

**From:** [Marlin DEGRAND](#)  
**To:** [FamiliesCommunities Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Standing Committee on Families and Communities: Review of the Mental Health Amendment Act, 2007  
**Date:** Monday, November 16, 2015 11:23:45 AM  
**Attachments:** [Mental Health Act- Feedback 2.docx](#)

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Good Morning,

Please find attached the feedback from the RCMP on behalf of all of our Municipal Detachments as well as the Provincial Police Service here in Alberta as requested of the AACP by the Committee.

If you have any questions or require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Your,

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## **RCMP Alberta Feedback to the Standing Committee on Families and Communities: Review of the Mental Health Amendment Act, 2007**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide stakeholder input with regard to the review of the 2007 amendment to the Mental Health Act.

### **1. The criteria for involuntary admission of persons with mental disorders to health care facilities**

- The change from “danger” to “harm” better articulates what we are trying to prevent with an involuntary admission. Protection of the patient and the community from harm is paramount.
- The criteria that mandate a doctor to determine whether or not a person will experience a serious deterioration to their physical or mental health must be secondary to the criteria on “harm”. The safety of the subject and members of the general public must be paramount in the assessment and decision making process.
- It is felt that changes to the criteria as they now are that would make it more difficult to involuntarily admit a patient for examination and treatment would be detrimental as may result in the increased likelihood of these persons becoming involved in a violent interaction with police.

### **2. Community Treatment Orders**

- Police agencies are not currently informed about persons in the community who are subject to a CTO. We only become involved in the event the person does not follow the treatment plan and that results in an apprehension order. Presently there seems to be minimal impact on policing operations from CTOs.

### **3. Mental Health Patient Advocate.**

- Investigations by Mental Health Patient Advocates have had little impact of policing operations. There are sufficient processes for the investigation of complaints against police and allegations relating to police apprehension should be directed to the public complaint process for the police agency involved.