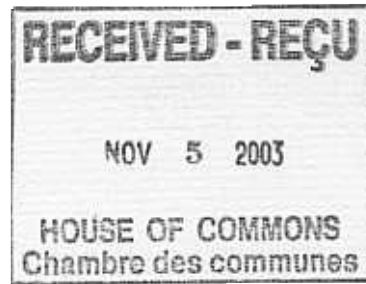


**Privacy Commissioner
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NOV 0 3 2003

Mr. Garry Breitkreuz, MP
Room 452D, Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Breitkreuz:

Thank you for your letter of September 25, 2003 concerning privacy problems with the Firearms Interest Police (FIP) database. My office reviewed with interest the copy of the Department of Justice (DOJ) report entitled: 'Canadian Firearms Program Implementation Evaluation', which you so graciously provided.

The DOJ report of April 2003 includes comments about many FIP problems, which were first noted in our August 2001 "Firearms Report". Many similar concerns with FIP were also raised in the December 2002 report by the Auditor General. I am disappointed that these and many other important firearms issues remain unresolved after such a long period of time.

As you know, the Canadian Firearms Program is now going through a major reorganizing and restructuring phase since it was transferred to the Solicitor General of Canada from the Department of Justice. It is my expectation that the Solicitor General will prepare a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to identify and assess, as well as resolve or mitigate the privacy risks that are associated with the Firearms Program, including the outstanding issues with the FIP database. My office reviews all PIA's and makes recommendations to ensure that the proposed project is in compliance with the fair information principles embodied in the *Privacy Act*.

Should you have any further questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to communicate with us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Marleau".

Robert Marleau
Privacy Commissioner of Canada