

Appendix A: Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Continued Financial Assistance for Victims of Violent Crime

The government should continue providing financial assistance to victims of violent crime. The government should adopt the Victim Quick Response Program as the model to legislate a permanent early financial assistance program for victims of violent crime. The government should reconstitute the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board as the Criminal Injuries Financial Assistance Board (“the Board”). The Board would adjudicate applications for financial assistance made by victims of violent crime pursuant to a legislative framework similar to the *Compensation for Victims of Crime Act*.

Recommendation 2: Victim Advocate

The government should appoint a Victim Advocate who reports directly to the Legislature.

Recommendation 3: Individualized Assistance

Within the existing spectrum of victim services and programs, the government should provide victims of violent crime with individualized assistance to access appropriate victim services and programs and to complete applications for victim services and programs.

Recommendation 4: Single Application Form and Administrative Organization

There should be a single application form for both financial assistance programs. A single organization such as a newly constituted Financial Assistance Branch within a Victim Services Division of the Ministry of the Attorney General should be responsible for the administration of both financial assistance programs.

Recommendation 5: Police

(a) Notifying Victims of Services and Programs

The Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services should develop and implement as soon as practicable a single province-wide protocol requiring police to notify victims of the appropriate local victim services and programs (including financial assistance programs) on a timely basis, which should lead to this requirement becoming a legislative provision.

(b) Information Sharing on a Timely Basis

The Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services should develop and implement as soon as practicable a single province-wide protocol requiring police to deliver information required in respect of either financial assistance program on a timely basis, which should lead to this requirement becoming a legislative provision.

Recommendation 6: Performance Measures

The Ministry of the Attorney General should establish performance measures for both financial assistance programs and should regularly evaluate the programs against these measures. The performance measures for the Board should be established in conjunction with the Chair of the Board.

Recommendation 7: Annual Victim Services and Programs Report

The Ministry of the Attorney General should publish an annual report that is easily accessible by the public that:

- reports on the victim services and programs that the Ministry either funds or delivers,
- identifies the performance measures and evaluations of the Ministry's financial assistance programs, and
- summarizes the revenues and expenditures from the Victims' Justice Fund.

Recommendation 8: Review of Victim Needs and Services

The Ministry of the Attorney General, in conjunction with the Victim Advocate, should conduct a review at least every four years of the needs of crime victims, how to best address these needs, and the availability and use of victim services.