



Justice and Public Safety  
*Victims of Crime Act*

# ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017





# Twenty-eighth Annual Report

*Victims of Crime Act*  
R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. V-3.1



April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017  
Prince Edward Island Department of Justice and Public Safety  
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8





Justice and  
Public Safety

Justice et  
Sécurité publique



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October 2017

The Honourable Antoinette Perry  
Lieutenant Governor  
Province of Prince Edward Island

May it Please Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit the Twenty-eighth Annual Report of the administration of the *Victims of Crime Act*, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. V-3.1 pursuant to section 36 of the *Act*, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wade MacLauchlan".

Wade MacLauchlan  
Minister of Justice and Public Safety  
and Attorney General



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# Executive Summary

## *Trends in Client Demand*

- There were 902 new cases referred to Victim Services in 2016-2017, in addition to approximately 622 cases carried forward from the previous year. As of March 31, 2017, there were 800 active cases across the province. The average monthly caseload in 2016-2017 was 695 cases.
- In 2016-2017, there were 126 victim impact statements prepared and filed with the court. Over the past five years, the number of victim impact statements filed has ranged from 126 to 211.
- During the fiscal year 2016-2017, 34 new applications for criminal injuries compensation were filed, and 71 applications were carried over from the previous year. Thirty-eight files were finalized and five interim decisions were made in 2016-2017. A total of \$105,028.00 was awarded in criminal injuries compensation.
- In 2016-2017, there were 77 applications for Emergency Protection Orders under the *Victims of Family Violence Act*. Orders ranged from 16 days to 90 days in duration, with an average length of 65 days. There were 6 applications for Victim Assistance Orders. Since the proclamation of the *Act* in December 1996, there have been a total of 906 Emergency Protection Orders granted.

## *Offence Type and Offender Information*

- The most frequent types of crime for Victim Services cases in 2016-2017 were:
  - o assault (37 percent)
  - o sexual assault (8 percent)
  - o theft (8 percent)
  - o uttering threats (7 percent)
- Of the total new referrals to Victim Services in 2016-2017, there was a family type relationship between the victim and the suspect or offender in 249 cases (29%). In

275 cases (32%), the suspect or offender was a male partner or ex-partner (either current or former husband, common-law husband, or boyfriend). In 31 cases (4%), the suspect or offender was a female partner or ex-partner (either current or former wife, common-law wife, or girlfriend).

## *Highlights and Initiatives:*

- Through the Justice Canada Victims Fund, Victim Services was able to secure renewed funding in support of services for victims of crime in PEI. The Province entered into a Project Funding Agreement with the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada for the period April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2021 to provide up to 1.9 million in federal funding. This funding will help offset the costs of three existing Victim Services Workers, and provide funding for specialized training initiatives and information materials.
- All Victim Services Workers completed training to become certified in the SARA – Version 3, a spousal assault risk assessment and management tool.
- In collaboration with partners, assistance was provided in the development of a new provincial government handbook *“Guidelines for Addressing Family Violence and the Workplace”*.
- Victim Services is fully participating in the Bridge Model of Intervention to foster collaborative responses for individuals and families experiencing acutely elevated risk.



# Sommaire

## ***Tendances de la demande des clients***

- En 2016-2017, 902 nouveaux cas ont été transmis au Service d'aide aux victimes, en plus d'environ 622 cas reportés de l'année précédente. En date du 31 mars 2017, il y avait 800 cas actifs dans la province. En moyenne, la charge de travail était de 695 cas par mois.
- En 2016-2017, le Service d'aide aux victimes a aidé à préparer et à déposer 126 déclarations de victimes. Au cours des cinq dernières années, le nombre de déclarations de victimes déposées a varié de 126 à 211.
- Durant l'exercice financier 2016-2017, 34 nouvelles demandes d'indemnisation des actes criminels ont été déposées, 71 ont été reportées de l'exercice précédent et 38 décisions sans appel ainsi que 5 décisions provisoires ont été rendues. Un montant total de 105 028 \$ a été adjugé en indemnisation de victimes d'actes criminels.
- En 2016-2017, on a rendu 77 ordonnances de protection d'urgence dans le cadre de la *Victims of Family Violence Act* (loi sur les victimes de violence familiale). La durée de celles-ci a varié de 16 à 90 jours, la moyenne étant de 65 jours. Il y a aussi eu six ordonnances d'aide aux victimes. Depuis la proclamation de la loi en décembre 1996, 906 ordonnances de protection d'urgence ont été rendues au total.

## ***Types d'infractions et renseignements sur les contrevenants***

- Les types de crime les plus fréquents dans les causes traitées par le Service d'aide aux victimes en 2016-2017 ont été les suivants :
  - o voies de fait (37 pour cent)
  - o agressions sexuelles (8 pour cent)
  - o vols (8 pour cent)
  - o profération de menaces (7 pour cent)
- Dans 249 cas (soit 29 pour cent des nouveaux cas transmis en 2016-2017), il y avait une relation familiale entre la victime et le suspect

ou le contrevenant. Dans 275 cas (soit 32 pour cent des cas), le suspect ou le contrevenant était un partenaire ou un ex-partenaire mâle (soit le mari actuel ou l'ex-mari, le conjoint de fait ou le petit ami). Dans 31 cas (soit 4 pour cent des cas), la suspecte ou la contrevenante était une partenaire ou une ex-partenaire (soit la femme actuelle ou l'ex-femme, la conjointe de fait ou la petite amie).

## ***Faits saillants et initiatives***

- Grâce au Fonds d'aide aux victimes de Justice Canada, le Service d'aide aux victimes a pu renouveler une source de financement pour appuyer les services offerts aux victimes d'actes criminels à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard. Le gouvernement provincial a signé une nouvelle entente de financement avec le ministre de la Justice et le procureur général du Canada. L'entente sera en vigueur du 1er avril 2016 au 31 mars 2021 et fournira jusqu'à 1,9 million de dollars en fonds fédéraux. Entre autres, elle permettra de compenser les coûts associés à trois postes d'intervenants au Service d'aide aux victimes et d'appuyer des initiatives axées sur la formation spécialisée et les documents d'information.
- Tous les intervenants du Service d'aide aux victimes ont suivi une formation pour se servir de l'Évaluation du risque de violence conjugale – Version 3, un outil d'évaluation et de gestion.
- Avec l'appui de partenaires, le gouvernement provincial a produit un nouveau guide intitulé *Guidelines for Addressing Family Violence and the Workplace / Lignes directrices pour contrer la violence familiale et ses répercussions sur le milieu de travail*.
- Le Service d'aide aux victimes participe pleinement au modèle d'intervention Bridge afin de mettre en œuvre des démarches collaboratives pour des personnes et des familles qui font face à un risque très élevé de préjudice.



The *Victims of Crime Act*, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap.V-3.1 was proclaimed in force September 30, 1989. Regulations and orders under the *Act* also came into force on that date. Extensive amendments to the *Act* came into effect August 7, 1999.

The Statement of Principles contained in Part I of the *Victims of Crime Act* sets out the following principles for the guidance of persons in providing justice for victims of crime:

- a) Victims should be treated with courtesy and compassion and with respect for their dignity, privacy, and convenience.
- b) Victims should receive prompt and fair financial redress for the harm they have suffered.
- c) Victims should be informed of and should have access to services including social, medical, legal, and mental health assistance.
- d) Victims should be informed about the progress of the investigation and prosecution of the offence, court procedures, the role of the victim in court proceedings, and the ultimate disposition of the proceedings.
- e) Victims are entitled, where their personal interests are affected, to have their views and concerns brought to the attention of the court where consistent with criminal law and procedure.
- f) Victims and their families should be protected from intimidation, retaliation, and harassment.
- g) Victims should have their stolen property returned to them as soon as possible after recovery by law enforcement authorities.

- h) Victims are entitled to prepare a victim impact statement and have it considered by the court at sentencing.
- i) Victims are entitled to be informed about the offender's status, including release dates, parole eligibility, and probation terms.

The *Victims of Crime Act* also establishes the Victim Services Advisory Committee, the Victim Services Program, the Victim Assistance Fund, and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program.

## Part II

# Report of the Victim Services Advisory Committee

### **Committee Mandate**

The Victim Services Advisory Committee is established under *Victims of Crime Act* with the mandate to:

- a) review existing laws, policies and procedures and recommend changes to benefit victims;
- b) assist law enforcement agencies, social agencies and other organizations with the development of guidelines that promote the principles set out in this *Act* relating to their role in respect of victims;
- c) assist with establishing and updating procedures for the handling of complaints by victims;
- d) assist with the research, development and distribution of information pertaining to the needs, rights and concerns of victims;

- e) provide opportunities for research, discussion, and resolution of issues of concern to victims; and
- f) advise on other matters that the Minister may refer to the Committee for consideration.

The Committee may make recommendations to the Minister relating to:

- a) the development of policies and legislation respecting assistance to victims;
- b) the provision of services, including criminal injuries compensation, to victims; and
- c) any other matters that the Minister refers to the Committee for its recommendation.

### **Committee Membership and Meetings**

Members of the Victim Services Advisory Committee as of March 31, 2017, and the organizations they represent are as follows:

Catherine Chaisson, Q.C.	Law Society of Prince Edward Island
David Daughton	Community Legal Information Association
Jeff MacDonald	Crown Attorneys
Eileen Conboy	P.E.I. Rape and Sexual Assault Centre
Gary Trainor	Probation Services
Deputy Chief Brad MacConnell	P.E.I. Association of Chiefs of Police
Sgt. Hank Pollard	R.C.M.P. "L" Division
Danya O'Malley	PEI Family Violence Prevention Inc.
Melissa Coffin	PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada
Lori St. Onge	Aboriginal Community
Melissa Arsenault	Francophone Community
Maureen MacEwen	Child and Family Services
Mari Basiletti	PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women
Kate Dempsey	Public representative

The Committee is assisted in its operations by the Victim Services Provincial Manager and Secretary.

During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the Victim Services Advisory Committee held meetings in May 2016 and September 2016. The February 2017 meeting was rescheduled to April 2017 due to weather. The Committee was chaired by Catherine Chaisson. The activities of the Committee during 2016-2017 included the following:

### ***Campbell-Hennessey Inquest***

The Committee received updates on implementation of recommendations from the Coroner's inquest into the deaths of four year old Nash Campbell and his mother Patricia Hennessey. The response includes a focus on greater information sharing and collaboration when working with high risk families.

Information was received about:

- implementation of Bridge, a collaborative, risk driven approach to address situations of acutely elevated risk;
- development of a community-based service to provide a safe and supervised access service for children moving between parents, as well as parenting coordination service for high-risk families in transition;
- interagency training on domestic violence and filicide risk;
- expansion of the Family Law program to provide legal and/or clinical intervention for children and families in high-risk litigation cases;
- work to be undertaken by the Office of the Chief Health Officer to develop a regular reporting system on the health and well-being of PEI children.

### ***Improved Collection and Enforcement of Restitution***

The Committee received updates on efforts to improve collection and enforcement of restitution, including:

- the results of a three month Deputy Sheriff position focused on collection and enforcement of stand alone restitution orders that are filed as civil judgements. Early successes provided support for a proposal to the Federal Victims

Fund for continuation of this position for an additional five years; and

- a Probation Services Restitution File Review conducted to determine the amounts of restitution ordered and collected, and to identify strengths and gaps related to supervision and enforcement.

### ***Federal Victims of Crime Funding***

Information was received about a new five year federal funding agreement under the Victims Fund (2016-2021) to improve access to service for victims of crime in PEI. This funding will help offset the costs of three existing Victim Services Workers, and provide funding for specialized training initiatives and information materials. Funds were also approved for a new Deputy Sheriff position to focus on collection and enforcement of stand alone restitution orders, and upgrades to court technology that facilitates testimony of victims and witnesses.

### ***Guest Speakers***

The Committee invited guest speakers on a number of topics:

- Cpl. John Fitzgerald and Lisa Taggart, Criminal Intelligence Services PEI (CISPEI), provided an overview of CISPEI, a provincial crime intelligence bureau comprised of police officers, analysts and support staff from Royal Canadian Mounted Police "L" Division and municipal policing agencies in PEI. The unit supports information sharing between agencies, enhancing their ability to gather and analyze sensitive criminal intelligence, specifically in relation to serious and organized crime.
- Michael Zimmerman, Special Projects, Hon. C.R. McQuaid Family Law Centre, described plans for a Supervised Access and Exchange Program under development for PEI. This Program will be delivered through CHANCES Family Resource Centres throughout the province. He also summarized the work underway to provide access to Parenting Coordination in the province, combining a public and private service delivery model.
- Crystal-Lynn O'Meara, Program Support, Department of Justice and Public Safety,

presented on the BRIDGE model of collaborative intervention for addressing situations of acutely elevated risk. This model commenced operation in the province in September 2016 with meetings twice weekly.

### **Information Items**

A number of information items were brought to the attention of the Victim Services Advisory Committee during the year. Some of these included:

### **Legislative Updates:**

- Amendments to federal and provincial legislation which have implications for victims and witnesses
- Canadian Victims Bill of Rights implementation

### **Research/Evaluation:**

- Review of Policing Services in Prince Edward Island
- Turning Point Program Evaluation
- Review of Community Youth Worker and Outreach Worker Programs
- *Child Protection Act* Review

### **Program/Policy Development/Training:**

- PEI Court Order Registry implementation
- Police Training on Family Violence Response
- Family Violence Education for Professionals
- Trauma Informed Training for Child Protection Workers
- Mi'kmaq Education Training on Aboriginal Justice and Mi'kmaq culture

### **Conference Announcements:**

- Understanding the Effects of Pornography on Youth, and Responding to and Preventing Sexual Violence – May 2016
- Domestic Violence Intervention Facilitator Training – May 2016
- Public Presentation – Birds, Bees & Pornography: What you don't know but your kids do: A presentation for parents and care givers – May 2016
- Interagency Training on Domestic Violence and Filicide – Dr. Jaffe – June 2016
- Public Presentation by Dr. Jaffe – The Role of Neighbours, Friends, Family & Co-workers to Support Children Living with Family Violence – June 2016

- A Preference for Equality Workshop – September 2016
- Aboriginal Justice Forum – October 2016
- Impact of Family Violence on the Workplace – November 2016
- Family Mediation – February/March 2017
- Family Arbitration – March 2017
- How to Keep our Children Safe in a Wounding World – Public Information Session – March 2017
- Suicide to Hope: A Recovery and Growth Workshop – April 2017
- The Nuts and Bolts of Parenting Coordination – June 2017


### **Awareness Initiatives:**

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission Study Group – February – May 2016
- National Victims of Crime Awareness Week activities – April 2016
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – June 2016
- Child Advocate Interest Group
- Sisters in Spirit Vigil – October 2016
- Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence – December 2016
- Family Violence Prevention Week – February 2017
- Women in Canada: 50 Years of Change Study Group – March 2017
- International Women's Day – March 2017
- New and Not Improved: Frauds and Scams – March 2017

### **New Publications:**

- Do it Yourself Power of Attorney Kit
- Other Information Items:
- Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation Award presented to Julie Devon Dodd
- Free "Will Clinics" for low income individuals and families.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Chaisson, Q.C., Chair



Victim Services has provided a criminal justice system-based service to victims of crime province-wide since April, 1989. The system-based approach has the following key attributes:

- operates within the criminal justice system, but independently from the police, Crown attorneys, or the courts;
- is client-centred;
- maintains close working relationships with criminal justice personnel and community agencies;
- assists victims of crime at all stages of the criminal justice process;
- uses an outreach approach.

### ***Mandate***

Section 7 of the *Victims of Crime Act* states that the purpose of Victim Services is:

- a) to assist victims as needed throughout their contacts with the criminal justice system;
- b) to help victims to access other needed services;
- c) to receive applications for criminal injuries compensation and investigate claims on behalf of the Minister;
- d) to assist with the preparation and filing of victim impact statements;
- e) to assist justice personnel and community agencies in providing services to victims;
- f) to promote the Statement of Principles set out in section 2 of the *Act*.

### ***Mission Statement***

Victim Services provides a client-centred service for victims of crime, ensuring respect for their dignity and privacy. Victim Services assists clients throughout their involvement with the criminal justice process.

### ***Vision Statement***

Victims Services' vision is that:

- all victims of crime on Prince Edward Island who require assistance through the criminal justice process will be referred at the earliest opportunity to Victim Services; and
- the response of all criminal justice personnel will be guided by the Statement of Principles in the *Victims of Crime Act*.

### ***Goals***

Victim Services goals are:

- to provide prompt, effective assistance to victims of crime, especially victims of crimes against the person, but not excluding any victim who needs assistance through the criminal justice process;
- to tailor the assistance provided to meet the needs of the particular client;
- to provide services to any victim of crime requiring assistance, regardless of their geographic location on Prince Edward Island;
- to investigate criminal injuries compensation claims and complete the case analysis for each claim as quickly as possible;
- by working collaboratively with the police and Crown attorneys, to ensure that all victims of crimes in which charges are laid are informed of their right to prepare and file a victim impact statement;
- to ensure that victims understand the implications of preparing and filing a victim impact statement and do so voluntarily;
- to promote the use of the *Victims of Family Violence Act* in appropriate cases.

## ***Statistical Overview***

Assistance provided to victims of crime includes:

- information about case status, the criminal justice system, and court procedures;
- emotional support and short term counselling;
- referrals for legal, financial and long term counselling services;
- assistance through the court process and with preparation of victim impact statements;
- investigation of applications for criminal injuries compensations; and
- assistance under the *Victims of Family Violence Act*.

Victim Services cases are categorized in the following classifications: general, sexual abuse, female partner abuse, other family abuse, and commercial/business. The percentage breakdown of new cases by case classification in 2016-2017, and a comparison with previous years, are noted as follows:

### ***Victim Services New Cases***

<b>Type of Client</b>	<b>Per Cent Breakdown</b>		
	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
General*	46	41	44
Female Partner Abuse	28	30	31
Other Family Abuse	10	9	10
Sexual Abuse	7	12	9
Commercial/Business	9	8	6

\* *General includes break and enter, damage to property, theft, general assaults, impaired driving causing injury or death, etc.*

The following table illustrates the total and percentage of each type of case opened in 2016-2017. The table also indicates the police agency involved with each case.

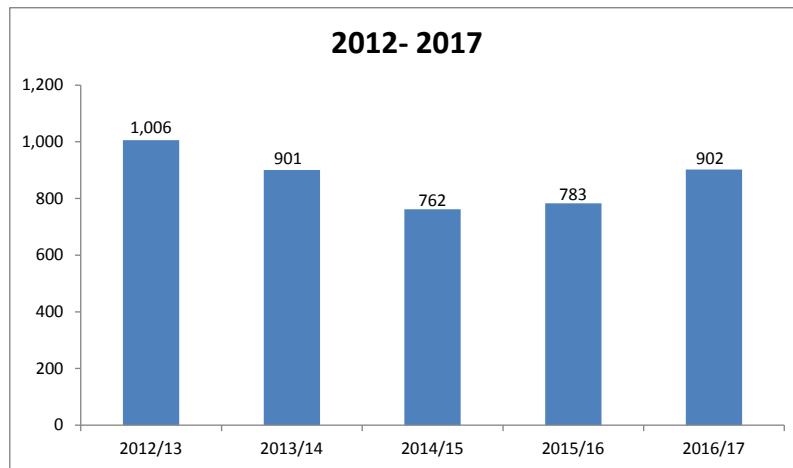
**Table I**

**Victim Case Classification: New Cases  
2016-2017**

<b>Police Jurisdiction</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Sexual Abuse</b>	<b>Female Partner Abuse</b>	<b>Other Family Abuse</b>	<b>Commercial/ Business</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
West Prince RCMP	19	5	21	6	0	51
East Prince RCMP	18	6	24	12	1	61
Summerside PD	42	16	58	13	3	132
Kensington PD	2	1	3	1	0	7
Charlottetown PD	160	20	81	11	43	315
Queens District RCMP	90	16	50	34	0	190
Montague RCMP	39	11	27	7	4	88
Souris RCMP	15	5	11	4	0	35
Out of Province/ or Not Specified	7	5	9	2	0	23
<b>Totals</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>902</b>
<b>Percentile</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>

## ***Caseload Trends***

There were 902 new cases referred to Victim Services in 2016-2017, in addition to approximately 622 cases carried forward from the previous year. As of March 31, 2017, there were 800 active cases across the province. The average monthly caseload in 2016-2017 was 695 cases. The trends since 2012 are illustrated in the graph below:



**Figure 1**

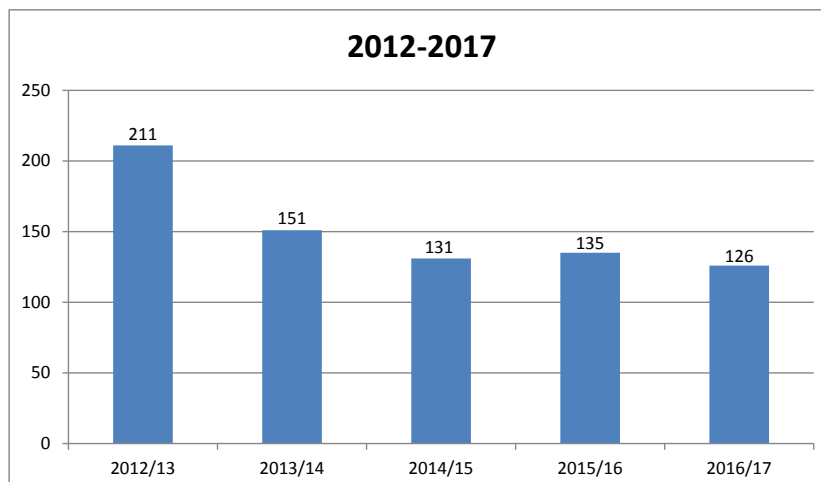
## ***Rate of Reported Crime***

Prince Edward Island registered the lowest Crime Severity Index in Canada for 2016. The province's Crime Severity Index has decreased for the fourth year in a row, down by 2.7% from the previous year. This index measures the volume and severity of police reported crime.

## ***Victim and Community Impact Statements***

Victim Services is designated by Lieutenant Governor in Council as the program responsible for preparing and filing victim and community impact statements. Impact statements outline the physical, emotional, and financial effects of the crime on the victim. After determination of guilt, the judge considers the impact statement as one of the factors in determining the sentence.

In 2016-2017, there were 126 victim impact statements prepared and filed with the court. The trends since 2012 are illustrated in the graph below:



## ***Offence Type and Offender Information***

The most frequent types of crime for Victim Services cases in 2016-2017 were:

- assault (37 percent)
- sexual assault (8 percent)
- theft (8 percent)
- uttering threats (7 percent)

Of the total new referrals to Victim Services in 2016-2017, there was a family type relationship between the victim and the suspect or offender in 249 cases (29%). In 275 cases (32%), the suspect or offender was a male partner or ex-partner (either current or former husband, common-law husband, or boyfriend). In 31 cases (4%), the suspect or offender was a female partner or ex-partner (either current or former wife, common-law wife, or girlfriend).

The proportion of Victim Services clients victimized by adult offenders compared with young offenders has been consistent over the years. In the new cases where an offender was identified, 95% percent of the offenders were adults and 5% percent were youth.

## ***Age Range and Gender of Victims***

Age ranges of Victim Services' new clients were as follows:

under 12 years	2%
12 - 17 years	9%
18 - 40 years	44%
41 - 60 years	21%
61 years and over	7%
unknown/not recorded	17%

Seventy-two percent of Victim Service's new clients were female, and 28 percent were male.

## ***Criminal Injuries Compensation***

Under the *Victims of Crime Act*, Victim Services is responsible for investigating claims for criminal injuries compensation. Victim Services staff also assist victims with preparing their applications and gathering information to support their

claims. Victim Services staff prepare a case analysis regarding each claim.

Designated persons within the Legal Services Section of the Department of Justice and Public Safety are responsible for adjudicating claims and writing a report, including recommendations to the Minister who makes decisions regarding claims.

During the fiscal year 2016-2017, 34 new applications for criminal injuries compensation were filed, and 71 applications were carried over from the previous year. Thirty-eight files were finalized and five interim decisions were made in 2016-2017. A total of \$105,028.00 was awarded in criminal injuries compensation.

Further information and statistics regarding criminal injuries compensation are contained in Part IV of the Annual Report.

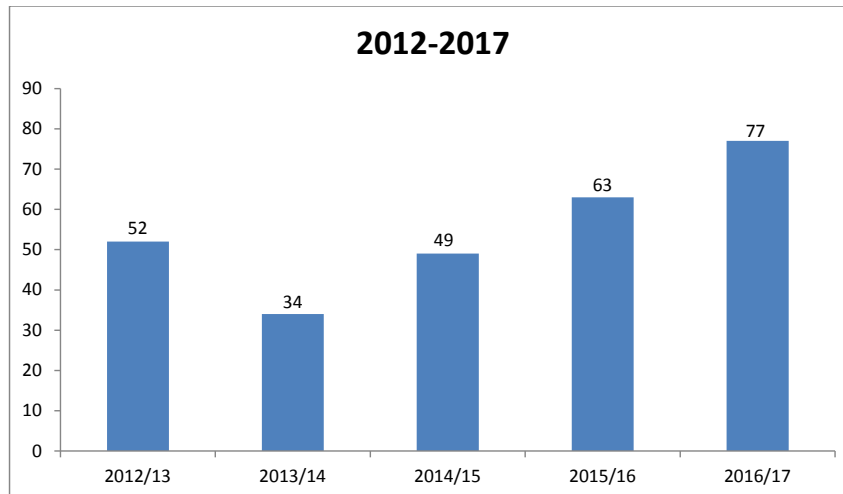
## ***Victims of Family Violence Act***

The *Victims of Family Violence Act* came into effect in December 1996. This provincial law addresses the need for victims to stay in their own homes, provides an additional remedy to supplement the Criminal Code, and enables the justice system to provide a more effective and timely response. Under this act, Emergency Protection Orders are available 24 hours/day from designated justices of the peace. In non-emergency situations longer-term Victim Assistance Orders are available by application to the Supreme Court.

Victim Services staff assist with training and ongoing monitoring and promotion of the use of the *Victims of Family Violence Act*. Police officers and victim services workers are designated under the Act to make application for emergency protection orders.

In 2016-2017, there were 77 applications for Emergency Protection Orders under the *Victims of Family Violence Act*. Orders ranged from 16 days to 90 days in duration, with an average length of 65 days. There were 6 applications for Victim Assistance Orders.

Since the proclamation of the Act in December 1996, there have been a total of 906 Emergency Protection Orders granted. The trends since 2012 are illustrated in the graph below:



A Steering Committee continues to meet on a regular basis to assist in monitoring and training related to the Act. In partnership with the PEI Association of Chiefs of Police, the Steering Committee has continued to offer annual police training to implement a standardized response to reported incidents of domestic violence, and to enhance knowledge about risk factors and available options to protect victims.

### ***Victim Services Program Highlights***

- Through the Justice Canada Victims Fund, Victim Services was able to secure renewed funding in support of services for victims of crime in PEI. The Province entered into a Project Funding Agreement with the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada for the period April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2021 to provide up to 1.9 million in federal funding. This funding will help offset the costs of three existing Victim Services Workers, and provide funding for specialized training initiatives and information materials.
- All Victim Services Workers completed training to become certified in the SARA – Version 3, a spousal assault risk assessment and management tool.
- In collaboration with partners, assistance was provided in the development of a new provincial government handbook “*Guidelines for Addressing Family Violence and the Workplace*”.
- Victim Services is fully participating in the Bridge Model of Intervention to foster collaborative responses for individuals and families experiencing acutely elevated risk.

## **Priorities for 2017-2018**

In collaboration with government and community partners, the priorities for the 2017-2018 fiscal year include initiatives in the following areas:

- Establish a PEI Family Information Liaison Unit to provide support for families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls;
- Participate in efforts to improve access to justice for victims of sexual assault;
- Assist in the development of a provincial framework: "Strategies for Addressing Child Sexual Abuse in Prince Edward Island";
- Coordinate training to increase service provider understanding of complex trauma in the context of sexual violence and domestic violence.

## **Education and Training**

Victim Services staff participated in various education and training initiatives including:

- Bridge Model of Collaborative Intervention training
- Spousal Assault Risk Assessment and Management Training – SARA – Version 3
- Emerging and Contemporary Issues in Responding to and Preventing Sexual Violence
- Knowledge Exchange 2017: *"The Criminal Justice System's Response to Sexual Assault Against Adults"*
- Webinar: Sexual Violence on Campus: Strategies for Prevention
- Interagency Training on Domestic Violence and Filicide – Dr. Peter Jaffe
- Public Presentation by Dr. Jaffe – The Role of Neighbours, Friends, Family & Co-workers to Support Children Living with Family Violence
- Impact of Family Violence on the Workplace
- Vicarious Trauma and Compassion Fatigue
- The Biology of Loss: What Happens When Attachments are Impaired and How to Foster Resilience
- Strategies to Keep Helping Professionals Grounded and Centered
- Working with Troubled Youth
- Aboriginal Justice Forum – The Outside Circle
- Sisters in Spirit Vigil
- Suicide Prevention Training

- Addictions Awareness
- Mental Health First Aid
- Ethical Decision Making
- Divisional Leadership Development Program
- Divisional LGBTQ training
- Victims of Crime Awareness Week Symposium

## **Public Education**

Victim Services staff participate in opportunities to promote awareness and understanding of issues related to crime, victimization, victims' rights and available services. Presentations during the fiscal year 2016-2017 included:

- Police Response to Family Violence training
- Public Service Commission Training Sessions on Family Violence Education
- Community engagement activities in Indigenous communities
- Seniors College – Understanding the Criminal Justice System
- Public Discussion: What's in Your Drink
- Trade HERizons Program
- Prince District RCMP Meeting

## **Staffing**

Victim Services Offices are located in Charlottetown and Summerside.

Personnel as of March 31, 2017 include:

Provincial Manager	Susan Maynard
Victim Services Workers	Darlene Oatway Paula Finkle Joy Coffin Linda MacAulay Kellie MacQueen Carolyn Peters Georgina Bowness
Admin Support	Pam Sellick Tabatha Milligan

### ***Committee Participation***

An important aspect of the work of Victim Services involves maintaining cooperative working relationships with other criminal justice and community agencies to coordinate case management and to effect positive long term change for victims of crime. Staff participated in committees at various levels involving national, provincial, regional, divisional and community initiatives.

At the Federal/Provincial/Territorial level, the Provincial Manager participated on:

- FPT Victim of Crime Working Group
- FPT Ad Hoc Working Group on Family Violence
- FPT Working Group on Underage and Forced Marriage, "Honour" Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
- CCSO Working Group on Access to Justice for Adult Victims of Sexual Assault

Victim Services is represented on community and criminal justice based committees involving work in the area of family violence, sexual abuse, cultural and societal issues. These committees include:

- Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention
- Steering Committee – *Victims of Family Violence Act*
- Provincial Child Sexual Abuse Advisory Committee
- High Risk Offender Committee
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Committee
- Planning Committee for Aboriginal Justice Forum
- Justice Options for Women
- Bridge Situation Table

As part of the Community and Correctional Services Division, Victim Services staff were involved in a number of Departmental and Divisional initiatives including:

- Divisional Wellness Committee
- Occupational Health and Safety Committee
- Court Complex Security Committee



### Introduction

Criminal injuries compensation is the payment of money from public funds to compensate victims of crime for pain and suffering and expenses resulting from injury or death caused by certain crimes. Criminal injuries compensation is a fund of last resort, such that other means of compensation or reimbursement are to be sought first.

Authority for Prince Edward Island's Criminal Injuries Compensation Program is contained in Part IV of the *Victims of Crime Act*, which as proclaimed in force September 30, 1989. Amendments to Part IV which came into effect August 7, 1999 were designed to further simplify and speed up the process for assessing compensation claims.

The *Victims of Crime Act* is not retroactive; criminal injuries compensation can only be awarded in respect of any injury or death resulting from a crime that occurred after September 30, 1989.

### Values

Criminal injuries compensation is one means to take action on principle (b) from the Statement of Principles in the *Victims of Crime Act*, which states "victims should receive prompt and fair financial redress for the harm they have suffered."

### Summary of the Legislation

In general, a claim for criminal injuries compensation may arise in the event of injury or death by an act that occurred in Prince Edward Island, and that injury or death must have directly resulted from the commission of a criminal offence prescribed in the regulations under the *Victims of Crime Act*. The applicant need not be a resident of Prince Edward Island.

The term "injury" is specifically defined in the *Victims of Crime Act* to mean actual bodily harm, including emotional trauma or pregnancy resulting from sexual assault, and mental or nervous shock. If a person suffers only property damage or loss as a result of a prescribed crime, he or she is not eligible for criminal injuries compensation. It is not necessary that anyone be prosecuted or convicted for the crime, but an award may be delayed pending the outcome of the criminal process. A determination of guilt is conclusive evidence that an offence has been committed.

### **Eligible Applicants**

The Minister may order criminal injuries compensation

1. to or for the benefit of the victim;
2. to any person, in respect of financial loss suffered by or expenses incurred by that person as the result of the death or injury of the victim;
3. to any one or more of the dependants of the victim.

### **Compensable Losses**

Compensable losses include:

1. reasonable expenses incurred or likely to be incurred as a result of the victim's injury or death;
2. financial losses resulting from total, partial or temporary disability affecting the victim's capacity for work;
3. financial loss to dependents resulting from the victim's death;
4. pain and suffering;
5. maintenance of a child born as result of sexual assault;
6. financial loss incurred in respect of grief or sorrow as a result of the victim's death; and
7. other financial loss resulting from the victim's injury, and any other expense that, in the opinion of the minister or, in the case of a small claim, in the opinion of a designated person, it was reasonable to incur.

### **Maximum Award**

The maximum amount payable to **all applicants** in respect of the injury of death of **one victim** is \$15,000. The maximum amount payable to **all applicants** in respect of **one occurrence** (that is, one incident resulting in injury of death to more than one victim) is \$30,000. The award cannot exceed these limits.

### **Value of Applications**

During the fiscal year 2016-2017, 34 new applications for criminal injuries compensation were filed, and 71 applications were carried over from the previous year. Thirty-eight were finalized and five interim decisions were made in 2016-2017. A total of \$105,028 was awarded in criminal injuries compensation.

The following statistical tables summarize the criminal injuries compensation program during 2016-2017:

<b>Table II Applications – Statistical Summary April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017</b>	
New applications filed	34
Applications carried over from last year	71
Variation applications	0
Appeals	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Decisions made:</b>	
award denied	0
full award granted	38
interim award	5
reduced award	0
variation	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>
Withdrawn applications	1
Files closed (final awards)	39
Files carried forward to next fiscal year	61

<b>Table III</b> <b>Categories of Victims</b> <b>(Based on Final and Interim Awards)</b> <b>April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017</b>	
<b>Types of Victims</b>	<b>Number</b>
General	21
Other family abuse	2
Sexual abuse	17
Female partner abuse	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>

<b>Table IV</b> <b>Crimes Involved in Final Awards Granted</b> <b>April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017</b>	
<b>Criminal Code Section</b>	<b>Number of Awards</b>
151 (sexual interference)	4
152 (invitation to sexual touching)	2
153 (sexual exploitation)	1
172 (child luring)	1
221 (criminal negligence causing bodily harm)	1
264 (criminal harassment)	1
266 (assault)	8
267 (assault with weapon/causing bodily harm)	9
268 (aggravated assault)	2
269 (unlawfully causing bodily harm)	2
271 (sexual assault)	5
279 (forcible confinement)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>

<b>Table V</b> <b>Compensation Ordered*</b> <b>April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017</b>	
Pain and suffering	\$81,720
Expenses	\$23,308
<b>Total Awarded</b>	<b>\$105,028</b>
*Note: Compensation ordered in one fiscal year may be paid out in a different fiscal year (e.g., for dental expenses).	

<b>Table VII</b> <b>Age and Gender of Victims</b> <b>(Based on Final and Interim Awards)</b> <b>April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017</b>	
<b>Age</b>	<b>No. of Victims</b>
under 10	8
11-20	14
21-30	7
31-40	4
41-50	8
51-60	1
61-70	1
71 +	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Gender</b>	
Female	27
Male	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>

## Part V

# Victim Assistance Fund

## Victim Services Summary of Revenue and Expenditures

	Budget Amount	Actual Year Ended March 31, 2017	Projects
<b>Revenue</b>			
Victim Surcharge			
- federal offences	80,000	84,970	
- provincial offences	175,000	162,965	
Donations/honorarium	0	0	
Restitution/civil suit reimbursement	0	1,536	
Victims of Crime Fund (Justice Canada)	297,000	293,731	293,731*
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>552,000</b>	<b>543,202</b>	<b>293,731</b>
Minus Project Revenue		293,731	
		<b>249,471</b>	

**Note:**

\* Revenue was received from the Victims of Crime Fund, Justice Canada, in the amount of \$293,731 for training initiatives and three staff positions:  
 Victim Services Worker – Queens County  
 Victim Services Worker – Western Region  
 Victim Services Worker – Eastern Region

## Victim Services Summary of Revenue and Expenditures

	Budget Amount	Actual Year Ended March 31, 2017	Projects
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Administration	12,400	10,348	4,241
Equipment	2,500	3,828	564
Materials/supplies	4,500	5,359	0
Professional/Contract Services	5,010	18,310	25,490
Salaries/benefits	784,600	725,892	253,845
Travel and training	28,000	26,245	9,591
Criminal Injuries Compensation	100,000	100,197	0
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>911,100</b>	<b>890,179</b>	<b>293,731</b>
Minus Project Expenditures		<u>293,731</u>	
		<b>596,448</b>	

**Note:**

Project expenditures were for Victim Services projects listed above.

**Accounting Procedures:**

All revenues and expenditures related to Victim Services are recorded in the accounts of the Province and included in the Public Accounts.





2017

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