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Press Release

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Liberals claim gun registry only cost \$25 million

In the House of Commons on Thursday, February 17th, Saskatoon-Humboldt MP Brad Trost called for funds to be transferred from the failed gun registry to the RCMP to pay for basic needs, like new patrol cars and building repairs.

“The Mounties told me that they needed more basic equipment. The buildings used by their rural detachments were falling apart. They needed better cars and just the basic equipment to handle their jobs. They did not need the gun registry. They found it burdensome and a nuisance,” Trost said.

The Conservative MP was referring to conversations he had with RCMP officers while campaigning door to door during the federal election last June.

Trost questioned the Martin government’s failure to transfer money from the gun registry in order to help fill the thousands of RCMP vacancies across Canada and Saskatchewan in particular: “Therefore, my question for the government is: ‘Why not take the money and put it into filling these vacancies, and put it into something that the communities and the RCMP rank and file officers are calling for?’”

Responding for the government, Liberal MP Peter Adams, parliamentary secretary for Human Resources and Skills Development, insinuated that Trost was lying about the cost of the gun registry: “Mr. Speaker, I know it is inappropriate for me to say that the member is a liar and I am not going to say that . . . The firearms registry has never cost \$1 billion. Even in the full 10 years of startup it was nowhere near it. Members heard my figure of \$25 million,” Adams stated.

After reading a transcript of this question and answer session, Trost said: “The cost of the gun registry is around \$2 billion, including the cost of enforcement. The government’s own numbers show that about \$942 million has been spent on the gun registry by March, 2004.”