're going to put it in jail and take their money off them. And as well we're taking very significant new measures at our borders. We've made big investments in CBSA and the RCMP. We've made big investments in new technologies and new resources at the border, and we are doing the things necessary to keep those guns out of Canada and out of the hands of criminals."

Blair: "And it's because those weapons, first of all I travelled across the country, I met with a lot of people who use handguns for sport shooting, and in particular some people that are Olympic calibre shooters. I asked them about their sport. I learned about their firearms and how they use them and store them. And I believe that it is possible for those people to continue in their sport and do it safely as long as they secure their weapons against theft. The overwhelming majority of

firearm owners in this country are law-abiding. They acquire their guns properly. They use them responsibly. They store them securely. And they dispose of them properly. But there are some people who don't."

Blair: "Well they're weapons. We're going to give them a two year amnesty so that we can make the necessary arrangements to identify these firearms, to have them surrendered and then compensate those purchasers with fair market value. I met with a number of assault rifle owners. And they said if you just prohibit our weapons and grandfather them, first of all that leaves nearly a quarter of a million assault rifles in our society, and it also puts them at a disadvantage because they can't sell their gun, they can't bequeath, and if they can't use it. And so I asked them what would be fair. And they said if we could be compensated for the value of what we've got, we could buy a less deadly firearm if we choose to, but if you're going to prohibit these weapons, that's what they recommended, and I agree with them. And frankly I have a great deal of respect for people who obey the law, and we want to make sure that they are treated fairly. You will hear from some advocates, and certainly from people who've taken a lot of money from the gun lobby, that somehow we're targeting hunters and sportsmen, and nothing could be further from the truth. We have nothing but respect for hunters and sportsmen, and we are not taking any measures that will restrict those legitimate law-abiding and safe activities." Interview with CTV's Power Play (2019-09-20)

Blair: "Absolutely not I am motivated only by keeping people safe and that's the discussion I had with my father and with my prime minister. We looked at measures on -- first of all we looked at how guns get into the hands of people to commit violent crimes and I propose and we are introducing in our platform today very significant new measures. The three ways in which guns are given into the hands of criminals is they are smuggled across the border, we've brought new measures and resources to close off that supply of guns. We also know that many guns are being stolen from lawful gun owners who haven't done enough to keep their weapons secure so we are bringing in new regulations to apply coast to coast to require those weapons to be stored far more securely in a safe or a vault and finally putting forward additional measures because some of those guns are being purchased legally and sold illegally for an enormous profit like people who are profiting from gun trafficking. So we are taking very serious measures to enter ticket the supply of guns going into the hands of criminals and as well there are a number of weapons that were designed plot for hunting, not for forth shooting but only for military use. They were designed for soldiers to kill other soldiers. They are exceptionally efficient at taking of life and we've seen these weapons of choice for the shooter in quebec at this at the mosque, ecole polytechnique, at christchurch. There is no place for those weapons who are designed for the efficient killing of people. So we are going to initiate a ban of those assault rifles. There are close to a quarter million of them in canada."

Blair: "One of the things the prime minister asked me to do is to look at measures that would make our country safer, to interticket the supply into the hands of criminals and do it in a way that's respectful. Those lawful firearm owners across the country who are in fact smartphones in their use. They store them securely, they recall responsible in their use. And I went and met with them and listened to them. And frankly, if they are very conscientious in stork their weapons so that they don't end up in the hands of credible, we don't intend, there's nothing in our platform today that is intended to interfere with the legitimate lawful activities of hunting and sports shooting in Canada. But for -- but for owners of handguns, we're going to ask them to secure them better in a safer vault so that they are not subject to be stolen. We'll we're also going to ensure we have the tools in place to prevent the illegal diversion of guns and measures to keep them from crossing the border. Also in some low-cal I think the city of Toronto and I've spoken to the mayor, they have some additional concerns. And so they've asked for consideration of regulation that's would enable them to not only -- adhere to the same standard of secure storage that will apply right across Canada, but perhaps some additional measures that will enable them to say where and if a firearm can be stored within their low-cal and how it -- and where it can be used."

Blair: "Well, quite frankly, there is a regulatory jurisdiction of the municipality and we're going to work with nos municipalities and find ways to keep their citizens safe. I believe all three orders of government have a responsibility here. What we have found with the conservatives is -- is it's very difficult for them to talk about guns because they are so beholden to the gun lobby. Mr. Scheer talks about getting safety but you will notice he can never speak about any kind of measure that will make it more difficult for those gangs to get guns. We're prepared to act on ensuring that those guns are not easily accessible to people who commit violent crimes."

Blair: "Let's talk about jurisdiction, first of all, there's a federal jurisdiction to determine storage requirements for handguns under our firearm regulations. And we propose that for handguns, they will have to be stored not as currently in a locked transparent container or majority of really conscientious firearm owners, hundred owners that I've spoken to are very constableiencetious about the storage of their weapons, but unfortunately not everybody is. We've seen tragedies that guns have been stolen from private homes and retailers and in fact the gun that was used in that tragic shooting last summer in the city of Toronto, was stolen from a gun retailer in Saskatchewan. And if that gun had been secured in a vault, that gun would not have been available on the streets of Toronto."

Blair: "We will work directly with the provinces -- or with the city and the municipalities and I also want to work with provinces and territories. But if you've got someone like mayor ford who wants no part of this, then we're going to work directly with the city because we have a responsibility to keep citizens safe. And so we will work with the city of Toronto and if they wish to pass additional regulations that would define where firearm could be stored or even used within their municipality, we're going to find a way to make that happen because --"

Blair: "Right now the province has to cooperate in order for that to happen. Well, ideally the province would cooperate, but if they're not going to cooperate, then we're going to do what is necessary to keep Canadians safe and to keep our city safe. The violence that has been taking place, not just in Toronto but in municipalities and towns and villages right across this country is unacceptable to us. And we're going to take the steps necessary to interdict the supply of guns going into the hands of criminals and we're taking additional measures as well. What you've heard about today is firearm control measures that are going to make it far more difficult for a criminal to get a gun. But we'll also be coming forward in -- in -- in -- in the coming weeks with -- with significant additional measures to deal effectively with the gangs responsible for this violence and we've also introducing even today new -- new -- new regulations with respect to what we call website laws. So if you have got a firearm in a dangerous situation, that creates a deadly situation, and so we want to ensure that police, victims, teachers, doctors, have the authority they need in a dangerous situation of domestic violence and intimate partner violence or what someone is suicidal or somebody's on line advocating hate and violence against a religious minority or lgbt members or women or anyone. That's a red flag and we want to be able to take guns out of that situation by suspending their ability to require those guns and give the police the authority to seize those weapons."

Blair: "First of all, that one measure will have a very significant impact on the availability of guns to be stolen and then end up on the streets of any community. But in addition to that, you know, there are certain circumstances in cities that -- that also need to be addressed. And if -- if they wish to pass regulation, for example, that says a firearm cannot be stored within their low-cal or whether or not ranges, where the only legal place in which these guns can be shot, would be located within the municipality. We're going to work with the municipality to give them the ability to do that and -- but the measures that we propose for the whole country will make a significant difference in making it more difficult for those guns to be stolen and end up in the hands of criminals. And we'll work with municipalities to deal with the unique circumstances that they're facing and the challenges they're facing to empower them to take the steps that they believe necessary to keep their community safe." Interview on CBC's Power and Politics (2019-09-20)

"It would not, in my opinion, be perhaps the most effective measure in restricting the access that criminals would have to such weapons, because we'd still have a problem with them being smuggled across the border". CBC News (2019-09-20)

"There is nothing in our platform that in any way impedes hunters and farmers in the use of their weapons for very legitimate, and traditional hunting and sporting activity," (...) "But at the same time, we are taking the common sense, effective measure to make it far less likely those firearms will end up in the hands of criminals." Globe and Mail (2019-09-23)

"We're going to do something about it with stronger gun control laws and a ban on assault rifles". Postmedia (Toronto Sun, Cape Breton Post, Halifax Chronicle Herald, Charlottetown Guardian, St. John's Telegram) (2019-09-27)

"I knew what it would cost to ban and then buy all those guns back." Segment on CBC News' The National (2019-10-01)

"The average price of these guns, say, would be somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$1,500 - and I haven't got the precise number on that - and then there's a million of them". Postmedia (Winnipeg Sun, Toronto Sun, Ottawa Sun, Calgary Sun, Edmonton Sun) (2019-10-02)

"I think you can do the math - that's a lot of money." Torstar (Kitchener-Waterloo Record); National Post (2019-10-02)

Former Toronto police chief Bill Blair, the Liberal candidate for Scarborough Southwest, on Tuesday outlined three ways in which guns get into the hands of criminals: The weapons may be illegally smuggled over the border with the U.S., stolen from legal gun owners or retailers, and bought legally before being sold illegally "**for enormous profit**," he said. As examples of the kinds of weapons that criminals may find harder to get under the Liberal plan, Blair pointed to the handgun that was used in the Danforth mass shooting. That gun, a Smith & Wesson .40-calibre handgun, was stolen from a Saskatchewan gun shop before it ended up in the hands of the Danforth gunman. The Liberal plan, Blair said, includes tougher rules for firearm storage that may help prevent such thefts. If such weapons are stored in a safe or vault, they will be "**far less likely to end up on our streets**," he said. Toronto Star (2019-10-02)

"A list will be provided and presented at the appropriate time when we bring forward those new regulations" iPolitics (2019-10-10)



Social Media / Médias sociaux



Tweets of Note

BillBlair

As [@JustinTrudeau](#) declared today, thoughts and prayers are not enough. We will also require stronger regulations surrounding secure storage and will work with interested cities to further restrict access to handguns. More to come about investments in youth, policing & bail (2019-09-20)

BillBlair

We unveiled our first plan to better protect communities from gun violence. Most firearm owners are very responsible and we won't impede hunters or sport shooters. However, military firearms are so dangerous that there is no place for them in civil society. (2019-09-20)

BillBlair

Nous aurons également besoin de règlements plus stricts en entreposage sécuritaire et nous collaborerons avec les villes intéressées pour restreindre l'accès aux armes de poing. Plus d'investissements dans la jeunesse, le maintien de l'ordre et de remise en liberté sont à venir. (2019-09-20)

BillBlair

Les armes à feu militaires sont si dangereuses qu'il n'y a pas de place pour elles dans la société civile. Comme [@JustinTrudeau](#) l'a déclaré aujourd'hui, les pensées et les prières ne suffisent pas. (2019-09-20)

BillBlair

Nous avons dévoilé notre plan pour mieux protéger les contre la violence armée. La plupart des propriétaires d'armes à feu sont responsables et nous n'entraverons pas les droits des chasseurs ou des tireurs sportifs. (2019-09-20)

*Prepared by the Public Safety Portfolio Media Centre / Préparé par le Centre des médias du portefeuille Sécurité publique. We can be reached at / Vous pouvez nous contacter à:
PS.PSPMediaCentre-CentredesmediasPSP.SP@Canada.ca*