

DS

RECEIVED

-01- 24 2007

P P A O

Ontario Human Rights Commission

Commission ontarienne des droits de la personne

Office of the Chief Commissioner

Cabinet du commissaire en chef

180 Dundas Street West, 8th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2R9

Courier postal code: M5G 1Z8

Tel.: (416) 314-4537

Fax.: (416) 314-7752

180, rue Dundas ouest, 8^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2R9

Code postal pour livraison : M5G 1Z8

Tél. : (416) 314-4537

Téléf. : (416) 314-7752



January 19, 2007

Chief Terry McLaren, President
Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police
40 College Street
6th Floor, Suite 605
Toronto, ON M5G 2J3

COPY

Dear Chief McLaren,

Re: Assessment and disclosure of information relating to mental illness

I am writing about the potentially discriminatory impact of employment and volunteer-related police records searches on persons who have had non-criminal contact with police relating to mental illness. You may recall that the Ontario Human Rights Commission (the "Commission") wrote to the Ministry of Public Safety and Security about this matter on December 31, 2002, and copied this letter to the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police ("OACP"). Because of ongoing concerns, the Commission has decided to contact police services province-wide about the matter.

I understand that Chiefs of Police have absolute responsibility pertaining to the use and disclosure of personal information, and that the Law Enforcement and Records Manager's Network (LEARN), administered by a subcommittee of your organization, has developed guidelines on release of such information as a reference for police services. For these reasons, OACP is particularly well situated to play a positive role in addressing the human rights concerns that have been raised, and in assisting police services to comply with their obligations under Ontario's *Human Rights Code*. Please see the enclosed documents for more information.

Yours truly,

Barbara Hall, B.A, LL.B, Ph.D (hon.)
Chief Commissioner

c.c. Honorable Monte Kwinter
Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services

✓ David Simpson, Director (Acting)
Psychiatric Patient Advocate Office

Ann Cavoukian
Information and Privacy Commissioner

Christine Robson
Chairperson, OACP Information and Technology Sub-committee

enclosures