

ONN POLICY PRIORITIES 2020-2021

POLICE RECORD CHECKS

Advocate for an accessible, streamlined police record check process for nonprofit employees and volunteers

THE ISSUE

Volunteers and nonprofits experience uneven and unfair fees and processing timelines for police record checks across Ontario.

Some police forces charge fees for volunteer checks while others do not. Police record checks for nonprofit employees can also be expensive. Some police forces take many weeks to process requests because the system is often still paper-based. A digitized, modernized system would reduce costs, speed up processing, and enhance accessibility for persons with disabilities.

POLICY STATEMENT

ONN advocates for the Ontario nonprofit sector to use police record checks appropriately in the context of an overall employee and volunteer screening approach. ONN advocates for an accessible, digitized police record check processing system that provides free police record checks for volunteers and affordable checks for nonprofit employees with standardized processing times across Ontario. Nonprofits in Ontario have must timely and affordable access to appropriate information from police record checks that helps them manage risks to their employees, volunteers, and clients, particularly vulnerable groups.

NEXT STEPS

Advocate for the Ontario Government to:

- Mandate that the police record check system be modernized and digitized via regulations under the Police Record Checks Reform Act, 2015, that would control the cost and administrative burden, and harmonize the process across Ontario jurisdictions.

Work with the Ontario nonprofit sector to use police record checks appropriately in the context of an [overall employee and volunteer screening approach](#).