

Appendix B: Terms Of Reference

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board is an independent agency of the Ministry of the Attorney General. It is established under the *Compensation for Victims of Crime Act*. Its role is to award financial compensation to victims of violent crimes committed in the Province of Ontario.

The Honourable R. Roy McMurtry shall review Ontario's system for providing direct compensation to victims of violent crime. Mr. McMurtry will examine and make recommendations about the role of direct compensation within the spectrum of victim services provided by the Ministry of the Attorney General and by the offices, agencies, boards and commissions accountable to the Attorney General. This shall include:

- a) Considering whether there are better means than direct monetary awards to serve victims, including recommending service priorities for the diverse range of victims;
- b) Examining the circumstances, if any, where financial awards may be appropriate; and
- c) If some form of financial awards are considered appropriate, advising on the appropriate delivery mechanism.

Mr. McMurtry, with the assistance of government officials, will consult interested parties to determine their views. Mr. McMurtry will also take into account the historical context of victim compensation in Ontario and any initiatives and reforms in other jurisdictions that may be of assistance. Mr. McMurtry's recommendations shall not be directed at the specific funding needs of any particular program. Mr. McMurtry will provide his best advice and recommendations, taking into account the public submissions and his own research.

Mr. McMurtry's advice and recommendations will reflect the following principles, consistent with the *Victims' Bill of Rights, 1995*:

- Victims of crime must be treated with courtesy, compassion and respect for their personal dignity and privacy.
- Assistance provided to a victim of crime should respond to the victim's unique needs and enhance the victim's security, safety and comfort.
- Any compensation awarded to victims should be awarded in a fair, efficient, transparent, and predictable manner.

The Attorney General may on occasion request that Mr. McMurtry provide an update on the progress of the review.

Mr. McMurtry will prepare a final report to the Attorney General summarizing the views that have been expressed and his recommendations and advice. This report will be in a form appropriate for release to the public, pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.