



School Team Bulletin

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Criminal Records Review Program - vulnerable sector check

As of November 30, 2013, a new procedure was introduced in connection with the criminal record check for those who work in a vulnerable sector such as education. Individuals whose gender and DOB (irrespective of name) match someone on the national database of pardoned sex offenders must now submit to a fingerprint verification of their identity.

A number of our members in Vancouver have begun receiving letters directing them to follow a process for this fingerprint verification. It is important to note that this process is being applied to all teachers registered with the Teacher Regulation Branch across the province. The Vulnerable Sector Check is the result of a supplemental regulation that was passed in addition to the Criminal Record Review Program through the Ministry of Justice that we are subject to through legislation.

BCTF advice is as follows:

- Members should comply with the fingerprinting request so as not to put their continuing certification at risk. Non-compliant teachers, even retired ones, may be:
 - * listed on the TRB website as having their certificate cancelled.
 - * required to upgrade their credentials before the TRB will re-issue the certification.
- The Ministry of Justice does not copy these highly confidential letters to the employer. There is no obligation for members to self-report the request for fingerprint verification.

Additionally, BCTF Legal is looking into the matter and the BC Civil Liberties Association has expressed interest. The BC Privacy Commissioner has just launched a public consultation on the increasing use of police records checks as a screening tool by employers.

Please review the five links below if you have additional questions.

- <http://www.bcteacherregulation.ca/CertificateServices/CriminalRecordsCheck.aspx>
- http://www.bcteacherregulation.ca/documents/FormsandPublications/MemberServices/CRC_faq.pdf
- <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/criminal-records-review/sector/>
- <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cr-cj/vulner/index-eng.htm>
- <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cr-cj/fee-frais-eng.htm>

Contact Information: Reminder

It is imperative the VSTA has up-to-date contact information for all our members. Please ensure that the office has your correct:

- * **home address**
- * **phone number**
- * **non-employer email address**

If you have changed schools since last year that information should be updated as well.

VBE Calendar Proposal 2014/15

Each year the school board is required to submit a proposal to employee groups and other stake holders if an alternate calendar is proposed. For the past two years the VTF has signed a Letter of Agreement to accept the proposed calendar which incorporated some adjustments to the Collective Agreement to attempt to address the impact of the changes (for example on TTOCs). On January 21, 2014, a VTF General Meeting was held to discuss the VBE Calendar Proposal for the upcoming school year. The following two motions were passed:

THAT the VTF support, in principle, the VBE calendar proposal for the 2014–2015 school year and the proposed Letter of Agreement, in its current form.

THAT any VBE proposed calendar changes for subsequent years be taken to a VTF General meeting for discussion and a vote by the membership.

The VBE calendar proposal for 2014/15 will now move through the public consultation process over the next month and be taken to a meeting of the school board. If adopted by the trustees, it will be submitted to the Ministry of Education by March 31 for final approval.

Sick Leave: Home Contact

A potential shift in HR and administrative practices has come to our attention. If you have been contacted while at home by either a member of Human Resources (HR) or your school administration, please contact the VSTA office immediately.