

# Media Release

## OACP Releases Guideline for Police Record Checks

**For immediate release:** July 25, 2011

**(Toronto, ON)** – Ontario’s police leaders have released new guidelines for police services that will improve the Police Record Checks process in Ontario and ensure an equal level of service under the province’s related legislation, policies, procedures, and directives.

The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police’s (OACP) *LEARN Guideline for Police Record Checks* is a 72-page document intended to promote consistency in processing methods, terminology, and access throughout Ontario. It was developed by the OACP’s Law Enforcement and Records Managers Network (LEARN) Sub-Committee.

“Ontario’s police leaders recognize our duty to ensure consistency in how all our services handle police record checks,” said OACP President Matt Torigian (Waterloo Regional Police Service). “We need to ensure that the diverse citizen groups we serve do not feel discriminated against or stigmatized by our police record check processes. We are proud to have worked with community partner organizations to produce this important new resource.”

“There needs to be a delicate balance between community safety, privacy and human rights and these new Guidelines are an important step towards achieving this balance” said Barbara Hall, Chief Commissioners of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. “The OHRC strongly supports the work of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police on their Police Record Check guidelines. We will continue to work with OACP and other partners to find the best ways to protect vulnerable people in our community.”

“The new Guideline is a meaningful step forward that will protect tens of thousands of Ontarians from stigma and discrimination,” said Ryan Fritsch, legal counsel to the Psychiatric Patient Advocate Office. “We commend the OACP for working with us and the Police Record Check Coalition to better protect Ontarians with disabilities from criminalization and marginalization.”

The OACP consulted with the following organizations in order to produce the *LEARN Guideline for Police Record Check*:

- The Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Canadian Criminal Real Time Identification Services (CCRTIS)
- The Ontario Human Rights Commission
- The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario
- Volunteer Toronto
- Justice for Children and Youth
- Ontario Association of Patient Councils
- Community and Legal Aid Services Program
- Canadian Mental Health Association Ontario
- Psychiatric Patient Advocate Office
- Police Record Check Coalition

The Guideline is available on the OACP website at <http://www.oacp.ca/content/news/article.html?ID=1047>.



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