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March 21, 2001

Mr. George Radwanski
Privacy Commissioner of Canada
112 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Radwanski:

Re: 156 KNOWN BREACHES OF CPIC DATABASE BY AUTHORIZED USERS

Please find attached a copy of a clipping from the March 20th edition of the Edmonton Sun titled, "Database not secure. People gaining access to federal government's confidential info on citizens." I have also attached a copy of the RCMP's response to my Access to Information Request, dated March 8, 2001 that was the source of this new information. This information may help your investigators in the privacy review you are currently conducting of the firearms registry information systems.

The RCMP documents reveal that between 1995 and 2000 there have been 156 known breaches of information on the Canada Police Information Centre by persons with authorized access to the database. Forty-two (42) of these breaches were attributed to RCMP personnel and 114 breaches by other police and government personnel. According to this report, 185 possible breaches are still under investigation.

As you know this information is just the tip of the iceberg because most of the breaches by authorized and unauthorized users are never detected. This is a major concern because CPIC now contains information on millions of law abiding firearms owners including the numbers and types of firearms they own.

would appreciate being advised of the status of your review from time to time.

Best regards,

Garry Breitkreuz, MP
Yorkton-Melville