



Child Abuse Registry FAQ

At Scouts Canada, we are committed to using all available avenues to make informed decisions about youth safety matters and the safety of our volunteers. Through enhanced screening measures and by staying up to date with new opportunities, we continually fulfill our duty of care—ensuring we provide safe environments for youth to experience the benefits of Scouting across the country.

Child Abuse Registry (CAR) checks are our latest addition to volunteer screening, and will impact new and existing members in Manitoba and Nova Scotia Councils at no extra cost. Effective at the start of the new Scouting Year on September 1st, 2020, CAR checks will be required for to maintain or gain active membership at Scouts Canada.

The Process for Implementing Change

- Ahead of the new Scouting Year, Scouts Canada announce these changes to Manitoba and Nova Scotia Council members. A separate message will also be sent to all Scouting members to notify them of the change.
- The [Volunteer Screening Procedure](#) will be updated to reflect these new safety requirements.
- CAR checks will be recorded on MyScouts.ca.

Where do I obtain a Child Abuse Registry check?

Manitoba

Applicants can obtain a CAR check form from their Council through email, or from their Group Commissioner or Support Scouter/ Relationship Manager. Forms must be filled out and verified with an ID check by a Group Commissioner or appropriate Commissioner before it is considered complete.

Once the form is verified as complete, it can be sent directly to the province by the applicant or their Group Commissioner to the address listed on the registry check form.

Results are then communicated directly to Scouts Canada National Office by the province to be processed accordingly.

Nova Scotia

The CAR process and forms are easily accessible, and can be printed from the [Department of Community Services website](#).

The applicant can request CAR checks for their own name only by following the direction on the application form. Their search results will be provided to the individual by the province, in an embossed letter, which can then be shared with Scouts Canada by the individual.

What is the time frame to receive a Child Abuse Registry Check?

You should allow a minimum of two weeks for your VS check to be processed. At times, there may be a delay in the processing of the CAR.

Nova Scotia – For delays, call The Child Care Registry, Department of Community Services at (902) 424-6798 to receive more information on the processing time.

Manitoba – Contact Safe Scouting for assistance if you have not received a notification within 3 weeks of mailing your form to the province.

What are the costs for a Child Abuse Registry Check?

There is no fee charge to obtain a CAR in either province.

What is the difference between a Criminal Record Check, Vulnerable Sector Screening and Child Abuse Registry Check?

- A Criminal Record Check verifies whether an individual has a criminal record and provides the applicant with the detailed information that can be legally disclosed
- A Vulnerable Sector Screening is an enhanced Criminal Record Check that includes the pardoned sex offender database
- A Child Abuse Registry check means a search of the Child Abuse Registry conducted in accordance with the Children and Family Services Act. (respective to each province).

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How often do I have to renew my Police Record Check, Vulnerable Sector Screening and Child Abuse Registry Check?

Both a PRC and VSS are required upon initial volunteer application to Scouts Canada. PRCs must be renewed every three years through a local police agency or [BackCheck](#). CAR's must also be renewed every three years, similar to PRC's.

Why only Manitoba and Nova Scotia-based volunteers?

Only the provinces of Manitoba and Nova Scotia offer provincially based registries.

What about Rover participants (non-Scouters)?

As with PRC's Rovers will be required to submit a CAR check. All roles listed in the [Volunteer Screening Procedure](#) that require a PRC will also require the CAR check in the respective provinces.

How does someone get placed on the Child Abuse Registry?

Manitoba

There are 3 ways that a name may be listed on the CAR:

1. A person was found guilty or pleaded guilty to an offence involving the abuse of a child in a court either inside or outside of Manitoba;
2. A family court has found a child to be "in need of protection" from a person due to abuse; or
3. A child and family service agency's Child Abuse Committee has reviewed the case and formed an opinion that a person has abused a child.

Nova Scotia

This Child Abuse Registry is designed to serve as a database where the names of individuals who have been convicted of an offence against a child under the Criminal Code 24 April 2003 are maintained.

These offences include, in part, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, causing death by criminal negligence, murder, manslaughter, attempted murder, assault, indecent exposure, abandoning a child, aggravated assault, sexual assault and kidnapping.

