

Ministry of the Solicitor General

Public Safety Division

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Division de la sécurité publique

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MEMORANDUM TO: All Chiefs of Police and
Commissioner Thomas Carrique, Chairs, Police Services Boards

FROM: Richard Stubbings
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division

SUBJECT: **Amendments to the *Police Record Checks Reform Act, 2015***

DATE OF ISSUE:	January 18, 2022
CLASSIFICATION:	General Information
RETENTION:	Indefinite
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PRIORITY:	Normal

I am writing to provide an update on [Bill 13 - Supporting People and Businesses Act, 2021](#), which included proposed amendments under the [Police Record Checks Reform Act, 2015](#) (PRCRA) intended to reduce barriers for volunteers.

On December 2, 2021, Bill 13 received Royal Assent. The proposed changes to the PRCRA, under Schedule 20, are targeted to be brought into force in Spring 2022, on a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor. Once approved, we will ensure that you are notified of this in-force date.

The amendments to the PRCRA include an established definition of “volunteer” to clarify the eligibility for supports under the PRCRA. Under the amendment, a “volunteer” means a person who performs a service but who receives no compensation for doing so other than an allowance for expenses or an honorarium and excludes a person receiving some other form of credit such as academic credit or fulfilling a sentence requirement.

Additionally, these amendments would require police services to conduct and provide the results of Criminal Record Checks and Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Checks for volunteers at no charge and provide up to five free copies of the results, if requested at the time of the initial request. Finally, these amendments expand the Lieutenant Governor in Council’s regulation-making authority to prescribe requirements for how police services will conduct police record checks for volunteers and how long a police record check for a volunteer for a prescribed purpose could be relied upon.

The ministry will continue to engage with policing partners regarding the implementation of these amendments, as well as the future development of any applicable regulations.

We appreciate your feedback and support in preparing to operationalize these amendments. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Melissa Kittmer, Director, Community Safety and Animal Welfare Policy by phone 416-528-5950 or email Melissa.Kittmer@ontario.ca

Thank you for your continued cooperation and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Stubbings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." and the last name "Stubbings" clearly distinguishable.

Richard Stubbings
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division

c: Mario Di Tommaso, O.O.M.
Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety