



2014 Clubs and Ranges Conference Chief Firearms Officer Overview

Superintendent Chris Wyatt
Saturday, September 13, 2014





CFO Staff

- ◆ Firearms Officers Carol Bayne & Kerrie Cook
- ◆ Range Inspectors: Dave Goode, Ken Robb, Tim Cooper, Dave Fullard, Hank Krawczyk, Sid Devries, Jeff Barnes, Rick Gray, Jim Dixon & Ken Smith
- ◆ Policy and Communications Officer, Chantal Trahan
- ◆ Supervisor of Clubs & Ranges, Sgt. Peter Niedermaier
- ◆ Deputy Chief Firearms Officer, Inspector Steve Ridout
- ◆ Chief Firearms Officer, Superintendent Chris Wyatt





Legislative Changes

Common Sense Firearms Licencing Act

- ❖ Require mandatory firearms safety courses for first time gun owners;
- ❖ Merge Possession Only license (POL) and the Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL);
- ❖ End needless paperwork around Authorizations to Transport (ATT) by making them a condition of a licence;
- ❖ Strengthen firearms prohibitions for those who are convicted of domestic violence offences.
- ❖ Restrict the ability of Chief Firearms Officers to make arbitrary decisions





Court Cases

- ❖ Ontario and Quebec have the most restrictive regimes for the movement of handguns and restricted assault rifles
- ❖ Long term ATTs only issued to shooting club members
- ❖ In 2013, Ontario's regime was tested several times in court by non club members asking for LTATT to travel to all gun clubs, border points, gun smiths and verifiers
 - ❖ Essentially an LTATT to allow licensee to have their handgun(s) in their vehicle at all times.
- ❖ In 2013, Superior Court appellate decision ruled in favour of the CFO's regime





Court Cases

- ❖ As a result of a previous court case, in January 2013 added a condition to ATTs issued to target shooters
 - ❖ New condition requiring club members when visiting a shooting club other than their own, to produce evidence of an invitation when requested by police/firearms officer
 - ❖ Tony Bernardo, CSSAO obtained hearing to contest condition
- ❖ Bernardo (exec. Mgs. CSSA) vs. & CFO
 - ❖ October 16, 2013, court decided in favour of CFO





Enhanced Screening Initiative

Straw Purchasers

- ❖ In 2012, the Toronto Police Service (TPS) arrested a suspect for the illegal possession of a Norinco semi-auto firearm
 - ❖ The serial number had been removed but was recovered
 - ❖ The firearm was registered to a Toronto licencee
- ❖ The licencee was arrested by TPS and found in possession of 4 registered restricted firearms
- ❖ The licencee had acquired approx. 50 restricted firearms in the previous year
- ❖ A subsequent search warrant was executed at his residence - no firearms were found - 46 firearms missing





Enhanced Screening Initiative Straw Purchasers

- ❖ At the time of the arrest, only two restricted firearms were recovered
- ❖ A few of the firearms were recovered in subsequent investigations involving drug trafficking and violent crimes
- ❖ The Toronto Police Guns and Gangs Unit requested the CFO take action to monitor high volume buyers meeting a certain profile
- ❖ CFO implemented enhanced screening initiative to monitor high volume retail purchases of handguns





Key Statistics – Ontario (Canada)

- ❖ Individual firearms licences – 541,000
- ❖ Non-restricted firearms – 2,058,000 e.g. rifle *
- ❖ Restricted firearms – 205,000
- ❖ Prohibited firearms – 79,000
- ❖ Types of firearms*
 - ❖ Rifles – 1,246,000
 - ❖ Shotguns – 806,000
 - ❖ Handguns – 246,000
 - ❖ Other – 18,000
- ❖ Total firearms – 285,000

* As of April 5, 2012, stats for these firearms are no longer available





CFO WORKLOAD

2013 (% Change 1 year/5 year)

- ◆ New Licences – 34K (7%/6%)
- ◆ Transfers of Restricted Firearms – 59K (20%/215%)
- ◆ Authorizations To Transport (ATT) – 37K (11%/48%)
- ◆ Authorizations to Carry (ATC) – 3.6K (-3%/12%)
- ◆ Canadian Firearms Safety Course – 35K (13%/69%)
- ◆ Canadian Restricted Firearms Course – 13K (3% 153%)
- ◆ Firearms Interest Police (FIP) - 18K (-7%/77%)





Business Inspection Program

- ❖ The CFO is responsible for licencing 550 firearms businesses and 500 businesses that sell ammo only
- ❖ Businesses include retail, wholesale, manufacturing, import, export, gunsmiths, pawnbrokers, armed guards & museums
- ❖ Since 2008, the CFO has conducted biannual inspections
 - ❖ The CFO has 17 unclassified business inspectors
 - ❖ All firearms registered to the business are inspected and accounted for
 - ❖ All businesses are required to have monitored alarm systems
- ❖ In 2012, the CFO inspected 264 firearms businesses and 91 businesses that sell ammo only
- ❖ Very few incidents of missing or unaccounted for registered firearms. Firearms that cannot be located are reported to the local police and entered onto CPIC
- ❖ Ontario has the most rigorous business inspection standards in Canada





Range Inspection Program

- ❖ CFO is responsible for 229 public ranges, 38 private ranges and 202 shooting clubs
- ❖ In 2008, the CFO set a goal of biannual range inspections
 - ❖ In 2013, the CFO inspected 113 ranges. Very few issues of non-compliance – all resolved
 - ❖ The CFO has 10 unclassified range inspectors
- ❖ There were 5 reported incidents of injury in 2013 (no fatalities)
- ❖ Common deficiencies: backstops, slopes, signage
- ❖ Very few neighbour complaints or complaints of shot/shell leaving the range
- ❖ A few municipalities are attempting to regulate ranges
 - ❖ Greg Farrant OFAH will be speaking on this issue





Gun Shows

- ◆ Since ending of long gun registry in 2012, the CFO has had firearms officers attend every gun show in Ontario
 - ◆ U.S. gun shows are a major source of illegal firearms
- ◆ Inspectors check for safe storage and display and ATT/Business licence authorization if prohibited/restricted firearm
- ◆ In 2012, Federal Govt repealed Gun Show Reg requiring Gun Show organizers to notify CFO and law enforcement
- ◆ In 2013, CFO Inspectors attended 58 gun shows and found several instances of unsafe display, unauthorized possession of firearms and prohibited devices
- ◆ On 3 occasions, police were notified and vendors were charged





CFO Goals for 2013

Clubs and Ranges & Businesses

- ❖ Clubs and Ranges
 - ❖ All 230 public ranges and 30 private ranges will continue to be inspected on a bi-annual cycle
- ❖ Firearms Businesses
 - ❖ All 550 firearms businesses will continue to be inspected on a tri-annual cycle
 - ❖ All 500 firearms businesses that sell ammo only will continue to be inspected on a 5-year cycle
 - ❖ The CFO has 15 contract business inspectors





Future Issues

- ◆ Significant decline in individuals renewing their licence expected
 - ◆ May be addressed with the implementation of a 10 year licence
- ◆ RCMP will be releasing new Canadian Firearms Safety Course and exams in 2015
 - ◆ Long term, the course will be delivered on-line with students taking the written and practical test from a designated instructor
- ◆ Trafficking in firearms likely to continue due to criminal demand for them
 - ◆ CFO will continue to work with law enforcement to address this
- ◆ Significant increase in the number of retail firearms businesses in response to demand
- ◆ Government will need to appoint a new CFO as current one is retiring on December 31, 2014.

