

CAPG Resolution 2021-01

FUNDING FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME PROGRAMS & SERVICES

For Submission to the Canadian Association of Police Governance

By the Edmonton Police Commission

WHEREAS victim services are guaranteed to all Canadians under the federal *Victims' Bill of Rights*;

WHEREAS provincial victim services units are established to provide support programs for individuals who have suffered as a result of violent crimes;

WHEREAS long-term, sustainable funding is required for victims' financial benefits and services;

WHEREAS the CAPG supports keeping the current, community-based model for delivering supports and services to victims;

WHEREAS volunteers, while widely used and appreciated, are not able to provide the level and scope of service that victims need at all times.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal and Provincial governments provide ongoing, sustainable funding to victim services programs across the country from monies collected through Victim Fine Surcharges.

Background:

Victims of crime come from all walks of life and socio-economic groups. Crime victims are not only from vulnerable populations, they live in every neighbourhood and can be any age, gender and ethnicity. The federal *Victims' Bill of Rights* guarantees the right to seek restitution for eligible victims of violent crime for physical and/or emotional injuries suffered. Victims of crimes should also have access to assistance program that benefit them during their involvement with the criminal justice process.

Victim services are the only part of the criminal justice system that currently do not receive long-term, sustainable funding across the country and almost all Victim Service Unit (VSU) programs must fundraise so they can provide basic services to victims of crime. However, every year, demand for programs and services exceeds the funding available.

VSU's receive funding from most provincial governments but the funding received does not adequately supply the services required and end up being funded by municipalities out of necessity and recognition of this valuable service.

These community-based programs are the best model for providing supports and services to victims and deserve to be funded adequately to meet the intent as set out in the federal *Victims' Bill of Rights*.