



October 23, 2013

Dear Stakeholders:

RE: BC Criminal Records Review Act Amendments

As a follow up to the Ministry's news release in February, this letter is to provide an update on recent changes to the Criminal Records Review Act (the Act). Recent changes to the Act were passed on March 14, 2013 in order to increase efficiency for clients by allowing the results of checks to be shared between employers, and to provide free criminal record checks to volunteers working in public or non-profit organizations. The Criminal Records Review Program (CRRP) will implement these changes by November 30, 2013. Below is a brief summary of the amendments and changes to the CRRP.

- A more efficient and secure online process has been developed. All organizations currently under the Act can sign up for this new service and obtain a link to direct all their employees to. Applicants will go through a robust electronic identification verification by providing their consent information. Use of the online form will greatly decrease the time required to complete a check and reduce the administrative burden for both employees and organizations.
- Employees covered under the Act will be able to share, for free, the results of their clear criminal record checks with other organizations registered with the CRRP to decrease the number of multiple checks and the associated fees.
- To further enhance the protection of children and vulnerable adults, the CRRP will be requiring fingerprints for those who share a date of birth and gender with a pardoned sex offender (vulnerable sector check) as per national RCMP policy. These prints will be at the applicant's expense. Because the CRRP retain records, in almost all circumstances, an individual will only be required to be fingerprinted, once every ten years through our program.
- To pay for these program enhancements, there is a small increase to the criminal record check fee from \$20 to \$28. The fee increase – equivalent to just \$1.60 per year for each check - will come into effect on November 30, 2013.
- If your organization has volunteers that work with children or vulnerable adults, you may opt to register as a volunteer organization under the Act and we will provide these checks for free as part of government's commitment to support the non-profit sector. It is free to register for this service. Additionally for free, volunteers may share the results of their clear checks with other organizations through the online service. Volunteer organizations may choose not to register and continue using their current processes and providers.

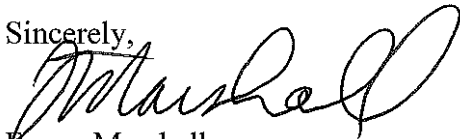
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- Volunteer agencies that opt in and register with the CRRP to conduct their volunteer checks will also be subject to the same risk assessment process currently provided to our employer organizations.
- Volunteer agencies may deregister from the CRRP at any time.

In preparation for the volunteer initiative, the CRRP is updating forms, policies, and education materials. Please continue to monitor our website for information and updates at <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/criminal-records-review/index.htm>

Any questions about these changes may be directed to the Criminal Records Review Program at 1-855-587-0185 or sgspdps@gov.bc.ca

Sincerely,



Fraser Marshall
Criminal Records Review

*the term “employees” includes but is not limited to: members of regulated professional governing bodies, post secondary students with a practicum working with children or vulnerable adults, licensees and staff of licensed child care and adult care facilities, operators and staff of unlicensed child care facilities

*the term “volunteers” means: an individual who voluntarily provides services to a specified organization and receives no monetary compensation for the services