

3C: Schools and the Police – Privacy Issues in their Relationship

A panel of experts will debate the relationship and expectations between schools and police services. What legal rights do both have and do they clash? What can students and schools expect from this relationship? What can the police expect? A select series of scenarios will be posed and our panel will express their own views / knowledge on each, for example, what rights do the police have to open and inspect students' lockers and knapsacks? The ultimate goal is to educate relative to the protection of privacy vs. upholding the law.

Panel Moderator: Nancy Massie
Information Asset Services, York Region District School board

Lorraine Wilson
Constable, Peel Regional Police, Internet Child Exploitation Unit

David Seal
Detective, Peel Regional Police, Youth Crime Unit

Martha Mackinnon
Lawyer and Executive Director, Justice for Children and Youth

Sheila Hetherington
Vice Principal, Safe Schools

Maria Bunn
Secondary School Student and Student Trustee, York Region District School Board

Discussed Scenarios

1. An understanding of how police searches would be conducted and in what situations, for example what rights do the police have to open and inspect student lockers and knapsacks? To expand on that, must schools honour police requests to access school information such as yearbooks on DVD, Ontario Student Records, discipline files, etc.? Conversely, can schools ask a police officer to talk to a student who they think may have committed a crime?
2. When can the police and the school act on information a student posts on the internet e.g. Facebook, YouTube, Rate My Teacher? What sorts of repercussions can legally occur and which are not legal?
3. Can Police officers come into a school to arrest students for events that occur outside of the school, especially when they are under 18? Under what circumstances, if any, are police able to interview students without parent knowledge or consent - over the age of 18 only?