



**VICTIMS OF CRIME COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR 2013**

Submitted: August 16, 2013



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Committee progress continues its positive momentum since inception 15 months ago (May 2012).

Since the date of the last annual report, September 3, 2012, the Committee has continued to make significant progress. The Committee's focus for 2012 was to formalize committee structure. This included the careful recruitment and selection of key members to the Committee. The Committee also worked to meet with victim services agencies and providers at all levels of government and policing to create meaningful objectives.

The most significant accomplishment of the Committee highlighted in this report, was completed on the date of this document (August 16, 2013). The Committee finalized a formal submission to the Federal Government for input regarding the creation of the new federal *Victims Bill of Rights*. This report, included within the *Appendices*, will provide a voice from the policing community and will represent the Committee's response on issues relating to victims across Canada.

Other accomplishments detailed in this report include:

- Completion of the Committee's mission statement and goals at November 21, 2012 meeting.
- Trial software evaluation for a secure, Sharepoint-based web portal and further technological advances, from January 2013 – June 2013.
- Attendance at the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime's first annual forum, entitled *Moving the Conversation Forward* in Ottawa, ON, on April 18 - 19, 2013.
- Attendance at the 2013 National Victims of Crime Awareness Week Symposium, *We All Have a Role*, in Gatineau, QC, on April 22, 2013.
- Committee Meeting with a national victim service provider, members of Government of Canada, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, on April 23, 2013.
- Committee representation to the Alberta Police-Based Victim Services Association by Co-Chair Trevor Daroux, on May 2, 2013.
- Official letter completed, endorsing a national, web-based portal for victims' information (July 2013).
- Official letter in support of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's (HRSDC) new grant, *Federal Income Support for Parents of Murdered or Missing Children* (currently in its final stages).
- Survey of member agencies victim services coordinators and managers regarding victims services and input into a federal Victims Bill of Rights (June/July 2013).
- Provincial, territorial and federal legislative scan relating to police and victims rights (July 2013).
- Research papers solicited and completed as related to policing and victims of crime, and police-based victim services (June/July 2013).
- Conference calls (3) to discuss a Committee Response to the Department of Justice Canada on the development of a Victims Bill of Rights (June 25, 2013, August 13, 2013 and August 16, 2013).



MISSION STATEMENT & GOALS

At the second meeting in November 2012, the Committee approved their final mission statement, and identified formal goals.

The Committee's mission statement is:

To enhance the Canadian police community's capacity to respond effectively to the needs of victims of crime.

The Goals of the Committee are:

1. To enable dialogue, problem solving and innovation across Canada to address victims.
2. To gather and promote effective practices.
3. To focus national attention on the needs of victims.
4. To promote systemic response to victims.
5. To advocate for legislative changes to address the needs of victims.



6.

MEMBERSHIP

As at August 16, 2013, membership to the CACP Victims of Crime Committee is as follows:

Eric Jolliffe (<i>Co-Chair</i>).....	Chief, York Regional Police
Trevor Daroux (<i>Co-Chair</i>).....	Deputy Chief, Calgary Police Service
Jill Skinner (<i>Secretary</i>).....	Deputy Chief, Ottawa Police Service
Jim Almas.....	Deputy Chief Constable, West Vancouver Police Department
Pam Arnott (<i>Technical Advisor</i>).....	Director, Policy Centre for Victims Issues
Bev Arseneault (<i>Technical Advisor</i>).....	A/Ass't Commissioner, Correctional Service Canada
Lindsey Brine.....	Chief Superintendent – “V” Division, RCMP
Harvey Cenaiko (<i>Technical Advisor</i>).....	Chairperson, Parole Board of Canada
Robyn MacEachern (for Insp. Leslie Craig).....	Inspector, Ontario Provincial Police
Dominique Lafrenière.....	captain, Sûreté du Québec
Derren Lench.....	Chief Superintendent – “E” Divison, RCMP
Garry Meads.....	Superintendent, Edmonton Police Service
Tom Russell.....	A/Staff Superintendent, Toronto Police Service
Brent Schmidt.....	Superintendent, Regina Police Service
John Syrette.....	Chief, Anishabek Police Service
Paul Smith.....	Chief, Charlottetown Police Services
Natalie Robson (<i>Administrative Support</i>).....	Calgary Police Service

The Co-Chairs would like to thank and acknowledge Assistant Commissioner Janice Armstrong, RCMP; insp. chef, Commandant Jocelyn Latulippe, Sûreté du Québec; Chief (former) Stan Grier, Tsuu T’ina Nation Police Service and Inspector Lori Lynne Colbourne, RCMP who due to position changes, are no longer members of this Committee but provided valuable insights during the past year.

Over the past year the Committee welcomed A/Assistant Commissioner Bev Arseneault; Chief Superintendents Lindsey Brine and Derren Lench; Deputy Chief Jim Almas; and Chief John Syrette. These additions filled the gap in membership providing policing representation within the territories; aboriginal policing; and municipal police service from the west coast.



MEETINGS

Since the date of the last annual report of September 2012, the Committee has met on the following dates:

1. November 20 - 21, 2013 in Richmond, B.C.
Attendance at the funeral of Cst Oliver in Langley, B.C on November 20;
2. April 18 – 19, 2013 in Ottawa, Ontario
Attendance at the Federal Ombudsman of Victims of Crime's forum entitled *Moving the Conversation Forward*;
3. April 23 & 24, 2013 in Ottawa, Ontario;
Committee attended the *National Victims of Crime Awareness Week Symposium*, on April 23;
4. Conference Call No. 1, on June 25, 2013.
5. Conference Call No 2, on August 13, 2013.
6. Conferene Call No. 3, on August 16, 2013.

Attendance at all meetings is well above majority, with all Committee members showing their dedication to the mission of the VOCC through active participation. Comprehensive minutes for each meeting are included in the Appendices portion of this report.

Additionally, as part of the CACP's Victims of Crime Committee, many members were selected to participate in private sessions with Federal Justice Minister Peter MacKay as he conducted consultations across Canada on key priorities for the creation of a federal *Victims Bill of Rights*. These meetings were held in July and August 2013. At these round-table discussions, members were able to gain valuable insights from victims of crime, service providers and government. Their experiences were delivered to the VOCC and helped inform the priority task of the Committee, a formal submission to the Department of Justice Canada on the development of a *Victims Bill of Rights*.

Five members of Committee will be attending the Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, August 17 – 21. Although not formally meeting as a group, these members will attend with the intention to further the goals of the VOCC. In particular, to inform/update on the proposed *Victims Bill of Rights*.

The Committee plans to meet in person, in Banff, on Saturday, October 26 & Sunday, October 27. This event will include a full-day conference attendance at the Southern Alberta Police-Based Victims Services Conference (October 26), and a half-day committee meeting (October 27). The Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime, Sue O'Sullivan, will be attending the meeting with Committee to review goals, objectives and next steps regarding victims' rights in Canada. Additionally, Committee will meet with police-based victim service providers at a municipal, provincial and national level.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Substantial strides have been made to further the Committee's goals during the past year.

1. **Response to the Government of Canada on the Development of a *Victims Bill of Rights***

The most significant accomplishment of the Committee to-date is the work completed and currently in progress, to provide a response to the Department of Justice Canada on the Development of a *Victims Bill of Rights*. The CACP received notification of the Government of Canada's invitation for stakeholders to inform the development of a *Victims Bill of Rights*, in May 2013. The Committee held a special conference call to discuss the legislation, in June 2013, during which the membership unanimously agreed that in order to provide the most relevant and focused response to the Government of Canada those who work closest with victims within police agencies needed to be consulted.

In June 2013, the Committee called for input from its member agencies' victim services coordinators, or other representatives, for input on a *Victims Bill of Rights* from a Canadian policing perspective. A thorough review of legislation was also conducted whereby provincial police acts were compared against each other to determine gaps and how the proposed *Victims Bill of Rights* may affect them. Provincial, territorial and federal legislation relating to victims rights acts was studied in order to respond effectively. Research papers were completed in regards to these areas.

A significant amount of effort and hundreds of hours of work went to the completion of this task, to date. This project sought the input from over forty policing professionals from all levels of policing and regions of Canada.

A master document, combining all the information received and developed was created. This initial document amounted to well over a hundred pages. All Committee members were actively engaged in reviewing the data and providing further comments and thoughts for consideration. After various drafts, three conference calls, and other fruitful discussions, a final submission was created on August 16, 2013 (the date of this document). The final document provides a voice from the policing community and represent the Committee's position relating to victims rights.

The final submission is included in the *Appendices*, for presentation to the CACP for endorsement and support. The Committee looks to submitting the response to the Department of Justice Canada, by the deadline of September 3, 2013.

This Accomplishment served to further the following Committee all of the Committee's goals, in particular, *to advocate for legislative changes to address the needs of victims*.

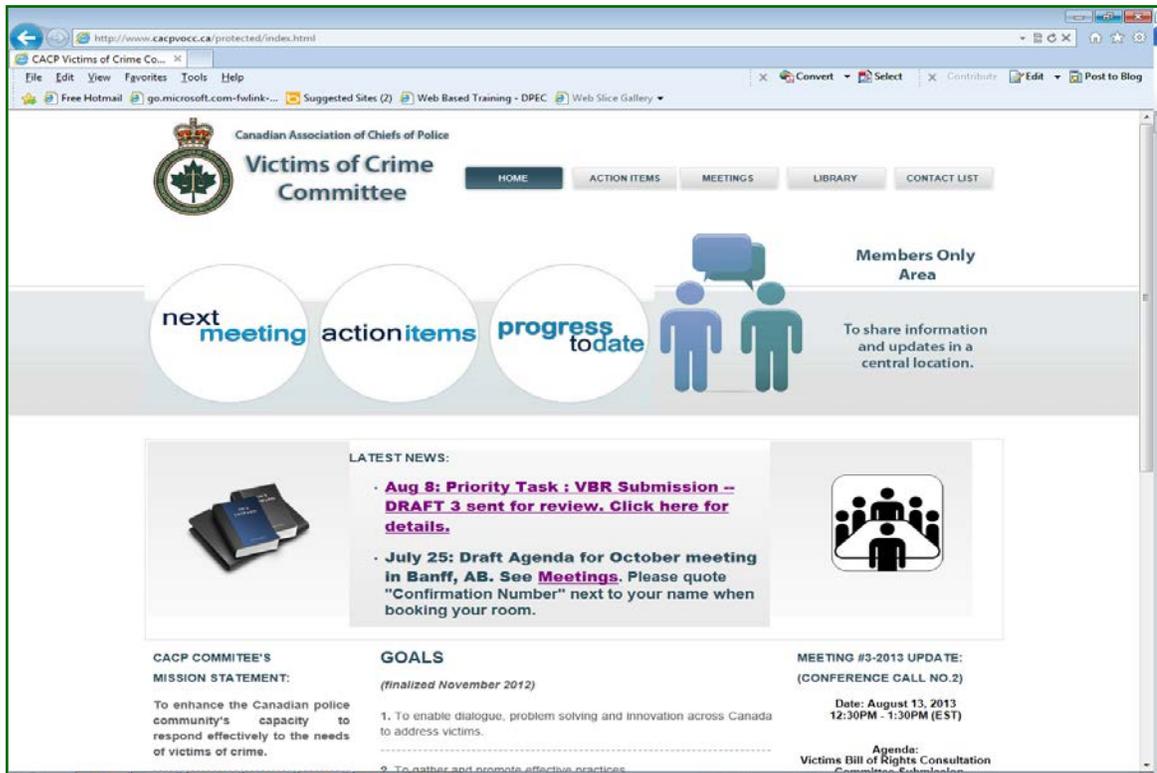


2. Committee Website

The Committee created a secure, web-based portal to centralize information as a key accomplishment identified in last year's report. In November 2012, members indicated they would appreciate the ability to hold discussions outside of email through a centralized forum and to manage document libraries online. Knowing the CACP is working towards updating their site, the Committee did a scan for cost-effective solutions that would meet a temporary need.

After assessing various vendors who met both security and functional requirements, AIS Networks was selected for a trial evaluation and a Sharepoint-based website was created in January 2013. The members tested the new system from January to April 2013. At the Committee meeting on April 23, 2013, concerns were brought up regarding ease of use, basic training and potential liabilities of having open discussion forums, although protected. The Committee further researched policies existing within member agencies, and evaluated the significance of the concerns. In May 2013, the Committee reverted to the previous method, of having approved content posted (rather than allowing for real-time, open discussions) through an HTML-based website. This solution is the most cost-effective, with no fiscal implications outside of basic domain and hosting fees annually. It also meets the privacy concerns brought forward by members. The website is updated regularly by the Committee's Administrative Support member.

Image 1: Screenshot of Homepage (Accessed August 14, 2013)





CACP – VICTIMS OF CRIME COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR 2013

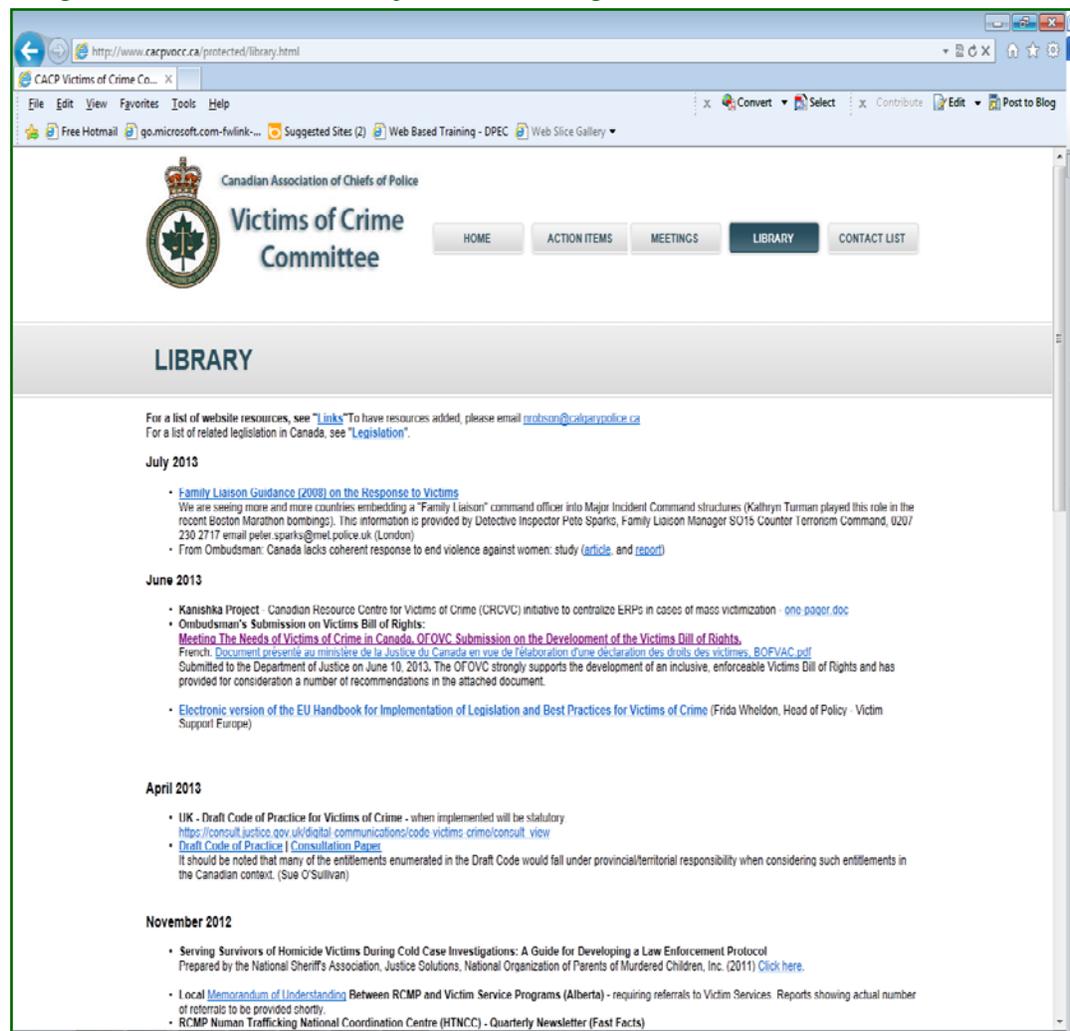
2.1 Committee Documents

The website contains an archive of Committee meeting minutes, agenda and current contact information. It also informs of updates to upcoming meetings, and any other relevant news relating to the Committee, CACP or victims issues.

2.2 Committee Library

The members of the Committee, in particular, the Co-Chairs, receive dozens of publications regarding victims of crime every month. In order to provide relevant information to members and for reference, items of notable interest are posted on the Committee's online library.

Image 2: Screenshot of Library (Accessed August 14, 2013)





2.3 Project Management

A new initiative over the past year was the Committee's use of the website to manage and prioritize action items and major tasks. An example of this is shown through the steps involved for the Committee to deliver a formal submission to the Department of Justice Canada on the development of a *Victims Bill of Rights*. The process was quite involved and the website provided an area to track progress, updates and information. It has been accessed almost *daily* over the last few months, by members seeking to complete Committee business.

Image 3: Screenshot of Project Management Section (Accessed August 14, 2013)

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the CACP Victims of Crime Committee website. The page title is "CONSULTATION ON VICTIMS BILL OF RIGHTS". The navigation menu includes HOME, ACTION ITEMS, MEETINGS, LIBRARY, and CONTACT LIST. The main content area is titled "2. Consultation on Victims Bill of Rights / Consultation sur une Déclaration des droits des victimes".

Timeline:

- July 25, 2013: DRAFT 1 - Emailed to All for Comment. Additionally to Tim Smith, Government Relations (CACPV) - References to DATA TABLES Below, which will be included as Appendices.
- August 2, 2013: Deadline for Aboriginal Policing Input
- August 5, 2013: DRAFT 2 - Send for review to CPS members.
- August 8, 2013: DRAFT 3 - Send for review to Committee with specific areas highlighted.
- August 13, 2013: CONFERENCE CALL to finalize.
- August 13, 2013: Covering letter from CACP finalized.
- August 17, 2013: Presented at CACP meeting (TBD)?

SUBMISSIONS

- Edmonton Police Service - Victim Services Coordinator (Received)
- Parole Board of Canada - Suggestions for Consideration (Received - see chart below)
- Regina Police Service - Victim Services Manager (Received)
- Sûreté du Québec - Questionnaire Submission (Received)
- Correctional Service - no comment at this time. (Received)
- York Regional Police - Victim Services (Received)
- C/Supt Derran Lench, on behalf of himself and C/Supt Lindsey Birne, has forwarded this request to all RCMP Divisions. Below are the following responses:
 - (a) "R" Division - Newfoundland and Labrador (Received)
 - (b) "S" Division - New Brunswick (Received)
 - (c) "K" Division - Alberta - Submission & Comparison Chart of VSIU Access to Information Across Alberta Police (Received)
 - (d) "O" Division - Ontario (Received)
 - (e) "Q" Division - Quebec (Received) RCMP is not the police of jurisdiction in the province and does not have a Victim Services program. Thus no coordinator. The program at this stage is administered under a provincial program to which we do not participate. From a federal division perspective, there is very little that we can offer. As a result, we could not fully participate in this survey.
 - (f) "H" Division - Nova Scotia (Received)
 - (g) "I" Division - PEI (Received)
 - (h) "D" Division - Manitoba (Received)
 - (i) "E" Division - Saskatchewan (Received)
 - (j) "G" Division - Northwest Territories (No Response)
 - (k) "V" Division - Nunavut Territory - in contact with Garfield Elliott, he is waiting on Crown input, and will advise by July 17.
 - (l) "J" Division - British Columbia (Received)
 - (m) "M" Division - Yukon Territory (Received)
- Toronto Police Service - Robbie McMurrich (Received)
- Ontario Provincial Police - Shelley Larowski (Received)
- Charlottetown Police Services (Received)
- West Vancouver Police Department - Submission & Comments on Ombudsman's Recommendations from WVP Victim Services Unit (Received)
- Ottawa Police Service (Received)
- Anishnabek Police Service (Pending) (deadline extended to July 26)
- Calgary Police Service (Received)

RECEIVED FROM	SUMMARY/ATTACHMENT
Dominique LAFRENIERE (June 25, 2013)	<p>in response to the Ombudsman's submission: I agree with the majority of the recommendation because they are reasonable but I think some do not consider that the administration of justice is provinces and territories responsibilities.</p> <p>P-20 "Victims shall be given the right to a speedy trial and a prompt and final conclusion of the case" I think this recommendation is unrealistic because the administration of justice is the provinces and territories responsibility.</p> <p>P-22 "Victims with standing shall have access to legal representation to enforce their rights and resources shall be specifically allocated to ensure the availability of this access" Since the administration of justice is a responsibility of the provinces and territories who will pay the lawyer?</p> <p>P-10 "Victims shall be provided, at the first of contact with police, with information about their rights" At the S-Q all police events reports are sent to CAVAC's office so quickly, the victims is contacted by an intervenant. Also, we are working on our website to make available the documentation needed to support VAC.</p> <p>P-18 "Victims shall have the right to an individual assessment to determine their protection..." Two questions: Who will evaluate the protection needs? Who will choose the protection measures?</p> <p>P-19 "Victims shall have the right to reasonably confer with the Crown regarding any predisposition of their case..." Even the police services are not always consulted by the crown!</p> <p>P-19 "Victims shall be given the opportunity to provide input with respect to the case before proceeding" I think the majority of victims do not know jurisprudence, in my opinion unnecessarily prolong the judicial process.</p> <p>Further to this week's conference call, the Parole Board's Manager of the Victims Section, sends the following: The Working Group may want to request that Pam Annett from the Policy Centre for Victims Issues at the Department</p>



3. Attendance at the Federal Ombudsman for Victim's of Crime Forum, *Moving the Conversation Forward*, on April 18 & 19 in Ottawa, Ontario

Eight (8) Committee members attended the Federal Ombudsman's forum which brought together victims, victim serving agencies and other stakeholders with diverse perspectives to explore the overarching question 'what could our country become that would reflect our greatest hopes for the future of victims of crime?'

This private forum allowed the Committee to introduce itself to interested parties. The response was both positive and overwhelming. Many new contacts and relationships were formed, with likeminded individuals looking to further rights and protection of victims. It was a highly participatory event, allowing for valuable understandings from a victims perspective. In return, the Committee was able to provide insights to the Ombudsman's office from a policing perspective.

4. Attendance at the National Victims of Crime Awareness Week Launch and Symposium, *We All Have A Role*, on April 22 in Gatineau, Québec

Fifteen (15) Committee members attended the *National Victims of Crime Awareness Week* launch, which included a national symposium. This event brought together government, law enforcement, victims, their families, victim service providers to share experiences and best practices. This was the first public event attended by Committee since formalizing its structure. In conjunction with the Ombudsman's Forum, these events served to reaffirm the Committee's mission and dedication to victims of crime.

5. Meetings with Key Stakeholders

Over the past year, the Committee has continued with its commitment to meet with government, victims, victim service providers and other key stakeholders. The Committee invited Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's representatives to present on the *Federal Income Support for Parents of Murdered or Missing Children* (April 2013). With government members as technical advisors on Committee, the Committee is continually updated on the work of the Department of Justice, Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) and Parole Board of Canada (PBC). Both the Chairperson of the PBC, and the A/Assistant Commissioner of the CSC were recruited as Technical Advisors since the date of the last annual report.

Additionally, meetings were held with the Director of the provincial organization *Ending Violence Association of BC* (November 2012); the President of the national organization *Canadian Parents of Murdered Children* (April 2012), and the Program Director for the *United States Federal Bureau of Investigation's Victim Services Unit*. These interactions allow the Committee to be better informed to address victims issues.

In May 2013, Co-Chair Trevor Daroux attended a special meeting of the Alberta Police-Based Victim Services Coordinators, along with Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime Sue O'Sullivan, to discuss issues relating to police-based victim services.



6. Letter of Endorsement for a Centralized Web-Based Application

During participation within the Ombudsman's Forum and the National Victims of Crime Awareness Week Symposium, Committee members heard many victims and victim service providers speak about their experience with the justice system. Two themes were highlighted throughout both events, namely the lack of information available for victims and the difficulty victims have in navigating the systems that provide service to them. In response, the Committee, with the support of Correctional Service of Canada, and Parole Board of Canada, created a letter endorsing the request for a centralized website with intuitive features to guide a victim to appropriate resources and help them understand the processes and services.

7. Letter of Support for the *Federal Income Support Program for Parents of Missing or Murdered Children*

In April 2013 the Committee met with representatives from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. At this meeting, they requested Committee support for the new program providing financial assistance to parents of missing and murdered children in Canada. The Committee is currently working to providing this support, through a letter currently in development, to all police chiefs, informing them on the new program and the processes involved.



CONCLUSION

The Co-Chairs would like to extend gratitude to the CACP for recognizing the need for our vital committee. The establishment of the Victims of Crime Committee by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACPV) clearly demonstrates a solid, national policing commitment to ensure the rights and protection of victims. The timely formation of this Committee has already been evident and will be prominent over the next year, as the development of a federal Victim's Bill of Rights continues.

The goals for the next year include:

- Further input into the development of a *Victims Bill of Rights*;
- Formal dissemination of information to police chiefs regarding victims rights;
- Further representation and information gathering within victim services;
- Further development of a Victim Service Award.

The support from the CACP is critical as we move to make advances in improving police services and service to communities.

The CACP National Office is welcome to review the Committee's progress, including past meeting minutes and current project progress, on the website at www.cacpvocc.ca (username: cacpvictims | password: victimsare#1).



APPENDICES

- Appendix A** Submission to the Department of Justice Canada on the Development of a Victims Bill of Rights
- Appendix B** CACP Victims of Crime Committee Meeting Minutes
November 2012 – August 2013