



March 12, 2014

Mr. Joe Otavnik  
299 Dover Street  
Oshawa, Ontario L1G 6G7

Your file      Votre référence

Our file      Notre référence  
P-2012-02705

Dear Mr. Otavnik:

This is in response to your request under the Privacy Act received on April 23, 2012, in which you seek; "Milton's detachment's file pertaining to the alleged fraud with respect to the artwork of Norval Morrisseau".

Based on the information provided, a search for records was conducted in Milton, Ont. Please note that all the information reviewed qualifies for exemption pursuant to Subparagraph 22(1)(a) of the Act. We have however exercised the discretionary power provided by the Act and severed some information. Find enclosed a copy of all the information to which you are entitled.

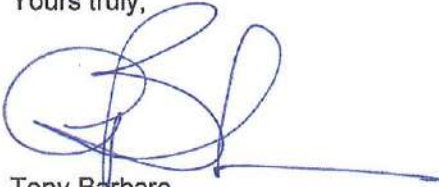
Also enclosed is a Notification of the Right to Request Correction and a Record Correction Request Form. These are provided in the event you wish to avail yourself of the correction provisions of the Act.

Note that you have the right to bring a complaint before the Privacy Commissioner concerning any aspect of our processing of your request. Notice of complaint should be addressed to:

Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada  
30 Victoria Street, 7th Floor  
Gatineau, Quebec  
K1A 1H3

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, contact the undersigned by writing at [anthony.barbaro@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:anthony.barbaro@rcmp-grc.gc.ca) or the address below. For ease of reference, please quote the file number appearing on this letter.

Yours truly,



Tony Barbaro  
Access to Information and Privacy Branch  
Mailstop #61  
73 Leikin Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0R2

attach.



**Norval Morrisseau**  
**RCMP File # 20081104228**  
**Counterfeit Artwork**

**INVESTIGATION SUMMARY**

### **Allegations**

Allegations were made to the RCMP that the marketplace is being proliferated with counterfeit Morrisseau paintings and that many of these paintings are being created by some of Morrisseau's biological children and others who are re-producing his works of art and/or forging his name. It was alleged that several art galleries and individuals in the Greater Toronto Area,

### **Investigational Goal**

The goal of the investigation was to obtain evidence and establish if sufficient grounds existed to support copyright infringement contrary to the Copyright Act and criminal offences within the mandate of the Greater Toronto Area Federal Enforcement program.

### **Background**

Norval Morrisseau, deceased, (1932-03-14 to 2007-12-04) was a renowned Aboriginal Canadian artist who was honoured as a Member of the Order of Canada in 1978. His works of art are part of many collections found in the National Gallery of Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs, and the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto.

During his lifetime it is estimated that Morrisseau painted in excess of 10,000 works of art, and to date, approximately 1,000 paintings have been catalogued by the Norval Morrisseau Heritage Society. There were many years where Morrisseau lived a transient lifestyle. He sold or traded his art work for very little money and in exchange for art supplies, alcohol and food. As a result, no records exist to account for a significant number of his paintings.

Investigators have interviewed numerous individuals including art gallery owners, members of the Norval Morrisseau Heritage Society, friends, family and art experts.

**Conclusion**

Investigators did not identify nor obtain the requisite evidence necessary to support the allegations of criminal activity involving individuals and Art Galleries located in the Greater Toronto Area, and have concluded that persons connected with \_\_\_\_\_ have not committed offences under Criminal Law.

RCMP investigators have exhausted all investigative leads in the Greater Toronto Area, and evidence to support charges under the Copyright Act and the Criminal Code of Canada was not identified during the course of this lengthy investigation.

It is recommended this investigation be forwarded to Thunder Bay Police Service for consideration of any followup action deemed appropriate.

**RCMP Contacts**

Lead Investigator for RCMP Cpl Judy Falbo	905-876-9537 Office 905-299-6515 Cell
Sgt Gary Harvey	905-876-9629 Office 416-660-0403 Cell

**Witness List**