

The 2017 Canadian UFO Survey

Summary

Since 1989, Ufology Research (formerly Ufology Research of Manitoba) has solicited UFO case data from known and active investigators and researchers in Canada. The goal has been to provide data for use by researchers trying to understand this controversial phenomenon. 2017 marks the 29th year of collecting and analyzing Canadian UFO report data by Ufology Research.

Previous Canadian UFO Surveys are available online at: <http://survey.canadianuforeport.com>

- There were 1,101 UFO sightings reported in Canada in 2017, or more than three each day. This is the fifth year in a row that UFO reports in Canada are at or above this level.
- Quebec had an all-time record high number of UFOs reported in 2017, with 518 reports, up from 430 cases in 2016. In comparison, Ontario had 241 reports, BC had 128, and both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia had 27 cases each. There were even two reports from Northwest Territories and three from Yukon.
- In 2017, about eight per cent of all UFO reports were judged unexplained. This percentage of “unknowns” falls to less than one per cent when only higher-quality cases are considered.
- There is an overall average of two witnesses per UFO sighting.
- The typical UFO sighting lasted approximately 15 minutes in 2017.
- The study found that 43 per cent of all UFO sightings were of simple lights in the sky. Witnesses also reported point sources of light, spheres and boomerangs.

Results of this study show that many people continue to report unusual objects in the sky, and some of these objects do not have obvious explanations. Many witnesses are pilots, police and other individuals with reasonably good observing capabilities and good judgment.

Numbers of reported UFO sightings remain high. Several theories for this can be suggested: more UFOs are present and physically observable by witnesses; more secret or classified military exercises and overflights are occurring over populated areas; more people are unaware of the nature of conventional or natural objects in the sky; more people are taking the time to observe their surroundings; more people are able to report their sightings with easier access to the Internet and portable technology; or even that the downturn in the economy is leading to an increased desire by some people to look skyward for assistance.

Although the largest percentage of reported UFOs is simply lights in the night sky, a small number are objects with definite shapes observed within the witnesses' frame of reference.

Popular opinion to the contrary, there is no incontrovertible evidence that some UFO cases involve extraterrestrial contact. The continued reporting of UFOs by the public and the yearly increase in numbers of UFO reports suggests a need for further examination of the phenomenon by social, medical and/or physical scientists.

For further information, contact:

Ufology Research

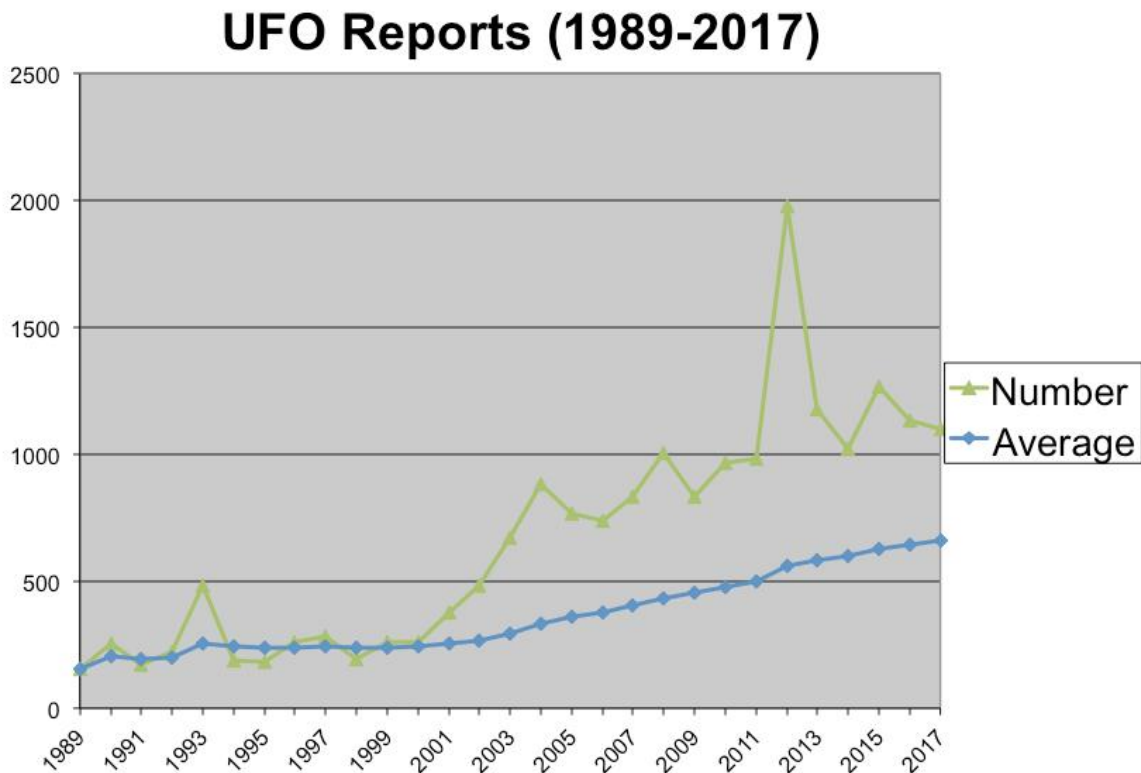
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Details of the 2017 Canadian UFO Survey

The 2017 Canadian UFO Survey has found that UFO sightings in Canada continue to be reported at levels comparable to the past several years. In 2017, there were 1,101 UFO reports filed in Canada, the sixth year in a row above 1,000 cases, and the fifth-highest number of cases since the Canadian UFO Survey began in 1989.



The Canadian UFO Survey is produced by Ufology Research, based in Manitoba, with the cooperation of investigators and researchers across the country. Sources for cases include most online UFO organizations, government files, direct witness reports, media and some Internet posts. The Survey is a comprehensive overview of what have been reported as UFOs and considered as UFO cases by fans and ufologists. A high percentage of reports have explanations, and many others were not sufficiently investigated to reach conclusions.

Statistical studies of UFO report data have often been subject to criticism from both hardcore UFO believers and debunkers. The former insist the small number of high quality unexplained cases does not reflect the true abundance of alien craft in our skies, while the latter note that UFO data is not at all convincing that a real phenomenon exists.

The reality is that UFO reports are the foundation of ufology and are the basis for belief in extraterrestrial visitation by ETH adherents. But in short, UFO report data does not prove that

aliens are visiting Earth. In fact, if anything, the UFO report data show that most often, the average witness is misidentifying conventional objects or ordinary phenomena.

One common objection to the reality of UFOs, as defined by skeptics, is that if UFOs were “real,” then the abundance of cellphones with cameras throughout the world implies that clear images of UFOs must be available. In addition, the number of traffic cams, dashboard cams and streaming video of building exteriors is increasing rapidly, so the lack of clear images of arriving or departing UFOs is puzzling if Earth is being visited regularly.

Given the thousand or so cases in Canada every year, this view seems to make sense. It is true that the percentage of reports submitted with accompanying photographs has been slowly increasing. However, almost all photos and videos examined are either jittery pinpoints of light moving in a dark sky, or textbook lens flares or internal sensor reflections within the optics of the cameras themselves. In other words, when it comes to UFOs, a picture is not worth 1,000 words.

Since the annual Canadian UFO Survey was initiated in 1989, 19,138 Canadian UFO reports have been catalogued during the past 29 years. This is much more than the files of the United States Air Force’s infamous Project Blue Book, which investigated and recorded 12,618 UFO reports from around the world between 1947 and 1969. And, while Blue Book listed 701 cases as Unexplained, there are 2,234 Unexplained cases in the Canadian UFO Survey database.

It should be emphasized the classification of Unknown does not imply alien visitation. Each case may still have an explanation following further investigation. And of those that remain unexplained, some may remain unexplained, but still are not incontrovertible proof of extraterrestrial intervention or some mysterious natural phenomenon.

In short, witnesses are seeing real things, and the challenge remains to identify the conventional astronomical objects, aircraft, and other terrestrial objects in order to winnow out the truly unexplained UFOs, if any.

Other results from the 2017 Canadian UFO Survey

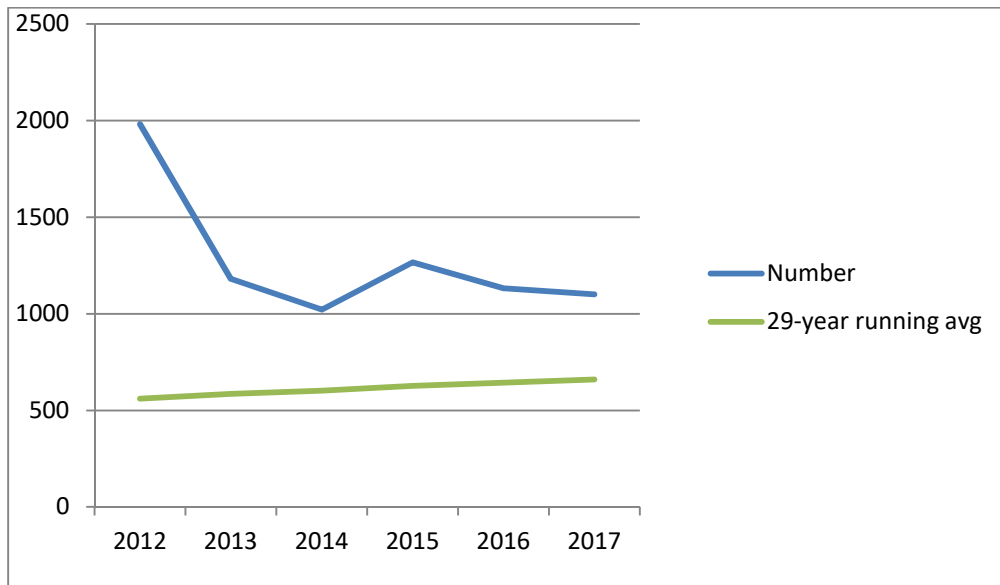
Annual Distribution

Some reporters and researchers have been suggesting recently that UFO reports have been decreasing in number. We are not seeing any evidence of this in Canada.

Year	Number	Average
1989	154	154
1990	254	204
1991	169	192
1992	223	200
1993	482	256
1994	189	245
1995	183	236
1996	258	239
1997	284	244
1998	195	239
1999	259	241
2000	263	243
2001	375	253
2002	483	269
2003	673	296
2004	882	333
2005	769	359
2006	738	380
2007	836	404
2008	1004	434
2009	831	453
2010	968	476
2011	986	498
2012	1982	560
2013	1180	585
2014	1021	602
2015	1267	626
2016	1132	644
2017	1101	660

Looking at the running average by year, it shows a fairly steady increase in sightings reports. In 29 years, there were only four years that showed a decline in the running average. The last decline was in 1998, followed by a steady upward trend over the next 19 years.

Some researchers have focused on a downward trend since 2012. Canada did experience an exceptionally large number of reports in 2012, which warps the trend since then. But it is the 2012 year that is out of place. And even this unusually high number of reports in 2012 was not enough to stop the running average from increasing the past five years. The general trend continues to be that of UFO report numbers gradually increasing over time.



Monthly Distribution

In 2017, there was a very significant peak in UFO reports during the month of December. Normally, UFO reports tend to show a bell-shaped distribution with a peak in the summer, reflecting the months when more potential witnesses are outside looking at the sky. (Canadian winters can be quite harsh and can keep many people indoors.)

Breakdown of 2017 Cases by Month

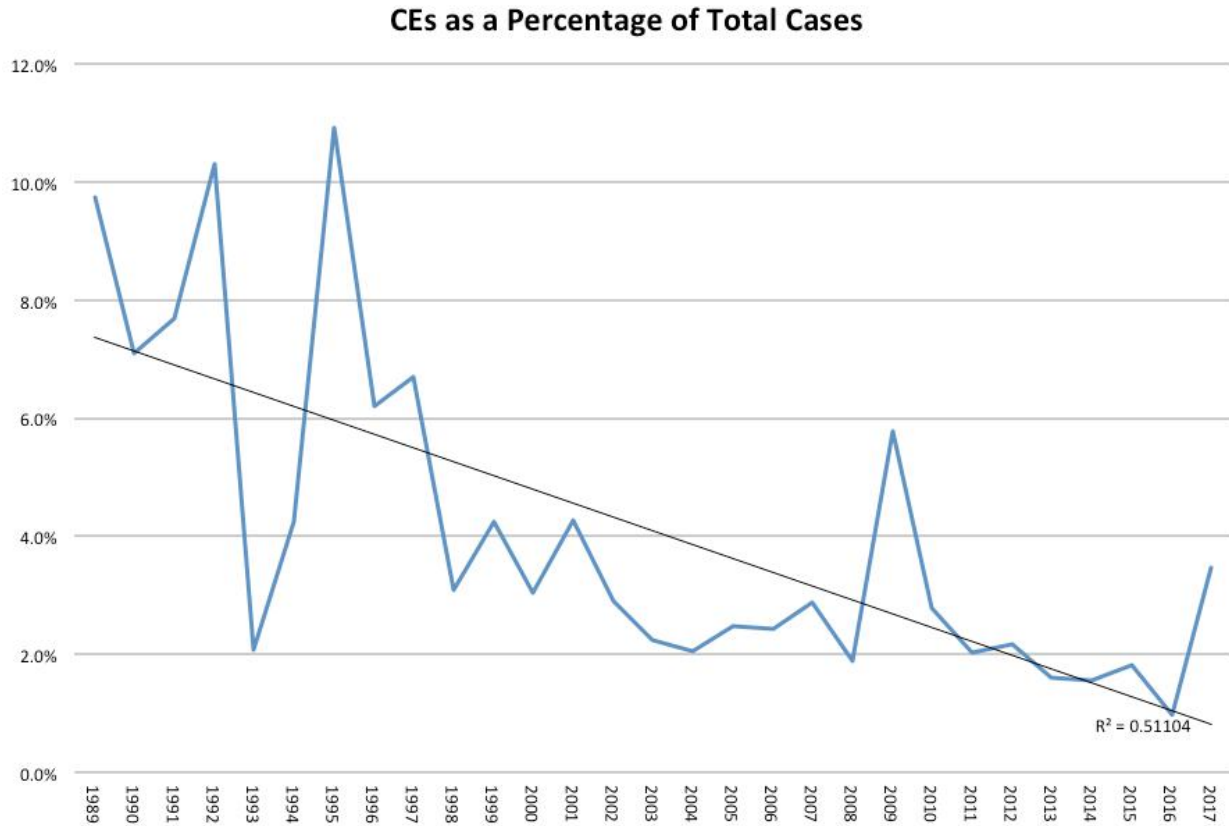


While normally only about five per cent of total monthly UFO reports, in 2017, December had an upswing to almost ten per cent. Most of these are due to a series of bright fireballs or bolides recorded by the American Meteor Society, particularly one observed over ME, NH, VT, NY, MA, CT, Québec, RI, PA, NJ and Ontario on Tuesday, December 26th 2017 around 22:52 UT.

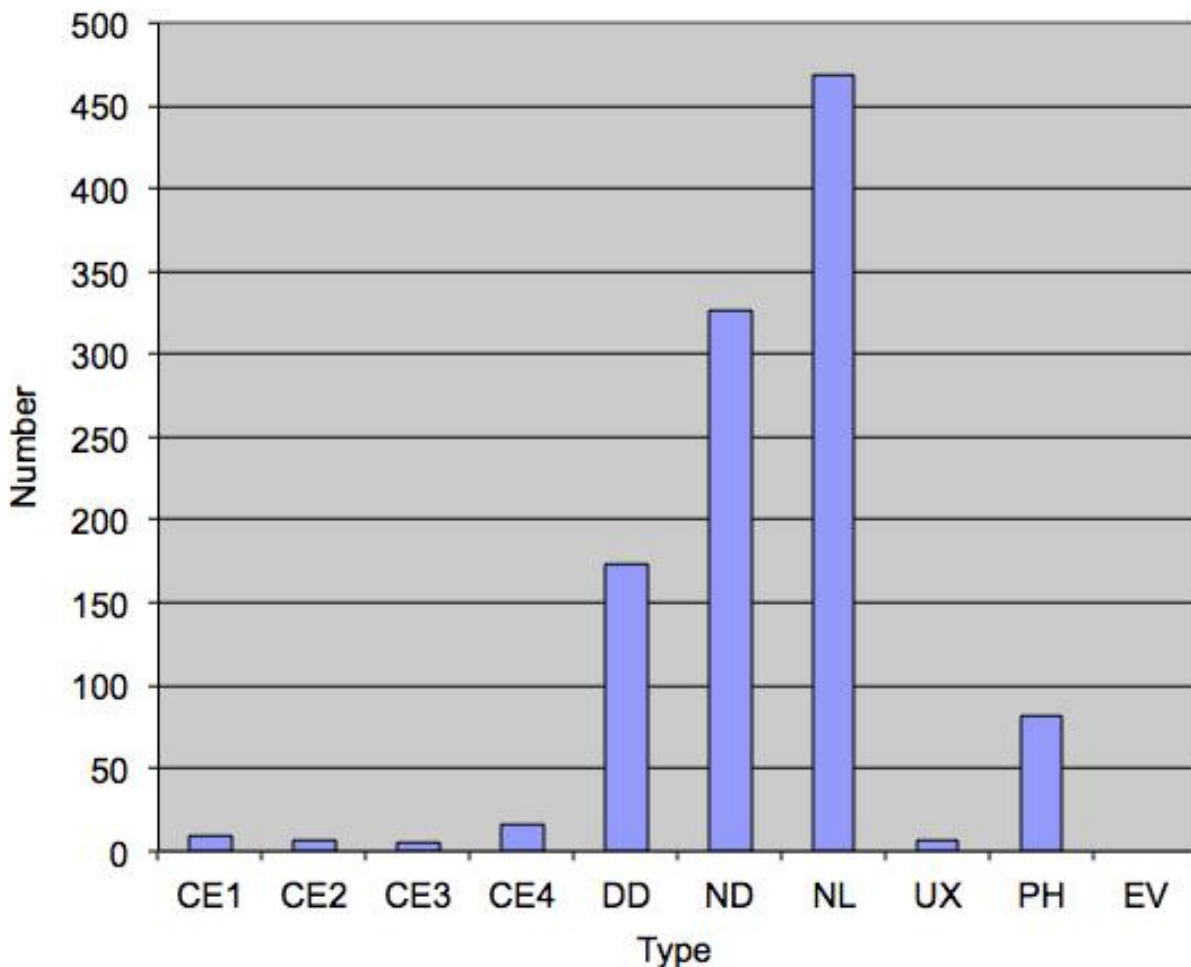
UFO Report Type

In 2017, there were slightly more than normal reported Close Encounter, DD, and ND cases. It has been noted elsewhere that in general, Close Encounter (CE) cases have been rarely officially reported, and in fact CE1 cases, associated with UFO “landings” and “trace cases” have been almost absent from UFO report databases for decades. Close Encounters, by definition, are incidents in which a UFO is within 150 meters (about 500 feet) from a witness.

There were 38 CEs of all kinds reported in 2017, up slightly from usual levels. Whereas CE1s are at an average of 1.47 per cent each year, in 2017, CE1s were less than one per cent of the total. And CE4s, usually about 0.45 per cent of the total, were at 1.46 per cent.



Breakdown of 2017 Cases by Type



The most startling change in report type was with Nocturnal Lights (NLs), which dropped about 11 per cent from the previous year. NLs were at about 43 per cent compared with a cumulative percentage of about 54 per cent.

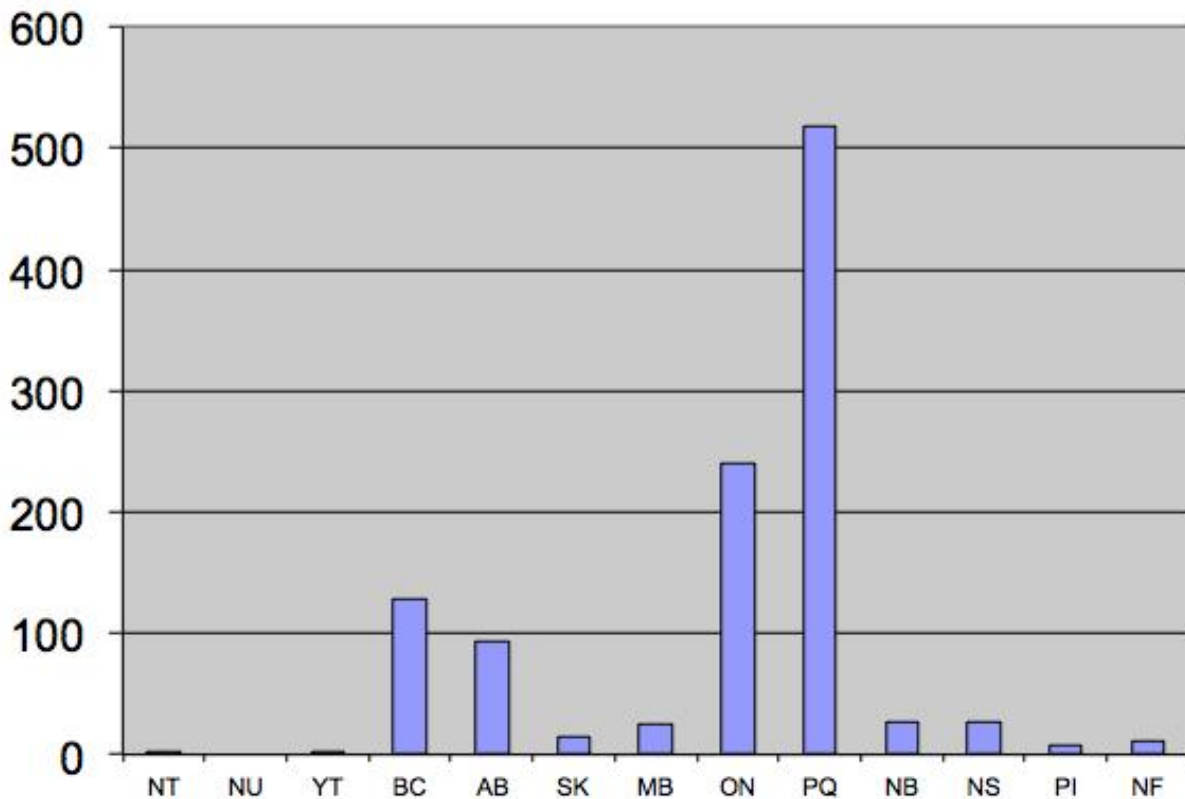
Also part of this shift in report types is because Photo-Only reports (PHs), in which a UFO is not visually observed by a witness but is discovered on a photograph examined later, are up significantly from about one or two per cent to more than seven per cent.

Provincial Distribution

Traditionally, UFO report numbers have followed a population distribution, with one exception. Ontario and British Columbia usually have had the most UFO reports, reflecting the large population in Ontario but BC was always an anomaly. For most of the previous years, 1989 to 2016, BC moving eastward to Ontario account for 77 per cent of the total UFO reports in a year,

but in 2017, this has dropped to 46 per cent. On the other hand, Quebec is up very significantly, with 47 per cent in 2017, versus 15 per cent over the past 29 years.

Breakdown of 2017 Cases by Province



The reason for this is fairly straightforward: a language barrier combined with the absence of accessible Quebec UFO data meant that until relatively recently, Quebec was greatly under-represented in the Canadian UFO Survey. The problem is that in 2017, it is greatly over-represented, much more than expected due to population distribution. In other words, it seems that there really were more UFOs reported in Quebec in 2017 than in other years.

In addition, the cities or towns with the most UFO reports were identified. These were grouped for metropolitan areas, such that Toronto included Mississauga, Scarborough, North York, etc.

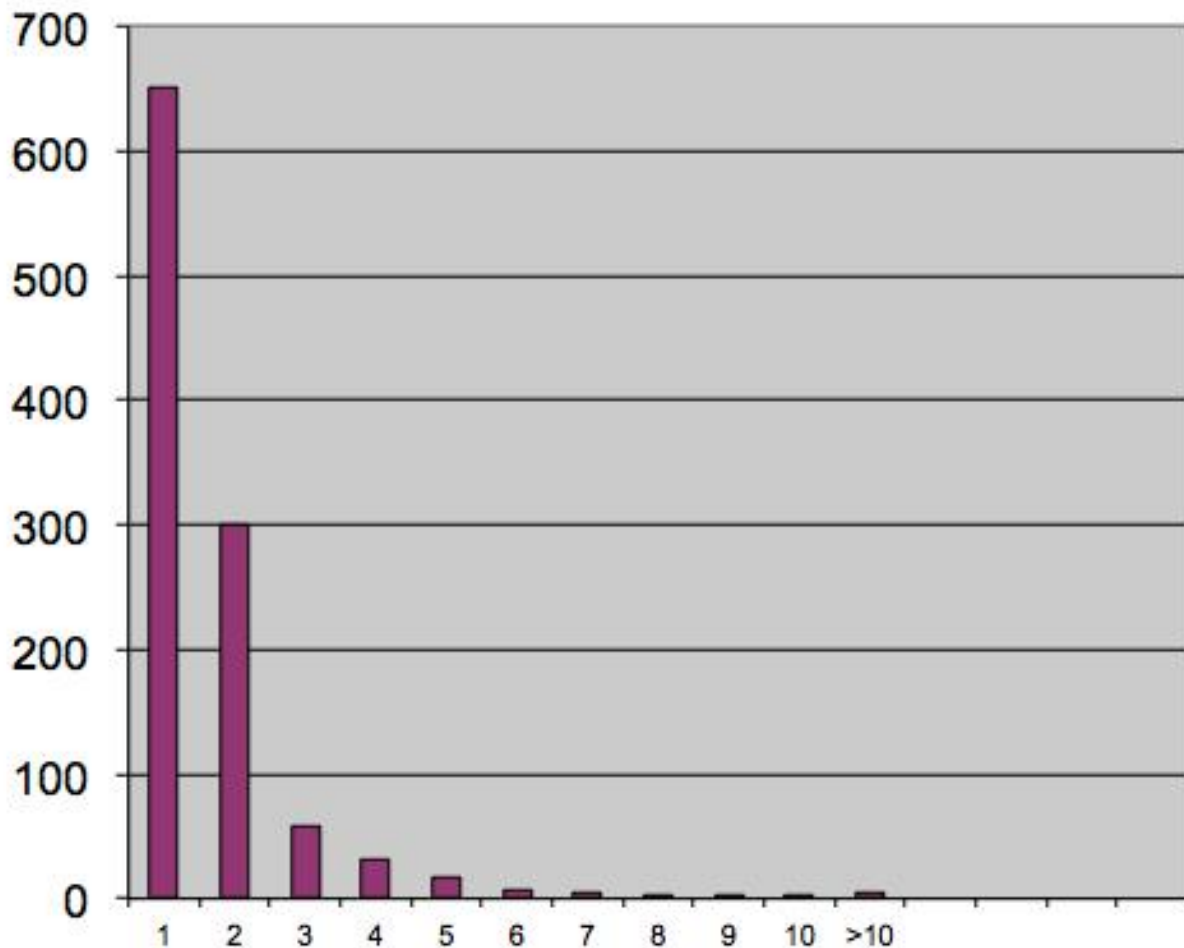
Metropolitan Areas With Most UFO Reports

Montreal	74
Toronto	57
Vancouver	46
Edmonton	29
Hamilton	28
Ottawa	26
Calgary	24
Winnipeg	9

Number of Witnesses

In 2017, there was a slight drop in the average number of witness of a UFO sighting. The average number for the overall total is 1.8, but was 1.7 for 2017. If we look only at Unknowns, however, there was a slight increase to 1.89 in 2017 versus 1.41 in 2016.

Breakdown of 2017 Cases by # of Witnesses



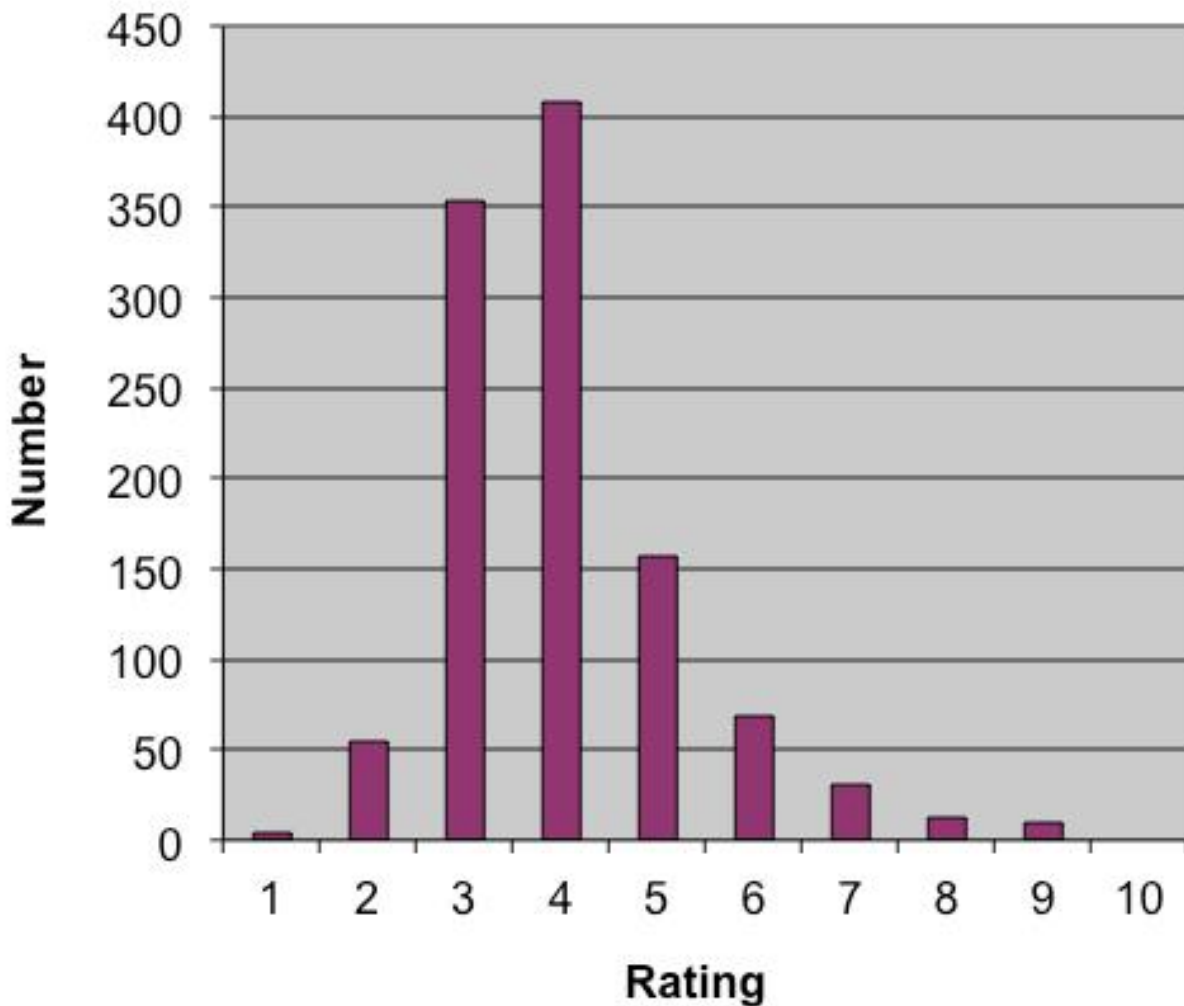
The significance of this average value is that a typical UFO sighting has more than one witness. *i.e.* someone besides the primary witness is usually available to confirm the observation of a UFO.

Strangeness

Strangeness measures the level of unusual qualities a sighting report includes. This value is such that a simple light in the sky will have a low Strangeness rating, while reports of encounters with alien creatures associated with a landed UFO, for example, will be considered highly

strange (as one might expect). In 2017, the average Strangeness was 4.0, compared with 4.8 in 2016. Again, this was due in part to many UFO reports that were found to have been meteors or fireballs, not intrinsically strange phenomena.

Breakdown of 2017 Cases by Strangeness

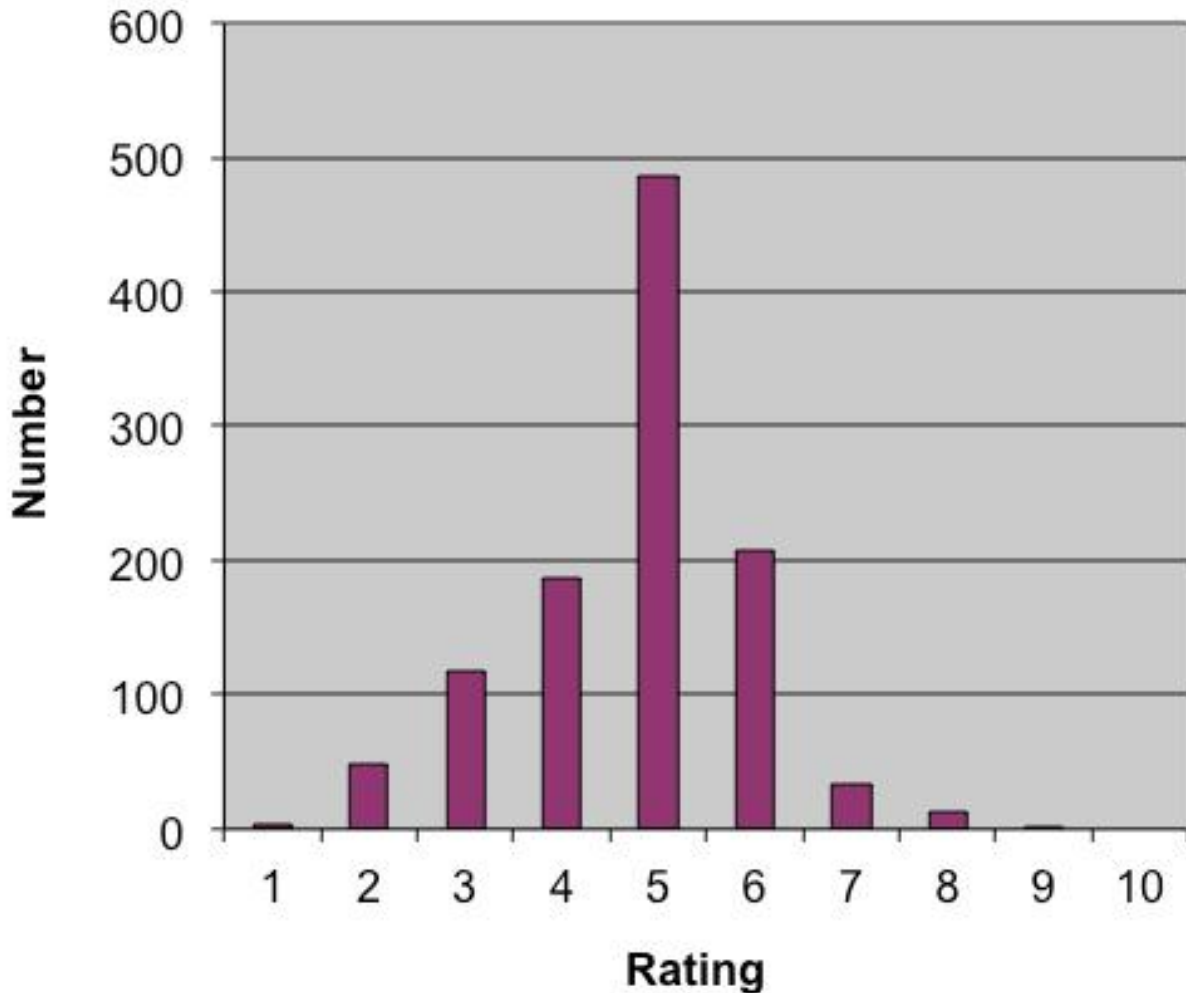


Reliability

Reliability measures the confidence in the quality of a UFO report. A low Reliability case is one that may simply be an anonymous email or voice message describing a UFO sighting, or a media mention that a sighting had occurred. Higher Reliability reports are those that were formally reported to investigators, involved interviews with witnesses, had confirming evidence, or

involved government involvement. In 2017, Reliability levels were about the same as in previous years, with 4.76 for 2017 versus 4.88 for 2016.

Breakdown of 2017 Cases by Reliability

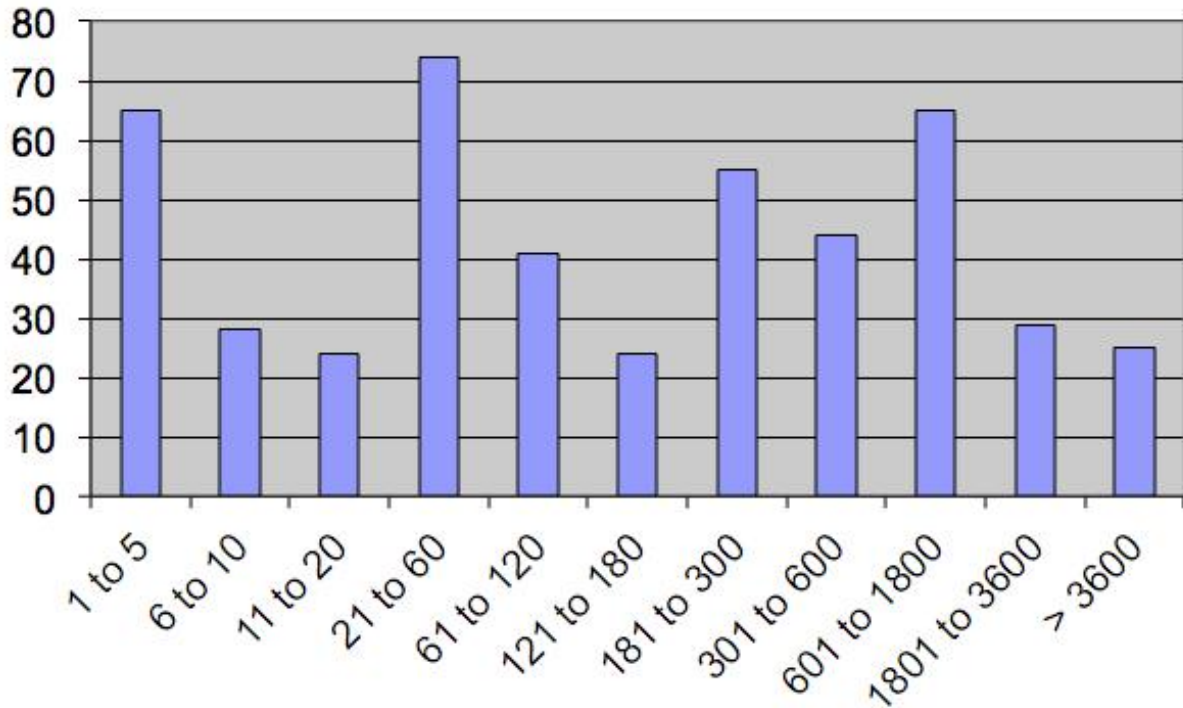


Duration

The Duration of a sighting can be a clue in its explanation. For example, sightings of fast-moving lights, especially those with illuminated trails, are almost always traceable to a fireball or bolide event. Sightings of slow-moving or stationary lights in the night sky, with durations of an hour or more, are most often bright stars or planets. The overall average duration of UFO reports in

2017 dropped slightly to 884 seconds in 2017, compared with a 30-year total of 981 seconds. This suggests many sightings in 2017 were of short-duration events.

Duration of 2017 Sightings



Shape

Shape is also a good indication of possible explanations for UFO cases. Most reports are of simple point sources, like starlike lights in the sky.

Shape	Number
Boomerang	10
Cigar	27
Cone	1
Cylinder	4
Diamond	1
Disc	45
Fireball	64
Irregular	159
Line	1
Oval	35

Point Source	472
Rectangle	12
Round	10
Sphere	140
Square	3
Triangle	55

Shapes can be grouped in various ways to get a better idea of trends in sighting reports. A shape of “boomerang,” for example, includes V-shaped objects and those described as chevrons. This category of shape does not include reported observations of V-shaped formations of lights, since the assumption of the lights being attached to a solid, unseen object is not always warranted.

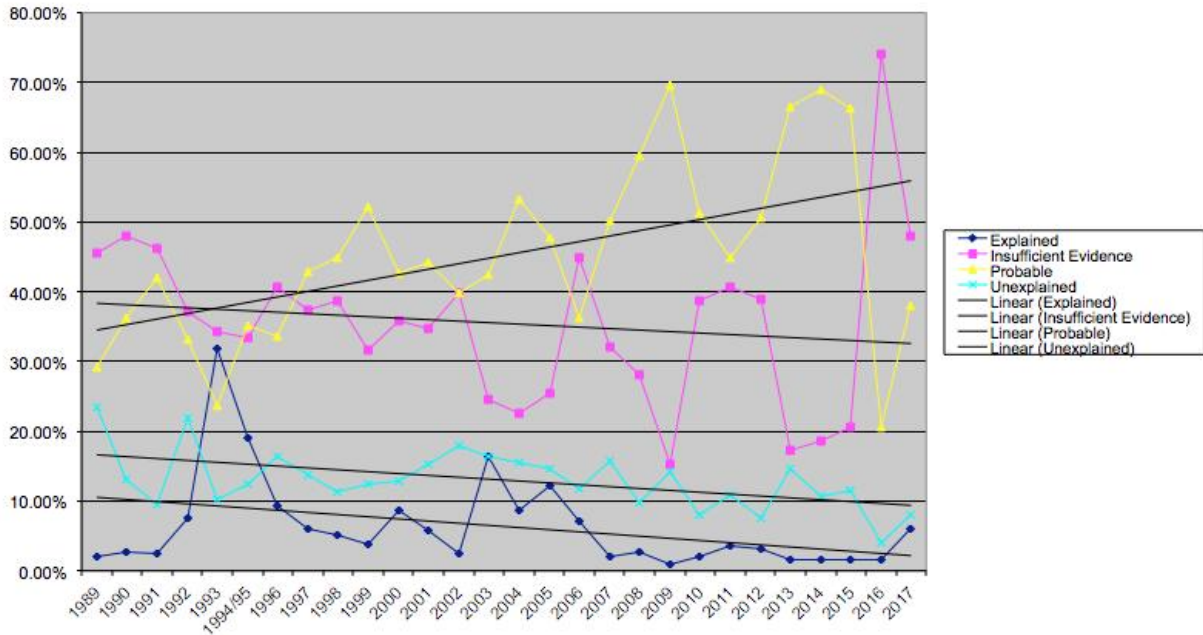
Some witnesses, especially those immersed in UFO literature or its culture, automatically will label distant lights in the sky as “orbs,” even though an actual spherical shape is not visually seen and it is not possible to determine if the light is on a dark, structured object. In these cases, the label of “point source” is more accurate.

In 2017, the number of point source UFOs was down from previous years, but was still more than 45 per cent of the total. The number of objects that were “irregular” was about 15 per cent, slightly higher than average.

Conclusion

In 2017, eight per cent of cases were unexplained, a bit less than the total case average of 11.67 per cent per year. Overall, the number of unexplained cases has been declining since 1989.

Conclusion (1989-2017)



Sources

Rather than using data from one single UFO organization, the Canadian UFO Survey has always sought to get a truer snapshot of UFO sightings in a given year by obtaining data from all known sources. Sources for cases include most online UFO organizations, government files, direct witness reports, media and some Internet posts. This is because there is no one single or central agency where witnesses can report their UFO sightings.

Source	Number	%
AQU	452	41.09%
GARPAN	21	1.91%
Internet	9	0.82%
Media	7	0.64%
MUFON	416	37.82%
NOUFORS	6	0.55%
NUFORC	137	12.45%
TC/DOT/DND	4	0.36%
UFOBC	26	2.36%
UFO Info	1	0.09%
UFOROM	21	1.91%
Total	1100	100.00%

High Quality Unknowns 2017

High-quality unexplained UFO reports are those that have a Reliability of 7 or greater and a Strangeness of 6 or greater. The emphasis is therefore on the reliability of the report first, and the unusual nature of the case second.

January 5, 2017 6:00 pm French River, ON

Nocturnal Light seen for 600 seconds, multiple colours, 2 witnesses, point source

Strangeness=7 Reliability=7 Source=MUFON

Several coloured "orbs" approached witnesses, hovered, moved away. Witnesses were very frightened by experience.

January 13, 2017 7:48 pm Pakenham, ON

Nocturnal disc seen for 900 seconds, white in colour, 1 witness

Strangeness=6 Reliability=8 Source=MUFON

Odd lights were discovered on consecutive photos from trail cam. Witness was weather observer at airport, and used to identifying aircraft and weather phenomena.

March 5, 2017 2:00 pm Anola, MB

Daylight disc seen for 60 seconds, black in colour, 1 witness, spherical

Strangeness=6 Reliability=7 Source=NUFORC

Witness saw two black, spinning spheres, reflecting sunlight, zooming over trees. The medicine-ball-sized objects hovered, then vanished.

March 15, 2017 7:20 pm Enderby, BC

Nocturnal Light, white in colour, 4 witnesses

Strangeness=6 Reliability=8 Source=DOT

At a point 65 kilometres NNE of Enderby, crews on two separate airliners reported a bright, white strobing light above them. Radar indicated no other known aircraft were in the vicinity.

April 23, 2017 4:30 am Ottawa, ON

Nocturnal Disc, seen for 5 seconds, white in colour, seen by 1 witness, cigar-shaped

Strangeness=6 Reliability=7 Source=MUFON

A cigar-shaped object was seen to the right of the waning crescent Moon. The object was tilted slight off the horizontal, with its leading edge upward. It emitted a pulse of light and moved forward very quickly. Another pulse from the front of the object was seen, and the entire object vanished without a trace.

July 11, 2017 3:12 pm Smithville, ON

Daylight disc, silver, one witness

Strangeness=6 Reliability=7 Source=MUFON

A shiny object with a raised dome moved slowly and silently over nearby trees. It appeared to be 500 feet from the witness and only 60 feet off the ground. It seemed to hover, then ascended rapidly out of sight.

July 22, 2017 10:15 pm Montreal, PQ

Nocturnal Disc, seen for 45 seconds, green in colour, 3 witnesses, irregular shape

Strangeness=6 Reliability=7 Source=NUFORC

Three witnesses, including a particle physicist at a local university, were on the roof of a condo in downtown Montreal. They observed a stationary, "illuminated V, about ½ inch at arm's length, with arms of the V consisting of a number of bright, pinpoint emerald green lights, each surrounded by small halos." It all faded within a minute of observation.

August 25, 2017 9:50 am Stewiacke, NS

Close Encounter of the First Kind, seen for 180 seconds, white in colour, 2 witnesses, triangular shaped

Strangeness=6 Reliability=7 Source=MUFON

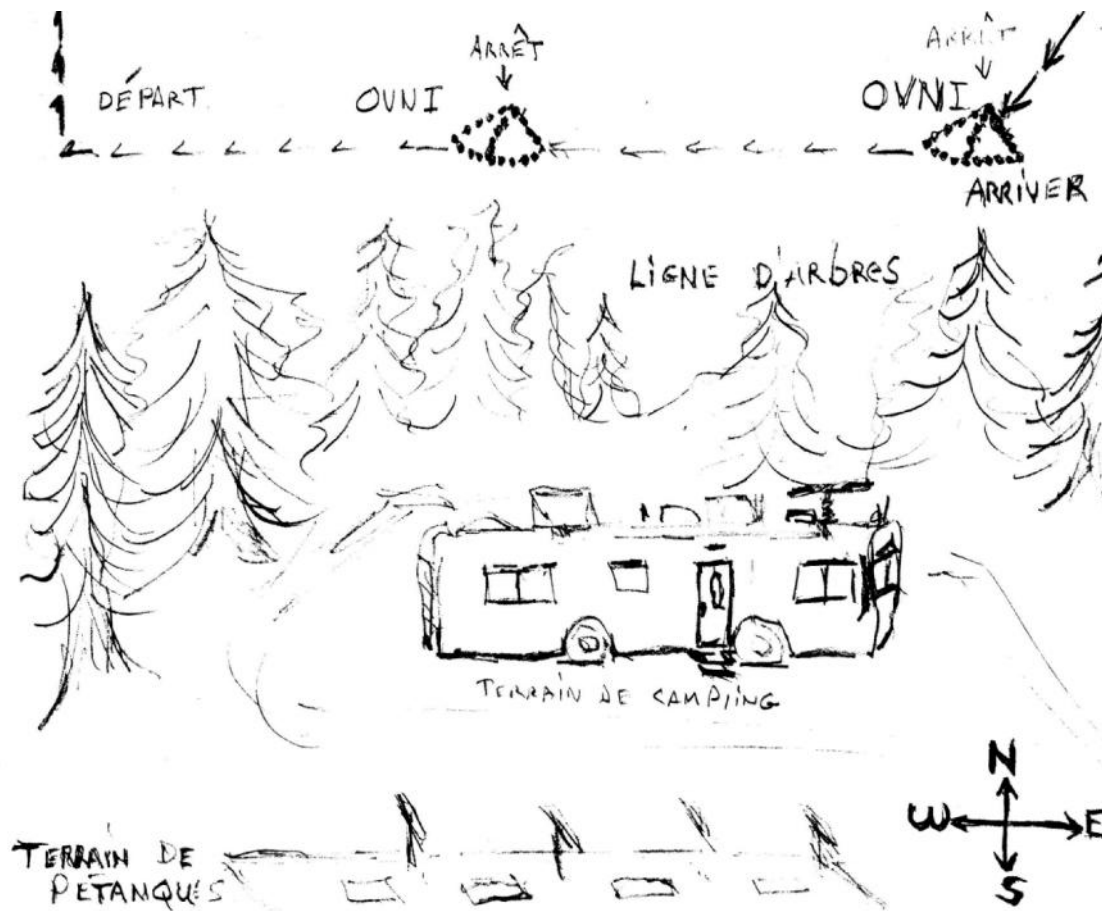
Two witnesses saw a dark triangular object silhouetted against the sky. It had three white lights in a triangular formation and an orange/red light in the centre, with two strobe lights on two sides. . The object flew over the witnesses, making a humming noise.

September 23, 2017 8:30 pm Saint-Jean-Baptiste, PQ

Nocturnal disc, red in colour, 10 witnesses, triangle-shaped

Strangeness=7 Reliability=7 Source=AQU

A group of 10 people watched as a triangular object approached from the northeast and came to a stop above them. It was stationary for several seconds, then its red lights intensified, flickered, then the object moved away.



October 23, 2017 5:00 am Rimouski, PQ

Daylight disc, gray, 2 witnesses, disc-shaped

Strangeness=7 Reliability=7 Source=AQU

Two people watched a doughnut-shaped object appear overhead, rotating and spinning slowly, then it flew away.



