



Volunteer Management
PROFESSIONALS OF CANADA
PROFESSEUR EN
gestion de bénévoles
DU CANADA

UPDATE: RCMP takes all timelines off mandatory fingerprinting plans

On September 9, 2014 delegates from the voluntary sector, including Volunteer Management Professionals of Canada (VMPC), Administrators of Volunteer Resources – BC (AVRBC), Volunteer BC, Volunteer Canada, Community Volunteer Connections (BC) and Volunteer Alberta met face-to-face with policy analysts from the Canadian Criminal Real Time Identification Services of the RCMP.

Collectively, the organizations representing the voluntary sector and volunteer management professionals were able to bring forward the concerns of hundreds of Managers of Volunteers from across the country.

More than one-third of VMPC members responded to the online survey sent out to all members about this issue. Their concerns were brought forward by Vice President Kathy Magee, including:

- Concerns regarding a loss of volunteers if mandatory fingerprinting was adopted
- Compromise to programs and service as a result of delays to onboarding volunteers
- invasion of privacy
- the costs of mandatory fingerprinting for volunteers, organizations and to local detachments
- concerns that mandatory fingerprinting would "treat volunteers like criminals" instead of contributors
- a false sense of increased public safety leading to neglect of other critical screening procedures

Our RCMP colleagues were grateful for our quick and thorough input into the idea of mandatory fingerprinting for Police Information Checks. They are hearing concerns back from local RCMP and police detachments in addition to the voluntary sector.

The RCMP are committed to conducting a thorough consultation with all stakeholders before deciding if mandatory fingerprinting for all Police Information Checks is in the best interests of public safety. They have removed all timelines around the possible implementation of this policy.

Thank you to our members who responded in large numbers to our online survey about this proposal and provided us with the feedback. Your voices from across the country allowed VMPC to provide a national perspective to this debate.