



# Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

Supporting police professionals through innovative and inclusive police leadership to advance the safety and security of all Canadians.

## SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE ON FIREARMS

The CACP Special Purpose Committee on Firearms was established to study the growing concerns related to gun violence in Canada from a public safety perspective. The Committee has identified four key themes to help guide its work:

### Theme #1: Strategic Approaches

A coordinated effort nationally will help focus operational efforts to limit firearm-related offences and their impact in our communities. This committee will gather resources and intelligence related to:

- agencies with a role to play in the prevention, enforcement, and disruption of firearm-related offences in Canada,
- the alignment of resources and policies,
- the need, or not, for memorandums of understanding (MOU) or terms of reference between agencies to allow for interoperability and information sharing,
- best practices between and across national borders to support the strategic alignment of human and material resources to allow for investigative and proactive information sharing, and
- current strategies being worked on provincially or nationally to directly or indirectly address firearm issues (i.e., gang strategies, Hubs, etc.).

### Theme #2: Legislative Initiatives

This committee will look at the current firearm situation from a legislative standpoint with a goal to:

- assess the effectiveness of existing legislation and identify areas of enhancement or change,
- explore changes to bail, sentencing and rehabilitation regulations as a potential deterrent,
- identify new legislation that would support public safety and reduce risk, and
- explore legislation adopted by international partners that could be applied to the Canadian context.

## Theme #3: Education and Prevention

Education and prevention efforts must include community, industry, and agency input to effectively produce messaging and education that enhances public safety. This work must focus on developing a clear understanding of current legislation as well as preventative, proactive work to reduce victimization. This committee will identify:

- stakeholders and better understand the roles they play,
- key messages and the ways partners can help amplify them,
- best practices across Canada including initiatives with promise or with measured success, and
- opportunities and challenges for stronger education and information sharing among police and justice-related agencies.

## Theme #4: Data Collection and Information Sharing

Data will be the foundation upon which assessment and decisions will be made. The collection, collation, and reporting of national data must provide relevant and fact-based evidence that will serve as a baseline for strategy. The committee will focus on the collection of data pertaining to firearm-related topics such as:

- **Firearm use:** Which weapons are problematic in our communities? Does this vary across Canada? How are guns being used in our communities? What proportion of incidents involve violent crime? How does gang activity affect usage? What are the statistics on legal ownership? What are legal owners using their firearms for (hunting, collections, suicide, etc.)?
- **Firearm sourcing:** Where are people gaining access to firearms? Is this consistent across the country? How are they being purchased? Who is selling them? What role do thefts play in sourcing? Is there vulnerability at the borders?
- **Firearm tracing:** How are firearms being tracked (serial numbers, categorization, identification, etc.)?
- **Firearm storage:** How are firearms being stored in private residences and commercial businesses?
- **Firearm data:** What forms of reporting and data collection currently exist provincially, nationally, and internationally? How is it shared? What is the mandate of the organizations that are collecting data? Is there overlap or do gaps exist? What barriers exist that inhibit information sharing? What capability exists to analyze data? Does this fit into any national mandates?