



CRIMINAL LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION  
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February 20, 2018

Kathleen Wynne, Premier  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Minister Marie-France Lalonde  
Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services  
18th Floor, George Drew Building, 25 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

Dear Premier Wynne and Minister Lalonde,

I am writing on behalf of the Criminal Lawyers' Association and the clients that we represent. On December 1, 2015 your government enacted the Police Record Checks Reform Act, 2015. The legislation was lauded as positive legislative action that would ensure fairness for Ontario residents who needed to obtain criminal record checks for the purposes of employment, volunteer endeavours or other purposes. Our Association supported this important government initiative.

The press release from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services noted that the legislation would protect public safety and strengthen individual civil liberties by removing unnecessary barriers to employment, education and volunteer opportunities resulting from the inappropriate disclosure of non-conviction and non-criminal records, such as mental health information, in police record checks.

The new legislation sets the province's first-ever clear, consistent and comprehensive set of standards to govern how police record checks are conducted in Ontario and applies to the majority of purposes for which such checks are conducted. Unfortunately, the legislation has, over two years later, not been proclaimed in force. Each day that goes by without the legislation being proclaimed, people of this Province are being prejudiced and the unfairness that the legislation aims to correct perpetuates. Disadvantaged and racialized communities are particularly affected by the current inconsistent police record check system because of over representation in terms of contact with the police.



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I raised my concerns in this regard with Minister Naqvi who introduced the legislation when he was the Minister in charge of the portfolio. He suggested I raise my concerns directly with the two of you.

My understanding is that there were some delays with regulation drafting; however, the time has come for your government to live up to the commitment made to the community in 2015 and ensure that the legislation is proclaimed in force prior to the next election. I would be grateful if you would do whatever is in your authority to make this legislation the law and to update me on the progress of the same.

Regards,

Michael Lacy, President  
Criminal Lawyers' Association