

POLICE INFORMATION CHECKS – IN THE NEWS January 4, 2012 Two Critical RCMP Updates Affecting Your Organization

Background

- ❖ As part of sound risk management practices, nonprofit/voluntary sector organizations often obtain Police Information Checks (PICs) to screen volunteers as one-step of a multi-step process.

1 - Police Services can now electronically submit fingerprints on behalf of another Police Service for Vulnerable Sector purposes

Summary: In support of offering optimal service delivery and expediting vulnerable sector checks, Police Services with digital fingerprinting capabilities can now submit fingerprints on behalf of Police Services that do not have this technology.

What this means: If your community police service does **not** have access to a digital fingerprinting machine, instead of having no choice but to wait the average 120 days, your volunteers can now go to the nearest RCMP detachment to access digital fingerprinting technology.

Volunteer Alberta counsel: At this time, Volunteer Alberta strongly recommends you send the volunteer to another RCMP detachment and NOT to Calgary (CPS) or Edmonton Police Services (EPS). As EPS and CPS are outside the RCMP's authority, they may either charge a fee that is not recoverable through the VPIC Program or decline to service your volunteers.

- ❖ For a list of communities in Alberta with a LiveScan RTID (digital fingerprinting) system visit: [List of RTID in Alberta](#)
- ❖ For the full policy visit: [RCMP electronic fingerprinting policy](#)

2 - Accredited Fingerprinting Companies for Electronic Vulnerable Sector Checks

Summary: Police Services are now able to advise individuals within the service's jurisdiction to go to an Accredited Fingerprinting Company to have their fingerprints electronically submitted for vulnerable sector purposes.

What this means to you: When there is a date of birth and gender match for your volunteer requiring a fingerprint, the police service may now send your volunteer to a company who will charge \$35-\$70 for a vulnerable sector check. This cost will not be covered by the Alberta Volunteer Police Information Check Program (VPIC).

Volunteer Alberta counsel: Do not send your volunteers to third party vendors. Instead, send the volunteer to the nearest RCMP detachment as outlined above as there is no cost for the digital fingerprint service.

- ❖ For the list of accredited third party vendors visit: [Approved third party vendors](#)
- ❖ For the full policy visit: [RCMP Accredited Third Party Policy](#)

Volunteer Police Information Check Program (VPICP)-

The cost of accessing police information checks for volunteers can be a crippling expense for volunteer engaging organizations.

VPICP provides funding to police services who were charging volunteers in April 2009 to access Police

Information Checks so that volunteers engaged with vulnerable populations did not have to incur an expense.

This is a three year program. van.volunteeralberta.ab.ca

Police Information Checks (PIC) (classified by the RCMP as a Criminal Record Check) -

a search used to determine whether an individual has a criminal record. The search is based on an individual's name and date of birth of the RCMP National Repository of Criminal Records. A CRC/PIC may also include a search of a Canadian police service's local records, which may reveal criminal record information that has not been reported to the RCMP.

Vulnerable Sector Verification (VSV) -

A certified Vulnerable Sector Verification verifies whether an individual has a criminal record, including the existence of any pardoned sex offences, and provides any relevant details contained within the National Criminal Records Repository.



IS YOUR ORGANIZATION STILL PAYING FOR POLICE INFORMATION CHECKS FOR YOUR VOLUNTEERS? WELL STOP!

As of April 1, 2009 the Volunteer Police Information Check Program (VPICP) managed by Volunteer Alberta, offsets the costs of police information checks for volunteers engaged with vulnerable populations in communities where there was a charge for this service. Under this three-year program, **eligible nonprofit/voluntary sector organizations can access free police information checks (from police services) for volunteers in eligible circumstances.** For more information visit: <http://voan.volunteeralberta.ab.ca>

- **This program reduces administrative costs and removes barriers to volunteerism.** Now it's our job as a sector to utilize this program responsibly as the sector strives to meet the needs of Albertans.
- Alberta's nonprofit/voluntary sector organizations continuing to contract with private screening services for volunteer screening should be aware that private background screening companies do not have access to complete criminal records.
 - **Only police services can perform a Vulnerable Sector Search**, which checks the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) database for information about applicants.
 - Private background screening companies do not have access to complete criminal records, nor can they disclose pending charges from the courts or police files.
- **This program is for the sector, by the sector.** Volunteer Alberta is the Administrator of the program, and is monitoring and managing the day-to-day operation of the program.

Additional Information on Police Information Checks:

- Fingerprinting is only necessary when a Police Information Check reports that: the applicant's gender and birthdate match that of someone registered in the Convicted and Pardoned Sex Offender Registry. Over 99% of the fingerprint files do not match.
- Currently, the RCMP has no plans in expanding the number of determinants beyond gender and date of birth to decrease the disproportionate number of males being asked to provide fingerprints for a clearance.
- The RCMP destroys the fingerprint once the police information check is complete.

For more information please contact:

Andrew Fisher
Manager, Government & Media Relations
Volunteer Alberta
780-482-3300 ext. 229
afisher@volunteeralberta.ab.ca

Volunteer Alberta encourages you to share this special update with friends, families and other organizations.

Learn more about comprehensive volunteer screening and the **Volunteer Police Information Check Program** from **Volunteer Alberta** at <http://voan.volunteeralberta.ab.ca>.