

Minister sides with RCMP on background checks

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The justice minister of the NWT sides with the RCMP when it comes to giving information beyond criminal records to potential employers seeking background checks.

Louis Sebert's remarks followed a demand from Yellowknife Centre MLA Julie Green for a stop to the practice.

"Two days after getting (a) job, my constituent was let go. He has never been convicted of a criminal offence but the forms supplied by the RCMP detailed the things he was not convicted of," Green told the house. "My constituent lost a job he desperately needed because the police issued a form which confirms he has no criminal record, but which also says there is "adverse information" on file. This is not a conviction, it's a suspicion. This is outrageous."

She asked Sebert if he would apply that principle to the Mounties and their policy.

"The short answer is no. This act ... has been in force for 16 years now. I assume that Charter challenges have not been made or failed," Sebert said.