



Northwest Territories Minister of Human Resources

AUG 13 2007

MR. TIM MERCER
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Response to Petition – Criminal Records Check

Attached is my response to the petition tabled by Ms. Jane Groenewegen on May 14, 2007.

Charles Dent

Attachment

- c. Kevin O'Keefe
Legislative Coordinator



Petition tabled by Mrs. Jane Groenewegen on May 14, 2007.

Response by the Honourable Charles Dent
Minister of Human Resources

Criminal Records Checks

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has an established criminal records check process for employees upon initial hire into positions of trust, such as senior management or financial positions and highly sensitive positions such as those who work with children, vulnerable persons or residents in the government's care. The GNWT's practice has been to require a criminal records check based on factors specifically related to the duties and responsibilities of the position being filled. The matter of criminal checks for those in a volunteer capacity becomes more complicated.

The criminal records check process involves computer searches for information contained in the records of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and other police forces. A criminal record check based on an individual's name and date of birth can require up to 10 days and a certified criminal records check based on a fingerprint requires 150 days or more to complete. In smaller communities, criminal record checks require additional time to process due to lack of police resources and mail delivery time.

The Government has established a working group, chaired by the Department of Human Resources, to review GNWT approaches to criminal records checks and to evaluate the effectiveness of existing policies. The working group is composed of members from the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Finance, the Department of Justice, the Financial Management Board Secretariat, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the Department of Health and Social Services. The working group will meet in September or October and will present its findings to the Minister of Human Resources after that date.