

## RELEVANT TESTIMONY REGARDING SALES RECORDS

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/sen/committee/411/LCJC/22EV-49659-E.HTM>

**John Robert Ervin, Chief Firearms Officer, Saskatchewan, Royal Canadian Mounted Police:**

Section 102 of the Firearms Act provides me with the authority to conduct inspections for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the act. My office is mandated to conduct inspections of all firearms businesses every three years, although inspections may take place more frequently. The time required for a business inspection depends on volume of firearms and can range from half a day to five days.

A firearm business inspection involves a 100 per cent manual count of all firearms on site. As part of the inspection, the firearms business ledgers — which are a business tool and the property of the business — are consulted on site and compared to the results of the manual count. If the numbers from the manual count and business ledgers do not match, a follow-up investigation may be conducted to determine why the numbers are different and to determine the whereabouts of the business firearms.

**Superintendent Chris Wyatt, Chief Firearms Officer, Ontario Provincial Police:**

If this regulation comes into effect, no one involved in a long-gun transaction with a business will have to produce a firearm licence or have it recorded. With the end of the ledgers there will also be no information on where a long-gun came from or where it went. Additionally, neither party to a firearms transaction will know for certain if the firearm was stolen and/or used in a crime.

The collection of information on long-gun transactions involving businesses began in 1978, well before the long-gun registry came into effect.

Until now, no one thought of the ledgers as a registry. Ledgers are not a back door registry. ...

Let me speak about how this proposed new regulation will affect those inspections. In Ontario, firearms business inspectors make sure that every firearm is accounted for during an inspection. Very few are found to be missing or stolen, and those that are found are reported to the police and entered on CPIC. This high level of accountability protects the public in a way not possible if this regulation does away with the ledgers. ...

Last month, the owners and an employee of an Ontario firearms business were charged with firearms trafficking. They sold firearms and ammunition to undercover police officers even after the undercover officers admitted that they did not have a licence. It was the first time a business owner has been charged criminally with this offence in Ontario in the last five years. I believe the elimination of the ledgers will result in more firearms being sold by businesses to criminals and unlicensed persons.

**Mario Harel, Vice-President, Chief, Service de police de la Ville de Gatineau, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police:**

What I could add, Senator Fraser, is that the environment will change with the proposed regulations, since the parameters will no longer be the same. Without being optimistic or pessimistic, I think that people take advantage of any opportunities, and I believe that these regulations will change the parameters of firearm distribution, sales and ownership. As Mr. Wyatt was saying, those parameters will lead to opportunities. People may take advantage of those opportunities to buy firearms legally, but in large quantities, and we do not know what they will then do with those firearms. That is because, as the saying goes, where there are humans, there is human nature. People notice any opportunities to make money. I feel that, in terms of public safety, that does not help us given the direction this legislation is taking.

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/sen/committee/411/LCJC/16EVA-49446-E.HTM>

**Rick Hanson, Chief, Calgary Police Service: ...**

First, strengthen the law around possession and acquisition licences. Keeping guns out of the hands of the mentally unstable, the dangerous and the criminals is key. Without a possession and acquisition licence you cannot have access to legal guns. The proposed section 23 in the bill before us today should be far clearer. If a person is selling a firearm to another, the wording must be that the transferee must present a valid possession and acquisition licence and the transferor must check with the registrar to ensure that the licence is valid.

To have the threshold stand, Bill C-19 says:

(b) the transferor has no reason to believe that the transferee is not authorized to acquire and possess that kind of firearm.

That is woefully inadequate. In other words, for the purchasing or selling of firearms we have to be firm in proving that the recipient or buyer of the firearm is properly licensed.

Second, we must reinstate point of sale recording. This existed prior to the gun registry and was useful for two reasons. The first is that it allowed for proper auditing of gun stores to ensure that they are complying with the law requiring them to sell only to those with proper licences. That is a starting point should that gun be identified as being used in a criminal offence.