



OTTAWA STORYTELLERS VULNERABLE SECTOR POLICY

Ottawa StoryTellers recognizes that it is morally and legally required under the Duty of Care concept to do everything reasonable to protect its staff, its volunteers, and participants in OST activities. OST is particularly aware of the responsibility to protect vulnerable members of society.

Section 6.3 of the Criminal Records Act defines a vulnerable person as a person who, because of his or her age, a disability, or other circumstances, whether temporary or permanent, (a) is in a position of dependency on others; or (b) is otherwise at a greater risk than the general population of being harmed by a person in a position of trust or authority towards them. This includes children, youth, senior citizens, people with physical, developmental, social, emotional, or other disabilities, as well as people who are victims of crime or harm.

Ottawa StoryTellers (OST) requires all persons contracted to present workshops for OST to send a copy of their successful Police Vulnerable Sector Check to the Artistic Manager in advance of the workshop they have been contracted to conduct. No one shall run a workshop under the name of Ottawa StoryTellers unless such a Police Vulnerable Sector Check has been submitted to Ottawa StoryTellers.

OST will advise its membership and other potential workshop presenters that a Police Vulnerable Sector Check can be obtained by contacting the Ottawa Police Service or the Police Services Department in one's municipality. Since the process can be very slow, those applying will be advised to submit their applications well in advance of any activity requiring this clearance.

**Provisionally approved by the board Dec. 20, 2016
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