

Dear Mr. Crowe

I write to express to you my astonishment at learning that the Progress Report has been denied recognition by the Edmonton Police Service, as a bona fide media organization. My astonishment is all the more heightened with the knowledge that the Progress Report received a favourable decision in Court of Queen's Bench earlier this year dealing with this very question. Perhaps the Edmonton Police Service is unaware of the Court's decision on this matter?

There is a long tradition of non-profit organizations receiving equal treatment as news gatherers and disseminators in our province. The Progress Report is, in my mind, one such group.

Sometimes entities and companies yearn to try to control who can cover, in a journalistic sense, their activities. I would be shocked and indeed, dismayed if the Edmonton Police Service would count itself among those trying to do so. As I recall from my distant days as a reporter in Edmonton, the motto on the crest of serving officers of the EPS said Integrity, Courage, Community. There is no better way, it seems to me, to continue that community outreach to Edmonton's citizens, than through thoroughly bonafide journalistic enterprises, such as Progress Report.

I remain,

Marc Chikinda,
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