

Advice to the Minister DRAFT

STAFFING LEVELS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FIREARMS PROGRAM

ISSUE:

There have been reports of staff changes associated with the Canadian Firearms Program.

BACKGROUND:

There are currently just over 1,800 employees associated with the firearms program, counting the processing sites, the regions and all partners including the Registrar and CCRA. Over two-thirds are temporary (term and casual) employees.

There are currently some 460 employees at the Central Processing Site in Miramichi NB, about 430 of them employed by HRDC and the rest by Justice. The workforce of term employees was increased temporarily due to the high workload surrounding the Dec. 31, 2000 licensing deadline so that the final figure deployed to Justice from HRDC mid May will be about 300, 90% of them temporary (casuals, terms or students). [

S. 21(1)(a)

Earlier this year, approximately 135 RCMP employees were deployed to the Department of Justice in North West Region covering Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, Nunavut and the North West Territories. These employees are involved in the administration of the Firearms Program in the northwest opt-out jurisdictions. They include firearms officers, administrative support, operators, clerks and exceptions handling

personnel.

The Canadian Firearms Centre office in Ottawa has a staff of about 186, half of them temporary.

There are about 680 involved in regional operations other than those of the Northwest Region, over two-thirds temporary (terms or contractors).

RCMP operations in Ottawa, which houses the office of the Registrar, has about 400 employees, almost two-thirds of them temporary.

The Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) has a full-time staff of 18 on the firearms file.

In addition, 155 are on contract in Ottawa for the development of IT systems.

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