

## HONOURING OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN VICTIM SERVICES

*McGuinty Government Presents Victim Services Awards Of Distinction*

### NEWS

November 27, 2008

Ontarians who demonstrate excellence in victim services were recognized at Queen's Park today with the Victim Services Awards of Distinction.

Presented by Attorney General Chris Bentley, the awards recognize both victims of crime whose courage and dedication raise the profile of victims' issues in Ontario, and volunteers and professionals who provide outstanding service to victims.

Victims of crime honoured for their contributions to supporting others are: Louise Russo (Toronto), Travis Bailey (Hamilton), John Dick (Whitby) and Mike Neuts (Kent Bridge).

The professionals and volunteers recognized for outstanding service are: Glenna Byers (North Bay), Kathleen Fitzgerald (Kenora), Brenda LaForme (Ridgeway) and Danielle Ridge (Hamilton).

Organizations receiving awards are: L'Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes (Ottawa), Luke's Place (Oshawa), Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County (Windsor), Sheatre (Kemble) and Threads of Life (London).

### QUOTES

"The inspiring efforts of these outstanding people and organizations stand out as a tribute to the dedication and hard work of victim services providers across the province," said Attorney General Chris Bentley. "Our award winners are excellent role models for others. As a government, we share their commitment to victims through new services and support."

"These award recipients are talented and compassionate people who provide valuable support to victims of crime," said Ruth Campbell, Chair of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). "The OVC is proud to participate in this awards program to recognize their accomplishments."

### QUICK FACTS

- Investment in the Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Services, whose volunteers and staff help more than 55,000 victims annually, was increased by \$1.7 million to \$9.4 million this year.
- The Victim/Witness Assistance Program is receiving \$4 million in additional support this year, including \$1.7 million to provide early victim contact services to survivors of domestic violence.

## LEARN MORE

E-mail or talk to someone to find out how you can [volunteer](#) to help victims of crime, including victims of domestic violence, in your community, through Ontario Volunteer Centres.

Learn about the [Victim/Witness Assistance Program](#), available across the province and in [16 languages](#).

Learn more about what the government is doing to [prevent violence against women](#).

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