



**SIMON FRASER
UNIVERSITY**

Ethics Application #: 30001049 Illegal Firearms Acquisition and Transaction

Version: 1

Date: 2022.07.02

Interview Request and Consent Form

Hello. In light of your experience and expertise in firearms, we would like to request your participation in a research study we are conducting on the acquisition and transaction of illegal firearms. More specifically, we are interested in privately made firearms (PMFs), with a particular focus on ghost guns. The research is being conducted by Dr. Garth Davies, Associate Professor of Criminology at Simon Fraser University (SFU), in collaboration with the Crime Guns Intelligence and Investigations Group (CGIIG), headed by Program Manager Baltej Dhillon, at the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of British Columbia (CFSEU-BC), and Dr. Krysta Dawson, a Strategic Research Analyst at the CFSEU-BC. The study is funded by the British Columbia Crime Reduction Program (CRRP), which is a committee comprised of members from the Policing and Security Branch (PSB), RCMP, CFSEU-BC, and others. The project was approved by the Joint-Management Team (JMT) which includes senior government officials and police executives.

Because PMFs are produced from components that are currently unregulated by firearms laws, they present significant challenges for law enforcement. The purpose of this research is to address crucial gaps in the understanding of PMFs in Canada generally, and British Columbia in particular. Ultimately, the goal of the research will be to highlight the specific nature of the threat posed by PMFs, and to provide guidance to policy makers on how best to address this serious and growing challenge.

Given your substantial experience and expertise in relation to PMFs and ghost guns, we are hoping you would consent to an interview. The interview is expected to take between 30 and 60 minutes. Our plan is to interview participants in person. However, if you would prefer to be interviewed online, we can accommodate that as well. Participation in the interviews is entirely voluntary. The identities of participants, as well as their organizations, will remain confidential and any information provided by participants will be anonymized.

You may withdraw from the interview at any point by telling the investigator that you wish to discontinue. Any data that you provide can be withdrawn until such time as the data from all of the interviews has been aggregated for analysis. At that point, it is no longer possible to identify “who said what”. We anticipate that this will occur in by January 1, 2023.

The data will be accessed only by the study's principal investigator, Dr. Garth Davies, and Dr. Krysta Dawson, of CFSEU-BC. Dr. Davies is an Associate Professor in the School of Criminology and the Associate Director of the Institute of Violence, Terrorism, and Security at SFU. He has been studying and writing about terrorism for over 20 years. He has also authored or co-authored over a dozen reports on a broad range of issues relating to policing. Dr. Davies has presented at dozens of national and international conferences, including the Western Society of Criminology, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and the American Society of Criminology. He has also presented at briefings for the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team ("E" Division), the Canadian Security Intelligence Services, and Public Safety Canada, and has testified on national security issues in front of both the Canadian Parliament, as well as the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defense.

Dr. Krysta Dawson is a Strategic Research Analyst at the CFSEU-BC. CGIIG encompasses a large portion of her portfolio where she assists both the Illegal Firearms Intelligence Team and the Illegal Firearms Enforcement Team with analyzing patterns and trends of firearm seizures in BC. Dr. Dawson is currently a mentor with the Canadian Association of Evidence Based Policing (CAN-SEBP), working on a project examining the gun trafficking landscape within BC. In addition, she is a member of the Crime and Illicit Networks Laboratory at SFU, and is a research associate for the Incarcerated Serious Violent Young Offenders Study, also at SFU. Dr. Dawson has presented at over a dozen conferences, including the American Society of Criminology, the Western Society of Criminology, and Gangs and Guns.

If you are willing to be interviewed, or would like more information on the study or the interview, please contact Garth at garthd@sfu.ca or 604.505.5159, or Krysta at Krysta.Dawson@cfseu.bc.ca or 778-290-5254. Thank you for your time and consideration.