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Yesterday, Scouts Canada released an audit of all its records related to the suspension and/or termination of volunteer leaders for sexual misconduct against youth from 1947 to 2011. The full length report and associated fact sheets are available on the [Scouts Canada website](#).

A number of Canadian national news outlets have covered the release of the report, including [CBC News](#), [CTV News](#), the [Globe and Mail](#), and more. Volunteer Canada will continue to monitor national headlines and will keep its members and stakeholders up to date on any news updates. We are also actively reaching out to news media to highlight best practices in volunteer screening,

including the [10 Steps of Screening](#), available on the [Volunteer Canada website](#).

Volunteer Canada's 10 Steps of Screening provide a national standard for effective volunteer screening. Here are some key points of consideration around volunteer screening:

- Screening involves much more than police record checks. While police record checks are one of the [10 Steps of Screening](#), screening is a comprehensive process meant to keep vulnerable people safe.
- Canadians can learn more about volunteering screening at www.volunteer.ca/screening, including detailed information about the 10 Steps of Screening.
- Parents should take the important first step of asking organizations to detail their screening practices before children are entrusted with volunteers.
- If a volunteer is accused of abuse, the organization should follow best practices and suspend the volunteer as well as alert Police Services and Child Protection Services. All measures should be in accordance with provincial law.
- It is of the utmost importance to ensure the privacy of volunteers accused of abuse, as these people may ultimately be proven not guilty. While records should be shared with law enforcement and child protection agencies, they should otherwise be kept confidential in accordance with privacy legislation.

In November of 2011, Volunteer Canada hosted a National Dialogue on Screening in partnership with Public Safety Canada and AON Canada. The event brought together professionals from voluntary organizations, government offices (including the RCMP), insurance agencies and local police services to foster a dialogue on best practices and identify opportunities and barriers associated with effective screening. The primary audience for the National Dialogue on Screening was national voluntary organizations whose local branches serve vulnerable people in the community, including youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, and individuals who are institutionalized.

In the mid-1990s, Volunteer Canada launched the National Educational Campaign on Screening, including the [10 Steps of Screening](#). The program was meant to mitigate abuse toward vulnerable people and to raise awareness of the importance of properly screening volunteers. The initiative was a key resource in the development of the National Sex Offender Registry, a Canada-wide database accessible to police services. Both programs have enhanced the standards and practices of volunteer screening in the past 15 years. While these initiatives have greatly improved the protection of vulnerable people, there is still more work to do to raise awareness of these best practices and to facilitate collaboration among key players.

Tell us what you think. Visit the [Volunteer Canada Facebook page](#) and share your thoughts on volunteer screening.

At Volunteer Canada (www.volunteer.ca), we encourage all Canadians to get involved in their communities and we work with all types of organizations to engage today's volunteers. Our expertise is backed by original research, practical knowledge, and our unique network of insight, which includes a broad range of organizations, from individuals to small volunteer centres to national corporations with thousands of staff.