

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General

VICTIMS SERVICES STATUS REPORT

2012-2013



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM HONOURABLE JONATHAN DENIS, QC	1
STATUS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS	2
ALBERTA VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT	3
VICTIMIZATION TRENDS IN ALBERTA	3
Family Violence	4
Sexual Assault	5
Violence Against Women	5
Violent Victimization of Aboriginal People	5
Violent Victimization of Aboriginal Women	6
Homicide	6
Human Trafficking	6
Hate Crimes	7
Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women	7
VICTIM SERVING ORGANIZATIONS.	8
Police-Based Victim Services Units	8
Spotlight on a Police-Based Victim Service Unit	9
Community Based Victim Programs	9
Spotlight on a Community-Based Program	11
VSU PROGRAM ACTIVITY	12
New Cases	12
Types of Assistance	13
Board Members	14
Coordinators	14
Advocates	14
Administration	15
Spotlight on a Victim Services Coordinator	16
Spotlight on a Volunteer Advocate	17
A Victim’s Story	18
THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERS FOR VICTIM SERVING ORGANIZATIONS	19
VICTIMS OF CRIME PROGRAMS COMMITTEE	20



FINANCIAL BENEFITS PROGRAM	20
CRIMINAL INJURIES REVIEW BOARD	22
VICTIMS SERVICES INITIATIVES	24
Victims of Crime Protocol	24
Victim Impact Statement Program	24
Requesting Restitution Program	24
Basic Coordinator Training	25
Advanced Coordinator Training	25
Board Training	25
Aboriginal Awareness Training	25
FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE POLICY CENTRE FOR VICTIM ISSUES	26
Victim Advocate Training e-Learning Initiative	26
Aboriginal Outreach Specialist Initiative	27
Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women Initiative	27
APPENDIX	28



MESSAGE FROM HONOURABLE JONATHAN DENIS, QC

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, I am pleased to present the Victims Services Status Report. In 2012-13, more than 67,800 Albertans were helped through various victim services programs, supported by Alberta Justice and Solicitor General.

Anyone can become a victim of crime. When a crime occurs that affects us, it is comforting to know that support is available in your community. These programs help Albertans overcome physical and emotional hardships caused by crime and begin to rebuild their lives.

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Victims Services works with community groups, law enforcement, other criminal justice stakeholders, and all levels of government to develop, deliver and improve programs to support victims of crime in our province.

Victims deserve to be heard and I am pleased to continue collaborating with providers of victim programs and services to enhance access to supports, improve organizational accountability and build capacity for effective service delivery.

Thank you to the police-based and community-based victim service organizations and their many coordinators, volunteer advocates and board members. Your efforts and continued dedication to those impacted by crime is truly honourable.

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

STATUS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

The Victims of Crime Status Report documents statistical data and trends concerning victims of crime, and the various actions being taken by the Government of Alberta in order to address victimization. Here are the highlights of the report.

Victims of Crime

- Victim service programs reported responding to 52,707 new cases of crime or tragedy; 28,506 or 54% of which involved assistance to victims of violent crime.
- Victim service programs reported providing services to 67,885 new clients in 2012-2013, in which 56,926 (84%) were adults and 10,959 (16%) were under the age of 18.
- Approximately 3,539 volunteer advocates, board members, and special purpose volunteers contributed a total of 214,092 volunteer hours in 2012-2013.
- Intervention, meaning crisis response, notification of next of kin, or practical assistance at a crime scene, was the most frequent assistance provided to victims for new and ongoing cases.

Police-based and Community-based Programs

- Victims Service Units are victim serving organizations that provide information, support and referrals for victims of crime throughout their involvement in the criminal justice system.
- As of March 31, 2013, Alberta had a network of 76 police-based Victim Service Programs operating out of 139 service delivery areas. An additional 32 funding agreements with agencies and organizations are in place to deliver specialized assistance and programming to address gaps for vulnerable victims.
- Police-based programs (RCMP, municipal police, and First Nations police) were awarded 67% (\$7.4Million) of the total grants approved in 2012-2013.
- Community-based programs (programs that address gaps in service to specialized victims of crime) were awarded 33% (\$3.7Million) of the total grants approved in 2012-2013.

Financial Commitments

- Total financial expenditures for Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Victims Services in 2012-2013 were \$33.8Million.
- The total amount of grants to victims programs from the Victims of Crime Fund (VOCF) in 2012-2013 was \$11.7; this includes \$7.7Million from prior year commitments.
- A total of \$17.1Million was provided to eligible victims of crime by the Financial Benefits Program during this period.
- In 2012-2013, \$351,000 was provided for Restorative Justice Initiatives from the VOCF. Restorative Justice grants are awarded to organizations that work to meet the needs of victims, offenders and community. Restorative Justice provides victims opportunities to participate in a voluntary process to seek restitution.

ALBERTA VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT

Provincial support to victims of crime in Alberta is a relatively recent development. The *Victims of Crime Act* (VOCA) was proclaimed on August 1, 1997, and thereby replaced the Victims' Programs Assistance Act and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. The VOCA provides programs and services to victims under this legislation, and marks the first time that victims of crime in Alberta have legislative backing to address crimes that they have experienced.

The *Victims of Crime Act* defines several key principles for the treatment of victims of crime in Alberta. These include: victims should be treated with courtesy, compassion and respect; information should be provided to victims about the criminal justice system and how they can participate in these processes; and, the needs, concerns and diversity of victims should be considered in the development and delivery of programs and services (please see the *Alberta Victims of Crime Act* 2013 to see all principles).

The *Act* also establishes the authority to collect surcharges on federal offenses and provincial fines which finances the Victims of Crime Fund (VOCF). The VOCF funds three key activities: the Grants Program, the Financial Benefits Program, and Administration of the *Act*. The Grants Program provides funding to police-based victim services units and community based programs offering information, assistance, and support to victims throughout their involvement in the criminal justice system. The Financial Benefits Program provides financial recognition for the injuries that victims have sustained as a result of a serious or violent crime. Finally, Administration of the *Act* includes the program initiatives, education, and training provided by Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Victims Services to support the delivery of services to victims in Alberta.

VICTIMIZATION TRENDS IN ALBERTA

Victimization affects every one of us – it cuts across all socio-economic groups and all walks of life, impacting men, women and children. Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Victims Services collects information regarding victimization trends, from the Victim Service Units (VSU) through quarterly reports, which are required to be submitted as part of their grant funding arrangement.

The reports capture information on whether the offence was classified as violent criminal code, non-violent criminal code, non-criminal offence, or no offence. This helps provide a picture of the victimization that people accessing the VSUs are experiencing, however more in-depth information is needed in order to thoroughly understand the specific types of victimization bringing people to the doors of the VSUs (e.g. hate crimes, elder abuse etc.).

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Victims Services has recognized the need to develop a better picture of the types of victimization that people are experiencing. By having this understanding, programs and services can continue to evolve to support Albertans at the local and provincial levels.

In the interim, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), a branch of Statistics Canada, provides some trending analysis for victimization in Alberta along with the other Canadian provinces and territories. CCJS compiles this information from data and statistics derived from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Report, the General Social Survey (GSS), and the Census of the Population¹.

Uncovering the key victimization trends in Alberta required examination of the CCJS reports published between 2008 and 2011. The data reveals the following trends for Alberta²:

- **Family Violence**

- Fourteen ministry funded programs are dedicated to family violence victims

Intimate Partner Violence

- Alberta reported the third highest rate of intimate partner violence after Saskatchewan and Manitoba
- Alberta reported the highest rate of family related murder suicide among the four Western provinces
- Violence by a dating partner was more prevalent than violence committed by any other perpetrators
- Common assault (usually physical force) was the most likely form of violence

Violence against Children and Youth

- Alberta recorded the second lowest rate of family violence against children behind Ontario
- Young children were most likely to be victimized by a family member, while youth aged 12 to 17 were most likely to be victimized by a non-family member
- Physical force was used in nearly 60% of incidents of family violence against children and youth, however, most victims did not sustain physical injury
- Rates of family violence were higher for girls than boys by over fifty percent
- Girls were four times more likely to be a victim of police-reported sexual offences at the hands of a family member
- Shaken baby syndrome was the most common cause of homicide for infants
- Alberta Justice and Solicitor General funded three programs for child victims of domestic violence

Violence against Seniors

- Alberta had the second highest rate of family violence against seniors in Canada
- Violent crimes against seniors were most often committed by family members followed by strangers and casual acquaintances

¹ The GSS and the Census are conducted on a five year cycle. As a result there is a lag in the data. The GSS was last completed in 2009 and the Census was last completed in 2011. The Incident-based UCR is reported every year, however, Statistics Canada must collect, compile, analyze and create reports before the data is released to the public.

² Statistics throughout the 2012-13 Victims Services Report do not include numbers from the Red Deer City RCMP Victims Services Unit. Due to unforeseen issues concerning collection and reporting, information received from Red Deer was statistically unreliable, and as such the Ministry decided not to include the statistics in this year's report.

- The most common form of violent crimes committed by family members were common assault that caused little to no injury followed by uttering threats and serious assaults
 - More than half of family violence incidents involving seniors resulted in charges being laid
 - The rate of family homicides against seniors has fallen by 55% over the past thirty years
 - Alberta Justice and Solicitor General funded four programs dedicated to elder abuse
- **Sexual Assault**
 - Alberta's total sexual offence rate was just below the national average
 - The prevalence of sexual assault in Canada has been difficult to quantify due to the relatively low number (approximately 1 in 10) that are reported to police
 - The majority of sexual offences in Canada are of a less severe nature, victimization data indicates that most sexual assaults involved unwanted sexual touching rather than more severe sexual attacks
 - Victims aged 15 to 24 experienced high rates of rates of sexual assault
 - Police-reported rates of sexual assault have been lower than rates of victimization
 - Alberta Justice and Solicitor General funds nine programs dedicated to sexual assault victimization, and three for child sexual assault
- **Violence Against Women**
 - Alberta reported the third highest rate of police-reported violence against women among the provinces
 - Most violent offenses against women were common assault, uttering threats, serious assault, sexual assault level I, and criminal harassment
 - Intimate partners were the most common perpetrators of violence against women
 - Over two thirds of violent incidents against women were committed in private residences
 - Perpetrators of violence against women are mostly male
- **Violent Victimization of Aboriginal People**
 - Aboriginal people were more likely than non-Aboriginal people to report being victimized
 - Sexual assaults accounted for more than one-third of violent incidents with an Aboriginal victim
 - Those aged 15 to 24 years were the victims in nearly half of the incidents reported by Aboriginal people, whereas they represented only one-fifth of the Aboriginal population (aged 15 and over)
 - Violent crimes with an Aboriginal victim were less likely to involve a weapon than those with a non-Aboriginal victim
 - Alberta Justice and Solicitor General funded five programs dedicated to enhancing service and support to Aboriginal victims

- **Violent Victimization of Aboriginal Women**
 - Victimization of Aboriginal women in Canada is almost triple that of non-Aboriginal women
 - Almost two-thirds of Aboriginal female victims are under the age of 35
 - Violent victimization of Aboriginal females is most often committed by males acting on their own
 - Most violent incidents committed against Aboriginal women outside of a spousal relationship did not involve the use of a weapon and most did not cause injury
 - In situations of spousal violence, approximately 60% of Aboriginal women reported being injured, approximately half of the reported incidents involved the most severe forms of violence including sexual assault, beatings, strangled, or being threatened with a knife or gun
 - Aboriginal women were more likely to report being afraid for their lives compared with non-Aboriginal women, they were also more likely to report emotional and financial abuse

- **Homicide**
 - In 2011, Alberta reported 109 homicides - the second highest number of homicides in Canada
 - Alberta recorded the highest rate of firearm homicides in Canada
 - Alberta reported the highest rates of gang related homicides in Canada
 - The most common methods used to commit homicides were knives or cutting instruments, firearms, beatings, and strangulation
 - Victims are more likely to be killed by an acquaintance or friend
 - The majority of homicide victims were male and tended to be between the ages of 18 to 24
 - Most people accused of a homicide had a criminal record prior to the homicide
 - Younger accused individuals are likely to have at least one accomplice
 - Alberta Justice and Solicitor General funded two programs dedicated to homicide victims

- **Human Trafficking**
 - Data on human trafficking is insufficient to determine the true extent of the problem in Canada due to problems concerning the underground nature of trafficking networks, victims' reluctance to report crimes to the authorities, difficulties in identifying victims, and the sensitive nature of the data
 - In recent years, Canada has passed criminal legislation on trafficking in persons
 - Alberta Justice and Solicitor General funded three programs dedicated to human trafficking

- **Hate Crimes**

- Alberta had the fourth lowest police-reported hate crime rate among the provinces
- Over half of all police-reported hate crimes were motivated by race or ethnicity
- More than half of the hate content on the internet targeted ethnic or religious groups, followed by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ), women, Aboriginal peoples, and immigrants
- The number of violent hate crimes was on the rise
- The majority of those accused of promoting hate crime, as well those who were victimized by hate crimes were youth and young adults

Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women

In addition to victims' trends highlighted for Alberta there is an increasing awareness of missing and murdered aboriginal women. In 2010, the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) issued a report called *Sisters in Spirit* which documented disappearances and murders of over 600 aboriginal women and girls in Canada, over a twenty year period. The issue has garnered significant attention at the provincial, national, and international levels.

At the victim serving organization level, there is recognition that there is a gap in supports for families and friends of missing or murdered aboriginal women. There are limited tools, resources and skills to effectively address these issues.

At the provincial level, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General acted on its concern about the number of Aboriginal women who go missing, and are victims of crime. A funding proposal was submitted to the Policy Centre for Victims Issues at Justice Canada, to examine these trends at a provincial level. Preliminary research started in 2012, and the initiative officially commenced in early 2013. The primary sources of information will be gathered through community conversations with Aboriginal communities and with service providers throughout Alberta, beginning in late fall 2013.

It is anticipated that information shared through engagement will not only provide a better understanding about the issue, but will also support the development of a culturally appropriate service response when assisting families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women. Other proposed tangibles from this initiative include a number of resource guides to support both missing persons and victims of homicide generally, with a special focus on a culturally sensitive response for Aboriginal people.

At the federal level, in 2010 the Government of Canada committed to providing funds over a two year period to address this important issue. The aim of this investment was to improve victims services, victims' awareness programs, and community safety plans, and to improve the ability of the justice system and law enforcement agencies to track and respond to cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women.

VICTIM SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

To address and support victims of crime, Victims Services administers and funds a number of victim serving organizations through the awarding of grants by our victims of crime programs committee. We also administer the financial benefits program that is funded by the Victims of Crime Fund, and provide financial recognition to eligible victims of violent crimes. The ministry also operates a number of victim services initiatives. We will discuss this in further detail below.

Police-Based Victim Services Units

Police-based Victim Services Units (VSUs) are independent non-profit agencies that are governed by a local volunteer Board of Directors, and staffed by a paid Victim Services Coordinator. Police-based VSUs are usually co-located with local police services and are the first response, along with police to a victim of crime or tragedy. They provide a continuum of services to victims from the time of first response by police, to the disposition of the case by the courts. Police-based VSUs are available 24 hours per day for a crisis response. Currently, there are 76 police-based programs operating out of 139 service delivery areas in Alberta. It is important to note that some VSUs are responsible for service to more than one detachment.

Through police-based VSUs, victims are provided with information about their case and criminal justice proceedings, practical emotional support and referrals to other community agencies (i.e. counseling, shelters, financial assistance, support groups). As well, they provide victims with information about completing Victim Impact Statements, applying for financial benefits, requesting restitution, court room orientation, and court room accompaniment. Police-based VSUs may also work with victims of tragedy in situations, in which the police are involved including motor vehicle accidents and next of kin notifications.

Police-based VSUs were awarded 67% (\$7,432,606) of the total grants approved in 2012-2013. Of the 47 police-based VSUs awarded funding in 2012-2013, 30 were approved for grants for a one-year term or less and 17 police-based programs were approved for multi-year funding.

SPOTLIGHT ON A POLICE-BASED VICTIM SERVICE UNIT

Eyes on the Future: Maskwacis Victim Services Society



Maskwacis Victim Services Society located in the local RCMP detachment – Cree syllabics identify the building as a police station.

The Maskwacis Victim Services Society is located in the Four Nations of Hobbema (Ermineskin Cree Nation, Samson Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, and Montana First Nation). The Maskwacis Victim Services Society is unique in that the entire team is from the community, speaks Cree, and understands the traditions of the people in the community.

The most frequent form of victimization in the Four Nations of Hobbema stems from domestic violence. As a result, the unit works with the local chief and council to raise awareness of the need for healing programs, and the development of support for families engaged in the cycle of violence. The unit is often invited to talk with different groups engaging a variety of programs with information about services for victims in the community, such as family wellness and violence prevention programs.

A particularly unique feature of the community is that 70% of the population in Hobbema is under the age of 25. Given this young population base, victimization of children is a challenge in the community, especially for those impacted by domestic violence. The Maskwacis Victim Services Society always ensures that youth are invited to work with them on community to support them to seek out services if they do become a victim, or support others in doing so.

Karoyle and her team at the Maskwacis Victim Services Society play a critical role in helping those affected by such challenges. Karoyle says, "Today we have strength to walk through our fears, to take a chance on a new way of life".

Community Based Victim Programs

Community-based programs are designed to help reduce the barriers faced by certain victim groups in the criminal justice system. They deliver specialized assistance and programming to address gaps in services for vulnerable victims like children, those subjected to human trafficking, domestic violence, new Canadians and loved ones of those who were victims of homicide. Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Victim Services has 32 funding agreements with

community-based programs, which offer specialized services to vulnerable and unique victims of crime.

Community-based programs are located as either stand-alone programs, but more often are part of larger organizations that provide multiple services—not necessarily related solely to victims of crime. Many referrals for service are received by community-based programs from other community agencies, the criminal justice system or victims that self-refer to these programs. All community-based programs provide victims with information about the criminal justice system, practical emotional support, and referrals to other community agencies.

Community-based programs work with victims at all levels of criminal justice system involvement. This may mean working with victims who are in the initial stages of reporting crimes to the police, or working with victims throughout the court, sentencing, and correctional processes.

Community-based programs were awarded 33% (\$3,693,200) of the total grants awarded in 2012-2013. There were two newly funded community-based programs in 2012-13. The Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre Society: Calgary Downtown Victims Services works to identify and build trust with marginalized, disenfranchised and homeless victims of crime and assist them with reporting of crimes. In addition to advocating for the rights and entitlements of victims of crime and trauma who are marginalized, this program provides education and support to staff/clients of other agencies that provide similar services. The YWCA of Calgary: YWCA Sheriff King Community Safe Visitation provides supervised visitation of parent-child visits as well as monitored exchange. monitored exchange provides safe transfer of children from one parent to the other in cases where one parent has a history of domestic violence and has been granted supervised access to the children.

SPOTLIGHT ON A COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM

Innovation in the Downtown Core: Helping Edmonton's Underserved



Bissell Centre Drop In

Edmonton's street-involved community faces numerous daily challenges: where to sleep at night; how and where to get their next meal; where and how to get clothing and hygienic needs met; how to obtain identification; and how to store such identification so that it does not get lost or stolen.

In addition to these more practical barriers, members of the underserved population also face the challenge of remaining safe and avoiding criminal victimization. The environment on the streets makes this difficult, which means that victimization from crime is a serious risk factor for the homeless. When a community member is victimized, they are unlikely to report the crime or seek services to address the effects of such victimization. By linking community members who have been underserved by mainstream services—thereby reducing their isolation—the Inner City Victim Services Program (ICVS), a joint collaboration between Bissell Centre and Boyle Street Community Services, addresses this gap.

ICVS opened its doors on April 1, 2011, and began receiving funding from Alberta Justice and Solicitor General in 2011/2012. The program provides street level access to programs and services for victims of crime by providing a gateway for those with no fixed address, to acquire the information and support required to navigate the criminal justice system.

VSU PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Police and community-based victim serving organizations see a number of victims come through their doors all across Alberta. Each victim has a unique experience and the response to their needs depends on the types of crime they seek services for. The victim serving organizations submit quarterly reports outlining their service delivery, which allows the ministry to determine the number of people seeking services and the types of assistance being provided.

New Cases

In 2012-13, VSUs reported 52,707 new cases, which marked an increase of approximately ten per cent compared to 47,989 new cases reported in 2011-2012. New cases refer only to files opened during the reporting quarter. A case may involve multiple victims and family members or friends, affected by a criminal incident.

A factor that may have contributed to the 10% increase in new cases in 2012-13 may be related to how new cases are recorded and reported. On April 1, 2011 Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Victims Services introduced a new Police-Based Quarterly Statistical Report. The intention of this form is to track VSU statistics on a case-by-case basis, and to allow for broader depth and variety regarding the information collected. Due to complications with the collection method in the first year of the new reporting process, there was a decrease in new cases reported. It may be that there is a better understanding of reporting process now that this process has been in place for two years, which could result administratively in higher reporting and recording rates.

Of the 52,707 new cases reported in 2012-13, approximately 54% involved assisting victims of violent criminal code offences (**Figure 1**), while 26% assisted victims of non-violent criminal code offences.

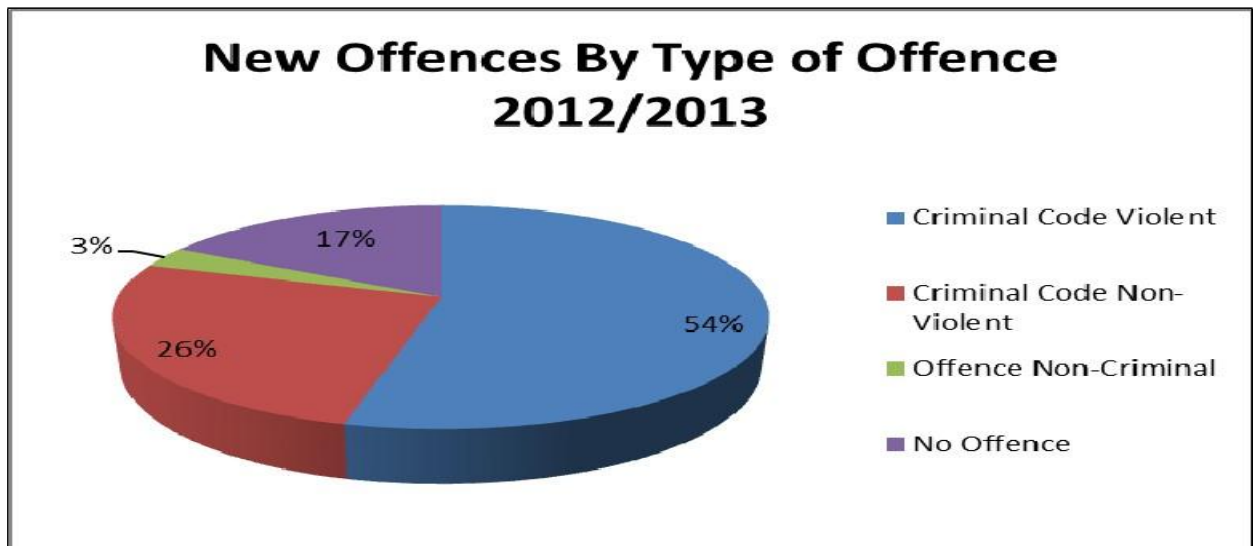


Figure 1

Persons Assisted

VSUs reported providing assistance to 67,885 people in 2012-13, an increase of approximately one per cent compared to 2011-12. Of persons assisted during this period, 56,926 (84%) were adults and 10,959 (16%) were under the age of 18 (**Figure 2**).

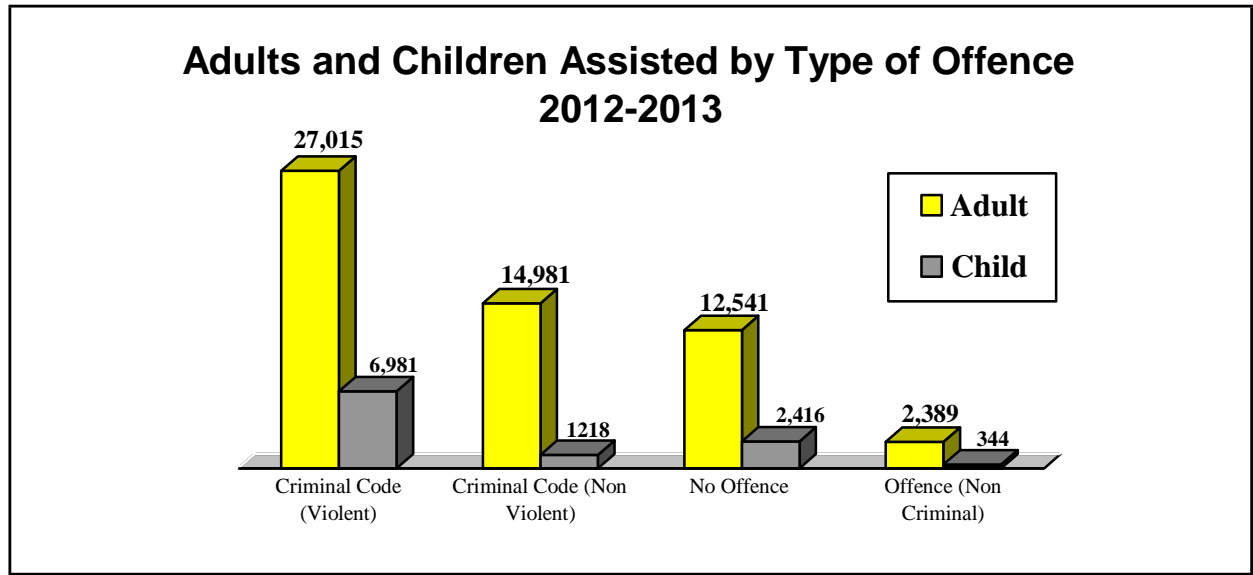


Figure 2

Types of Assistance

The most frequently reported type of assistance in 2012-13, was *intervention*, including crisis response, notification of next of kin, or practical assistance at a crime scene. Intervention was indicated 287,910 times for new and on-going cases, an increase of 3% compared to the previous year.

The second most frequently reported type of assistance is *providing information*. This type of assistance was provided for 135,393 instances. This marks an increase of 27% compared to 2011-12. A possible cause for this increase could be related to the new reporting process and better tracking.

Referrals and *courtroom support* both increased in 2012-13. Referrals increased by 3,328 for new and on-going cases, and courtroom support increased by 1,689 units of service. This increase may be a reflection of the increase in new cases.

WHAT HAPPENS AT A VICTIM SERVING ORGANIZATION

The activities of police and community-based victim serving organizations are delivered by four general categories of people, who work on behalf of each victim serving organization. The categories include Board Members, Coordinators, Advocates, Administrators, and Volunteers. These roles are described below.

Board Members

Victim serving organizations, in most cases, are run by a Board of Governance. Boards are the victim serving organizations highest level of decision making and legal authority. The Board is legally and morally accountable for the health of the organization and the fulfillment of the organization's mission. The Board articulates and communicates the vision of the VSU; focuses on strategic planning and direction; acts as a corporate body; and, direct the parameters of the work of the VSU. Boards are also responsible to follow government mandated legislation (ex. *Labour Relations Code, Criminal Code of Canada, Victims of Crime Act, etc.*) while forming and regulating the direction of the VSU.

Coordinators

The coordinator oversees volunteer victim advocates who provide direct services to victims, although coordinators may also be involved in providing direct service depending on the program capacity or the victim's needs. Please see page 16 for a story about a coordinator, and page 18 for a story about a victim that a coordinator supported.

“*Lately, a typical day for me involves providing emotional support to families that are going through a loss.*” – Karoyle, VSU Coordinator

Advocates

Volunteer victim advocates undergo a security clearance and complete Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Victims Services online certification training, which prepares them to address a wide variety of crimes, victim needs and situations. They also go to crime scenes to provide crisis response to victims and work hand in hand with police. They are the front-line response to victims of crime in Alberta. The VSU coordinator manages the day-to-day operations of the VSU, and is responsible for overseeing the volunteer advocates. The Board of Directors provides direction to the program through the program coordinator, and is responsible for strategic planning, budgeting and high level governance of the VSU. Please see page 17 for a story about an advocate.

I spoke to an elderly sexual assault victim today. Her case is still going through the courts. She was pleased that victim services had gotten a hold of her. – Eleanor, Victim Advocate

I was called to a Next of Kin Notification of a man. His wife had found him deceased. I had to find his young son who was away on a sleepover so he could be notified of his father's death. His sister accompanied me to look for him, and when we found him, his sister informed him of his father's death along with the support of an RCMP officer and myself. – Linda, Victim Advocate

Administration

Victim Service Units include administrative assistants who assist with the day-to-day running of the VSU. Activities include maintaining of financial records, program statistics, conducting research for program initiatives, administration of the program and volunteers.

SPOTLIGHT ON A VICTIM SERVICES COORDINATOR

Passion Leads the Charge

Jeannie Blakely became the coordinator for Wetaskiwin and District Victim Services Society in 1997, the same year the program began. Now, after 16 passionate years of assisting victims of crime and tragedy, Jeannie retired and is hoping to spend a little more time in her garden.

Jeannie first learned about the role of victim services from the program coordinators taking classes with her, at what was then Grant MacEwan Community College. Jeannie's background in volunteer management coupled with her passion for helping those in need, immediately drew her to wanting to be a VSU coordinator. Once she heard that a VSU was being established in Wetaskiwin, she immediately applied for the position of coordinator.

During her time as the coordinator for Wetaskiwin and District Victim Services Society, Jeannie saw many changes for victims of crime and tragedy. The single biggest change she saw is the increase in voice for victims, both in Canada and worldwide. In Canada, victim referrals by RCMP have increased. Education is another area of change over the past 16 years. Jeannie commented that in 1997, there was less professional training available to coordinators and advocates. She sought out other coordinators in Alberta to mentor her as a result. This was a practice she continued throughout her career as she mentored many new VSU coordinators over the years. Now there is comprehensive online certification training available, in addition to local training sessions hosted by the VSU and community-based workshops on various topics affecting victims. Jeannie celebrates the fact that as a country we are making great strides in providing support to vulnerable people, although she notes that there is always more work to be done.

Jeannie's fondest memories, relate to working with the people involved in Victims Services over the years. She has outstanding memories of those who started the program in Wetaskiwin, including citizens and RCMP. Further, Jeannie worked with a wonderful board of directors and police officers. Wetaskiwin was one of the communities that hosted much of the training for new advocates, and therefore Jeannie had the opportunity to meet hundreds of volunteer advocates and professional trainers from across the province. She also notes the strong support from the municipal government and the cooperative community, who never fail to help out when needed. We wish you well Jeannie!

SPOTLIGHT ON A VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE

Meeting the Needs of our Children



Child advocacy centres are child-focused agencies that integrate investigative, protective, and prosecutorial services, in one safe nurturing environment in order to support a child victim by preventing further trauma and nurturing healing. These centres are known internationally as a best practice when working with child victims of sexual assault or abuse.

Edmonton's Zebra Child Protection Centre (Centre) is a child advocacy centre. It houses a team that responds to child abuse allegations reported to authorities in Edmonton and area. The partners working as part of this response include, but are not limited to, the Edmonton Police Service, Edmonton and Area Child and Family Services Authority and the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service. The Centre works with children and youth in circumstances of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse.

The Centre itself presents as a welcoming, non-threatening, child-friendly environment where children feel safe and secure. The physical spaces of the Centre were created with the perspectives of the child/youth and family in mind. Special rooms provide child-friendly sitting areas, inviting and interactive age appropriate toys and games, and respectful spaces for teenagers.

Sarah has been with the Centre over the past 11 years, since its inception. Being a part of the Centre from the start has offered Sarah a unique experience in watching it develop, grow and improve. She has seen it expand from 5 to 45 volunteer advocates, and from supporting roughly 50 to over 500 children.

Sarah's role at the Zebra Centre is that of a child advocate. She attends court with the children, and their family members who are not involved as offenders. Two advocates go with a family to court – one to assist the adult family members, and one to focus on the needs of the child who must testify. This team approach ensures that the best possible supports are in place for the child witness, and the non-offending caregivers. Sarah works alongside a team of advocates at the Centre whom, prior to court, helps prepare the child to testify and ensures the child's family understands the process.

Sarah's commitment to the Centre is inspiring. She chooses to commit her time so fully, because she absolutely loves to do it. She says that the children keep her going. When she talks about the courage of the children, she states that "it is an honor to be a part of their lives during such a difficult time." Sarah acknowledges that the court process can add to the trauma of an already difficult experience. However, through her work with the Centre, Sarah gets to be a part of their joy as well. It is amazing to her to see children feeling good about themselves, because they have found the courage to tell their story and move forward with their lives.

A VICTIM'S STORY

Walking the Path Together



In 2009, Rose (name changed), was kidnapped, violently sexually assaulted, beaten and left to die. Rose survived; however, her journey toward physical and psychological recovery continues to this day. Still, Rose was not alone. Helping her was Lynn, from a community-based Victim Services organization: CEASE/Project STAR (Support, Transition, Action, Recovery).

Project STAR is funded by Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, and runs out of CEASE: Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation. Project STAR's vision is *"to work through partnerships and develop short and long-term strategies to address the harm of sexual exploitation and social inequality and to create positive outcomes."* To community members such as Rose, this means that someone is available to help them navigate through the criminal justice system, offering emotional and practical support along their path of healing.

Project STAR supported Rose by finding her a room; driving her to her home community to spend some time healing; connecting her with housing and counseling services; keeping her informed of the investigation; providing court support; helping her fill out her Victim Impact Statement and Financial Benefits forms.

Along with these practical supports, Lynn, as her advocate, also provided invaluable emotional support. She says *"Lynn was there every step of the way. If Project STAR was not there, I don't think I would have done it on my own."* The Crown prosecution was able to obtain a conviction.

Today Rose is doing well. She has housing and plans for the future. She is using her strength to continue her healing. She is also using her voice to not only advocate for herself, but for others in the community going through similar experiences.



THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERS FOR VICTIM SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

Many of those working within victim service organizations volunteer their time toward victim service programs, in various capacities. Volunteers are the lifeblood of operations at victim service organizations. They consistently conduct their volunteer duties with professionalism, integrity, care and compassion. Without these committed members of the community, assistance and services for victims of crime in Alberta could not exist.

Volunteers provide general assistance (information, intervention and referrals) to victims of crime. Board members are also volunteers who dedicate their time to provide oversight and strategic leadership to the programs. They also dedicate time to volunteer training, fundraising, court room support and raising community awareness.

From 2011-12 to 2012-13 the total number of volunteers working to support VSUs decreased, but total hours invested by volunteers increased. This demonstrates that the people who are working in VSUs are investing longer hours with less resources. Without a doubt, VSU volunteers are highly dedicated to the work that they do (**Figure 3**).

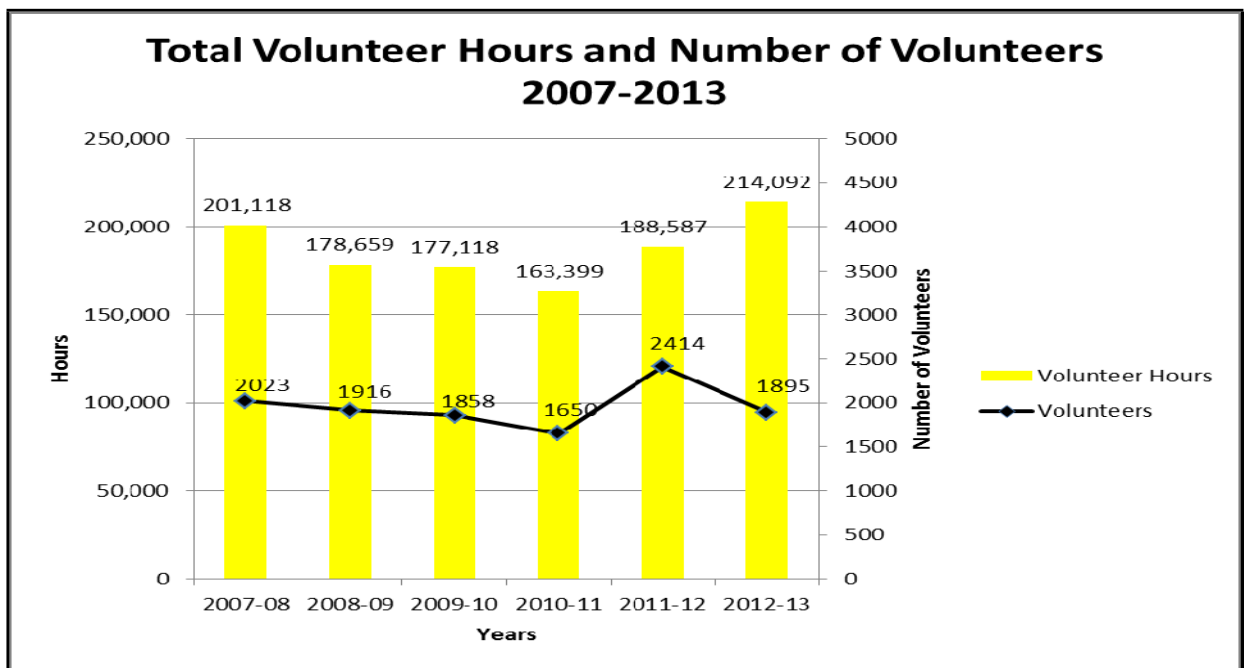


Figure 3

VICTIMS OF CRIME PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

As shown above, police and community-based victim serving organizations play a crucial role in providing much needed assistance to victims of crime. This work is funded through grants received by the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General which are drawn from the VOCF.

Police-based and community-based VSUs apply to the grants program that is administered by the Ministry. Grants are awarded for defined periods, from one to three years. They are administered bi-annually, through the victims of crime programs committee.

The Committee is responsible for evaluating grant applications submitted by eligible police-based and community-based VSUs, to support victims of crime. Once the evaluation is complete, the Committee submits their recommendations to the Minister, who makes the final decision regarding the grants that are awarded.

The Committee meets twice per year to evaluate grant applications submitted for the April 1st and October 1st application deadlines. Briefing summaries are prepared detailing items such as the program type, the program description, the services provided, community collaborations and partnerships, and the types of clients accessing the program. The briefing summaries are provided to each committee member in advance, allowing each to review the submissions before meeting as a group to discuss their recommendations.

Members of the Committee are appointed by the Minister of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General. The Committee consists of five members: three representing the community-at-large, one representing the police, and one representing government.

In 2012-13, the Committee met in June and December to review the applications. In June 2012, the Committee recommended 23 grant applications. In December 2012, the Committee recommended 43 grant applications. Combined, the Committee recommended a total of 66 grant applications to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General in 2012-13. The total amount of grants to victims programs from the VOCF in 2012-13 was \$11.7M (for a full list of awarded grants, please see the appendix).

FINANCIAL BENEFITS PROGRAM

The victims services provided to victims by police and community-based victim serving organizations are not the only supports available to victims of crime. The Financial Benefits program has become an important component of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General's approach to assisting crime victims. The Financial Benefits Program provides a monetary benefit directly to eligible victims.

The Financial Benefits Program was introduced in November 1997 as part of Alberta's *Victims of Crime Act* (Act), and is supported by the Victims of Crime Fund (VOCF). The Financial

Benefits Program provides a financial benefit to eligible victims of violent crime in Alberta as an acknowledgment of their victimization. Benefits are based on the victim's verified injuries (physical and psychological). There is also a death benefit. The benefit amounts are set out in the Victims of Crime Regulation.

The Financial Benefits Program is entirely funded from the Victims of Crime Fund (VOCF) by surcharges on statute offences, such as speeding tickets and fines issues by the Courts. The program is the only victim's program in Canada that is not compensation based. Benefits provided are an acknowledgement of victimization rather than compensation to replace lost wages or pay costs. This approach allows victims to determine how they want to use the financial benefit. The program does not place any restrictions on the use of the financial benefit and victims can use their financial benefit however they wish. Financial Benefits for minors (under the age of eighteen) are administered by the Office of the Public Trustee, on behalf of the child. Parents are able to access the funds for the child's use. This ensures the child's benefit is protected and is released to them upon turning eighteen.

Applicants to the program must meet specified eligibility criteria to be considered for a benefit. These include reporting the crime to police and cooperating with the police investigation. The offence must be one of the eligible offences listed in the Victims of Crime Regulation. The victim's history of criminal convictions is considered, as well as whether their behaviour had any impact on the injuries they received. Applications must be received within two years of the crime; however, minors who experienced victimization before they turned the age of eighteen have ten years after turning the age of majority to apply to the program. There is some discretion to extend the time limitations for some applications.

The Financial Benefits Program also has a monthly supplemental benefit of \$1,000 for victims who sustain quadriplegia or severe brain injury as a result of a crime that has left them fully dependent on others for their day-to-day functions. The supplemental benefit was introduced in 2008. There are currently 19 victims in the province who are receiving this benefit.

The program has experienced continual growth since its inception in 1997. Application volumes have doubled in the past ten years. In 2012-13, there were 2,702 applications for financial benefits submitted to the program (**Figure 4**). During this period, a total of \$13.6M was provided directly to victims through the Financial Benefits Program.

In 2011 there were significant amendments to the *Victims of Crime Act* and Regulation. The death benefit was changed to reimburse funeral costs, to a maximum of \$12,500. A \$5,000 benefit was introduced for psychological injury, as a result of witnessing a loved one die as a result violent crime. The injury schedule was simplified and benefit amounts adjusted.

Applicants who have new material information that could change the decision on their application have the option to request a reconsideration of their financial benefits application. There is no time restriction to do this.

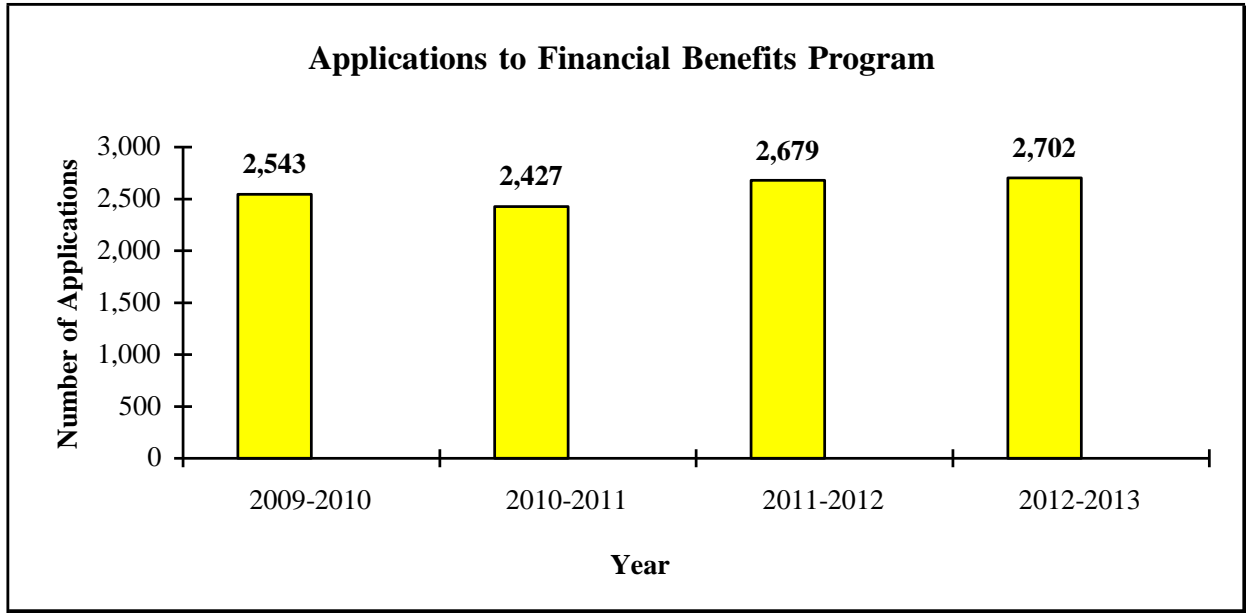


Figure 4

CRIMINAL INJURIES REVIEW BOARD

If an applicant is not satisfied with the decision made by the Financial Benefits program (Director's decision) regarding their application, they may request an independent review to the Criminal Injuries Review Board (CIRB). The CIRB is comprised of a maximum of six members, and one member is required to be a physician.

Applicants must submit their written request for a review within 30 days of receiving the decision letter regarding their financial benefits application. This deadline may be extended at the discretion of the Chair of the CIRB.

The Chair or a designate reviews all requests. If the request is found not to have grounds, the request for review will be dismissed; however, the applicant may appeal this decision to the Court of Queen's Bench.

In the event that the request for review is considered to have merit, it is referred to a panel. Applicants then have the option of having an oral review (hearing) or an administrative review (paper review). The CIRB will then confirm, rescind or vary the Director's decision. They may also refer the matter back to the Director if new material information is provided.

All decisions made by the CIRB are final except on questions of law or jurisdiction, in which case, an appeal can be made to the Court of Appeal.

In 2012-13, the CIRB received 150 requests for review, 365 requests for review were concluded.³ The Board heard 181⁴ reviews, over 25 hearing days.

Number of Applications submitted to CIRB (2010 – 2013)

Year	Number of Financial Benefits Applications	Number of Submissions to CIRB
2010/11	2427	461
2011/12	2679	246
2012/13	2702	150
Total	7808	857

The decrease in the number of requests for review to CIRB in 2012-13 is likely a combined result of several factors including: improved explanations of decisions on Financial Benefits applications, the increased ability to reconsider applications where there is material new information after an applicant has received counseling subsequent to submitting their application – this is a common occurrence. Closer examination of this issue would need to be undertaken in order to better understand what direct correlation there is between change processes and the decreased number of requests for review.

Outcome of Applications submitted to CIRB (2010 – 2013)⁵

Outcome of Application	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Total
CIRB Case Withdrawn (no hearing)	1	9	16	26
Request for Review Declined on Merit (no hearing)	59	45	111	215
CIRB Confirmed Director's Decision (hearing)	32	170	106	308
CIRB Varied Director's Decision (hearing)	6	30	36	72
CIRB Returned Application to Director – rescinded (hearing)	15	78	50	143
CIRB Returned to Director – new information (no hearing)	n/a	3	18	21
Total Cases	1	335	337	785

³ Reviews may be conducted in subsequent years.

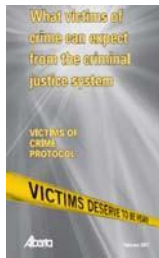
⁴ It may take a number of months to conclude files under review resulting in the discrepancy between the number of reviews concluded and number of reviews heard.

⁵ Files concluded within reporting period.

VICTIMS SERVICES INITIATIVES

In addition to the activities performed by police-based victims' services and community victim assistance organizations, several initiatives have been implemented by the Department to enhance support for victims of crime as they navigate the criminal justice system. A number of these programs and projects were achieved in partnership with criminal justice stakeholders, including victim assistance organizations, law enforcement, and the Alberta Police-Based Victim Services Association.

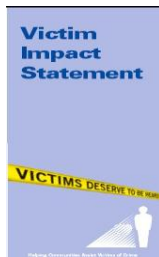
Victims of Crime Protocol: What Victims Can Expect from the Criminal Justice System



The Victims of Crime Protocol: What Victims Can Expect from the Criminal Justice System is a reference manual for victims of crime. The *Protocol* assists victims by outlining what role each component within the criminal justice system plays from the time a crime is reported through to the police investigation and court proceedings. Information on provincial and federal Corrections and the Parole Board of Canada is also included. In addition, the *Protocol* explains what is expected of victims when dealing with the criminal justice system.

The *Protocol* was a first of its kind in Canada and has attracted national and international interest. A total of 13,569 copies of the *Protocol* were distributed to programs in 2012-2013. An audio version of the *Protocol* is also available to better meet the needs of Albertans with visual impairments and/or low literacy. Copies are available to Victim Services Units by request.

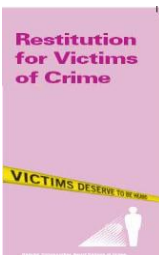
Victim Impact Statement Program



The Victim Impact Statement Program is a voluntary program that provides victims in Alberta with an opportunity to have input into sentencing by describing in writing to the Court, how they have been affected by the crime.

In 2012-2013, victim service programs reported the distribution of 17,048 Victim Impact Statement packages to victims of crime in Alberta. Victim service programs completed 3,226 Victim Impact Statement Notification Forms and forwarded them to the Clerk of the Court and Crown Prosecutor's offices after charges had been laid.

Requesting Restitution Program



The Requesting Restitution Program provides victims of crime who have suffered a financial loss with information about how they can request that the offender pay restitution. Restitution may be ordered for: damage, destruction and loss of property, psychological and/or bodily harm, expenses incurred in moving out of an offender's residence in spousal abuse cases, and losses incurred by unknowingly purchasing or lending money on stolen property.

In 2012-2013, 10,035 Requests for Restitution were distributed by Victim Services Units. The majority of Requests for Restitution that were distributed concerned non-violent crime. The next largest category was violent crime, followed by other crimes.

Basic Coordinator Training

Fifty-four participants attended the Victim Assistance Basic Coordinator Training that was held in Edmonton in March 2013. The training provided information about the criminal justice system, federal and provincial legislation, and information about related programs assisting victims in Alberta.

Advanced Coordinator Training

Thirty-three participants attended the Victim Assistance Advanced Coordinator Training held in November 2013, in Edmonton.

Board Training

In 2012-2013, the following training sessions were held in Alberta and were attended by 60 board members:

- Peace River October 19-21, 2012; and
- Sherwood Park, February 23-24, 2013

Aboriginal Awareness Training



In 2007, an Aboriginal Awareness Training Curriculum was developed in partnership with an Advisory Committee consisting of Victim Services Unit coordinators, Elders and law enforcement. Training for 2012-2013 was focused on the Blackfoot, Tsuu T'ina (Dene) and Stoney cultures. It was hosted at Blackfoot Crossing in Siksika.

A two day training event took place in May 2012 with Court Services Clerks (Provincial and Queen's Bench). This training focused on Cree, Dene and Métis cultures and included sessions on trauma, Indian residential schools and Aboriginal history. There was also a session on the Victims of Crime Protocol and the Clerk of the Court's role in executing this on behalf of victims of crime.

CanTalk

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Victims Services has contracted with CanTalk (Canada) Inc. to provide immediate interpretation and translation for victims in over 160 languages, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week for all funded programs. In the 2012-13 fiscal year, victim service organizations used CanTalk for a total of 238 phone calls in twenty-five different languages.

Victims of Crime Website

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Victims of Crime website www.victims.alberta.ca contains a wide range of information on victims programs and services in Alberta.

FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE POLICY CENTRE FOR VICTIM ISSUES



The Policy Centre for Victim Issues at the Department of Justice Canada works toward giving victims an effective voice in the criminal justice system by:

- helping victims and their families understand their role in the criminal justice system and the laws, services and assistance available to support them;
- ensuring that the perspectives of victims will be fully considered when relevant federal laws and policies are developed; and
- increasing awareness both within Canada and internationally, about the needs of victims of crime and effective approaches to respond to those needs

The Policy Centre for Victim Issues works with other federal government agencies and with provincial and territorial governments, to improve the experience of victims of crime in the criminal justice system. In 2012-13, the Policy Centre for Victims Issues partnered with Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, by providing funding for three programs: Victim Advocate e-Learning Training, the Aboriginal Outreach Specialist Initiative, and the Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women Initiative.

Victim Advocate Training e-Learning Initiative



In 2010-11, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General transitioned their existing training curriculum for victim advocates to an e-Learning environment. The e-Learning initiative directly links to the Department's mandate in addressing victims' issues, and specifically, the goals of standardizing training and enhancing services across the province. e-Learning provides training for victim services advocates and staff across Alberta. The training platform is hosted by the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC).


The cutting edge initiative – developed by victim services unit staff and staff from Alberta Justice and Solicitor General in partnership with the JIBC – is the first online training program ever produced in Canada for people who provide frontline services to victims of crime. It consists of 35 modules, spanning a wide range of issues such as crisis intervention, court orientation, e-crimes, and domestic violence.

The program features interactive videos and web links. Learners can take the training anytime, anywhere. Previously they were required to attend classroom-based sessions. Benefits of the program include:

- reduced long-term distribution and facilitation costs
- increased training opportunities for volunteers
- increased access for those in Aboriginal communities and remote areas
- timely revision of materials to reflect legislative and policy changes
- standardized learning measures
- quick and efficient delivery of training

Victim Services Units supplement e-Learning with face-to-face training sessions for team building and to highlight local expertise in conjunction with the e-Learning training.

Aboriginal Outreach Specialist Initiative



Building on the success of the underserved Aboriginal victims of crime outreach pilot project, an additional five years of funding was received from Justice Canada's Policy Centre for Victim Issues to expand this initiative. Three Victim Services programs: St. Paul and Area Victim Services Society, Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council Victim Services Unit, and Lac La Biche Victim Services Society received additional funding to facilitate the provision of dedicated outreach services to Aboriginal victims of crime in their home communities. The goals of this initiative are to expand on previous successes, using the promising practices that were identified to reduce barriers in accessing services. There are a total of 12 Aboriginal communities now receiving outreach services. St. Paul provides outreach services to Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Goodfish Lake First Nation, Frog Lake First Nation and the Fishing Lake Metis Settlement. Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council Victim Services Unit provides services to Kapawe'no First Nation, Swan River First Nation, Driftpile First Nation, Sawridge Band and the Sucker Creek First Nation. Lac La Biche Victim Services Unit is facilitating dedicated outreach to the Heart Lake First Nation, Beaver Lake Cree Nation, and the Kikino Metis Settlement.

Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women Initiative

For More information on the MMAW please see victim trends on page 7 of the report.

APPENDIX

The following police-based programs received grants in 2012-2013:

Program Name	Grant Amount
Airdrie and District Victims Assistance Society	\$110,250
Assumption Region Community Policing Society	\$150,000
Athabasca Regional Victim Services Society	\$101,244
Barrhead Community Victim Services Unit Association	\$31,625
Bashaw & District Victim Services Society	\$24,000
Bashaw RCMP Victim Assistance Society	\$50,400
Battle River Victim Assistance Society	\$112,000
Beaver County Victim Services Association	\$50,000
Beaverlodge Victim Services Unit Society	\$26,250
Big Country Victim Services Association	\$110,250
Blackfalds & District Victim Support Society	\$110,000
Blood Tribe Police Service Victim Services Unit	\$37,500
Bonnyville Victim Services Society	\$142,550
Bow Island-Foremost Victim Assistance Association	\$21,400
Bow Valley Victim Services Association	\$81,638
Brooks & District Victims Assistance Association	\$84,000
Calgary Police Service Victims Assistance Unit	\$300,000
Camrose & District Victim Services Society	\$110,000
Cardium Region Victim Services Unit Society	\$130,000
Chinook Arch Victim's Services Society	\$105,000
Cochrane and Area Victim Services Society	\$95,000
Cold Lake Victim Services Society	\$145,000
Coronation/Consort Victim Services Society	\$50,000
Crisis Association of Vegreville	\$28,047
Crowsnest Livingstone Victim Services Unit	\$58,226

Program Name	Grant Amount
Eagle Tower Victims Services Society	\$100,000
Edmonton Police Service Victim Services Unit	\$300,000
Edson and District Victim Services Society	\$70,000
Elk Point and Area Victim Services Society	\$75,000
Fairview Victims Assistance Association	\$70,000
Flagstaff Victim Services Society	\$77,440
Foothills Regional Victim Services Association	\$111,300
Fort McMurray Victim Services Society	\$150,000
Grande Cache Victim Services Society	\$67,938
Grande Prairie & District Victims' Assistance Program Association	\$150,000
Heartland Victim Services Unit Society	\$49,230
High Level Community Policing Society	\$136,000
High Prairie & District RCMP Victim Assistance Society	\$126,750
Highway 43 RCMP Victims' Services Unit Society	\$90,000
Hinton District Victim Services Society	\$77,000
Innisfail & District Victim Services Society	\$53,000
Jasper Victims Services Society	\$88,200
Lac La Biche Society, Victims Service Unit	\$131,250
Lacombe Victim Services Association	\$36,750
Leduc & District Victim Assistance Society	\$150,000
Lethbridge Detachment Victims Assistance Society	\$65,296
Lethbridge Regional Police Service Victim/Witness Services	\$150,000
Mackenzie Regional Community Policing Society	\$262,500
Manning Regional Victim Services Society	\$45,000
Maskwacis Victim Services Society	\$150,000
Medicine Hat Police Service Victim Assistance Unit	\$147,807
Midwest Victim Services	\$83,361

Program Name	Grant Amount
Peace Regional Victim Services Society	\$144,400
Ponoka Victims Services Association	\$93,000
Ranchlands Victim Services Society	\$135,555
Red Deer City RCMP Victim Services	\$150,000
Redcliff Victim Service Unit Association	\$56,000
Redwater - Smoky Lake Victim Services Society	\$126,678
Rimbey & District Victim Services Society	\$117,000
Rocky & District Victims Services Unit Society	\$118,000
Slave Lake Victims Services Society	\$150,000
St. Albert Victim Service Association	\$132,000
St. Paul and Area Victim Services Society	\$145,033
Strathmore Regional Victim Services Society	\$129,335
Strathcona County RCMP Victim Services Unit	\$109,369
Sturgeon Victim Services Association	\$84,000
Sylvan Lake & District Victim Services Association	\$90,000
Taber Community Action and Prevention Society	\$75,904.25
Three Hills Victim Services Association	\$31,000
Two Hills & Area Victim Services Society	\$37,000
Valleyview Victims Assistance Society	\$74,587
Victim Services Society of Stony Plain, Spruce Grove & District	\$150,000
Volunteer Programs Association – Fort Saskatchewan	\$77,250
Vulcan Regional Victims Services Society	\$35,250
Wabasca Regional Victim Services Society	\$127,250
Westlock Community Victim Services Unit Association	\$74,475
Wetaskiwin & District Victim Services Society	\$75,000
Total	\$7,816,288.25

The following community-based programs received grants in 2012-2013:

Program Name	Grant Amount
Action Coalition on Human Trafficking Alberta Association	\$150,000
Alberta Police Based Victim Services Association (APBVSA)	\$105,000
ASSIST Community Services Centre <i>Responding to Victims of Family Violence in the Chinese Community</i>	\$132,300
Bissell Centre <i>Street Level Victim Service Program</i>	\$137,950
Calgary Chinese Elderly Citizens Association <i>Chinese Community Response to Family Violence</i>	\$150,000
Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse Society <i>Police and Court Education and Support Program (PACES)</i>	\$150,000
Calgary Family Services Society <i>A Coordinated Community Response to Victims of Elder Abuse in Calgary</i>	\$150,000
Calgary Legal Guidance Society <i>Court Preparation and Restraining Order Program (Calgary Legal Guidance/YWCA of Calgary)</i>	\$115,750
Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse <i>The Child Witness Court Preparation Program</i>	\$150,000
Catholic Social Services <i>Elder Abuse Program</i>	\$150,000
CEASE: Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation <i>STAR – Support-Transition-Action Recovery Project</i>	\$114,500
Central Alberta Sexual Assault Support Centre	\$98,466
Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter Society <i>Domestic Violence Court Case Coordination Project</i>	\$143,948
Central Alberta Women's Outreach Society <i>Red Deer DV Collaborative Court Project</i>	\$150,000
Diverse Voices Family Violence Conference	\$30,000
Edmonton John Howard Society <i>Victims Assistance Program (VAP)</i>	\$150,000
HomeFront Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence <i>Partner Support Program</i>	\$150,000
Legal Aid Alberta <i>Edmonton Protection Order Program</i>	\$150,000
Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council	\$150,000
Lethbridge Elder Abuse Response Network	\$101,000

Program Name	Grant Amount
Lloydminster Sexual Assault & Information Centre <i>Crisis Intervention/Witness Program</i>	\$42,000
Multicultural Women & Seniors Services Association of Edmonton <i>Responding to Victim</i>	\$90,000
P.A.C.E (Providing Assistance, Counselling & Education) <i>Caribou Child and Youth Centre</i>	\$146,800
Project KARE <i>RCMP Veterans Association of Edmonton</i>	\$87,000
RCMP K Division-Community Policing <i>Victim Services Program</i>	\$130,000
Saffron Centre Ltd. <i>Seeds of Healing Program</i>	\$75,000
Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton (SACE)	\$150,000
Siksika Health Services <i>Siksika Crisis Response Team – Victim Services</i>	\$152,850
Strathcona Shelter Society Ltd. (A Safe Place) <i>Victim Advocate</i>	\$50,000
Tsuu T'ina Nation Band and Stoney Corrections Society <i>Victim Services Program</i>	\$148,033
Victims of Homicide Edmonton Support Society	\$35,000
Zebra Child Protection Centre Society <i>Child Support Services Program</i>	\$150,000
Total	\$3,885,597



VICTIMS DESERVE TO BE HEARD