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**VICTIMS OF CRIME COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR 2014**

Submitted:

August 2014



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since its inception in May 2012, the Victims of Crime Committee continues to successfully fulfill its mandate of enhancing the Canadian police community's capacity to respond effectively to the protection of victims of crime. Among its goals, the Committee aims to enable dialogue, problem solving and innovation across Canada to address victims' issues; and to advocate for legislative changes to address the needs of victims. In 2014, the Committee has had the opportunity to participate in the legislative process of two very important Government proposals, which significantly impact victims and the role of law enforcement in assisting those victims.

Highlights of 2014:

- *Bedford* decision – Government introduces Bill C-36 the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act
- Government introduces Bill C-32 The Canadian Victims Bill of Rights

In response to the December 2013 Supreme Court's decision, the Victims of Crime Committee took the lead to provide a national policing position on the *Bedford* decision and to provide input to assist the government in drafting new prostitution legislation. While the CACP Board of Directors were unable to reach consensus on this controversial topic, members of Victims of Crime Committee provided invaluable knowledge, expertise and research to the Government of Canada to support the drafting of new prostitution legislation. On June 4, 2014, the Government of Canada introduced Bill C-36, An Act to amend the Criminal Code in response to the Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Attorney General of Canada v. Bedford* and to make consequential amendments to other Acts.

In addition, on April 3, 2014, the Government of Canada introduced Bill C-32, An Act to enact the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights and to amend certain Acts. As highlighted in last year's annual report, the Committee formally submitted a response to the Government of Canada on the development of a Victims Bill of Rights in August 2013. The Committee thoroughly reviewed Bill C-32 and identified areas in the legislation and its implementation that could be enhanced, such as clear and accessible information on a victim's rights in the criminal justice process. In preparation for a review of Bill C-32 at a House of Commons Standing Committee, the Victims of Crime Committee completed a presentation on its position on the proposed Victims Bill of Rights. (See attachment).

Other accomplishments detailed in this report include:

- Attendance at the 14th bi-annual Victim Assistance Conference and Retreat, in Banff, Alberta, on October 26-27, 2013.
- Committee meeting, in Banff, Alberta, on October 26-27, 2013.
- Official letter for Federal Income Support for Parents of Murdered or Missing Children (November 28, 2013).
- Conference calls (3) to discuss a Committee response to Government of Canada on the *Bedford* decision and position on new prostitution legislation (February 27, 2014, March 5, and March 11, 2014)



- Research paper completed on Bedford decision and options for new prostitution legislation with input from members of the Committee (February/March 2014).
- Conference call with CACP Board of Directors to discuss Committee position on prostitution legislation (March 12, 2014).
- Official letter in support of proposed changes to RCMP regulations (March 25, 2014).
- Committee representation to event with the Prime Minister and various Ministers on the introduction of the Victims Bill of Rights by Co-Chair Eric Jolliffe, in Mississauga, Ontario, on April 3, 2014.
- Attendance at the 2014 National Victims of Crime Awareness Week Symposium, *Taking Action*, in Ottawa, Ontario, on April 7, 2014.
- Committee meeting, in Ottawa, Ontario, on April 7-8, 2014.
- Survey of member agencies regarding input into Bill C-32 (April/May 2014).
- Conference call and presentation to Committee members outlining Bill C-32 and the Committee's position on the proposed Canadian Victims Bill of Rights (May 6, 2014).
- Completion of Presentation to the Standing Committee on Bill C-32 (May 2014).
- Preparation well underway for hosting Conference in Ottawa .

MISSION STATEMENT & 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.



MEMBERSHIP

As at August 2014, 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
Lindsey Brine	Chief Superintendent – “V” Division, RCMP
Harvey Cenaiko <i>(Technical Advisory)</i>	Chairperson, Parole Board of Canada
Danik Guerrero	Commandant, Service de police de la Ville de Montréal
Scott Harris <i>(Technical Advisor)</i>	Ass't Commissioner, Correctional Services Canada
Colleen Kelly	Superintendent, Halifax Regional Police
Robyn MacEachern	Inspector, Ontario Provincial Police
Dominique Lafrenière	Captain, Sûreté du Québec
Derren Lench	Chief Superintendent – “E” Division, 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 Service
Suzanne Wallace-Capretta	Manager, National Office for Victims Public Safety Canada
Steven Pinto <i>(Administrative Support)</i>	York Regional Police

Joining us in Fall 2014:

- Paul Martin, Chief, Durham Regional Police
- Darreen Derko, Acting Superintendent, Edmonton Police Service
- Bob Percy, Deputy Chief, Halton Regional Police

MEETINGS



Since the date of the last annual report of August 16, 2013, the Committee has met on the following dates:

1. August 29, 2013 in Toronto
Attendance at Federal Government announcement and participation at round-table discussion of New Measures to Toughen Child Sexual Offences
2. October 26 – 27, 2013 in Banff Alberta
Attendance at the *14 Bi-Annual Victim Assistance Conference and Retreat*, on October 26, 2013;
3. Conference Call No. 1, on February 27, 2014.
4. Conference Call No. 2, on March 5, 2014.
5. Conference Call No. 3, on March 11, 2014.
6. April 7 – 8, 2014 in Ottawa, Ontario
Attendance at the *2014 National Victims of Crime Awareness Week Symposium*, on April 7, 2014
7. Conference Call No. 4, on May 6, 2014

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

Co-Chairs led a conference call with CACP Board of Directors to discuss the Committee's position on the Bedford decision on March 12, 2014. Furthermore, Co-Chair Eric Jolliffe attended an event with the Prime Minister and various Ministers on the introduction of the Victims Bill of Rights, on April 3, 2014.

Members of the Committee will be attending the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Victims of Crime International Forum, "Empowering Victims Through Partnerships", in Ottawa, Ontario, September 28 – 30, 2014. It is anticipated that all members of the Committee will join police leaders, NGOs, Community-Based Victims Advocates, Criminal Justice Practitioners and government agencies at the Forum to enhance the capacity to respond effectively to the needs of victims of crime.

Several members of the Committee will be attending the Annual Conference of Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, in Victoria, British Columbia, August 24-27, 2014. Although not formally meeting as a group, these members will attend with the intention to further the goals of the VoCC.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

1. Provided Committee position on the Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Attorney General of Canada v. Bedford* to CACP Board of Directors

In response to the Supreme Court's decision, the Government of Canada reached out to the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police to provide a national policing position on the *Bedford* decision and input to assist the government in drafting new prostitution legislation. The Committee was tasked to take a lead in developing a national policing position and to provide preliminary input to the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. On February 17, 2014, Justice Canada also commenced a month-long online consultation seeking the public's input on prostitution-related offences in Canada.

Three conference calls were held on February 27, March 5 and March 11, 2014 to review the Committee's response to Government of Canada on the *Bedford* decision and position on new prostitution legislation. A significant amount of research and analysis went into the completion of a position document. The position document was developed with the scope of providing supporting documentation to the CACP at the March 12th conference call in discussion of the proposed official response to the Federal Government. It was also to provide a review of enforcement issues stemming from the Supreme Court's *Bedford* decision and to identify options for potential reform of the *Criminal Code* provisions related to prostitution.

The Committee's position document was presented to the CACP Board of Directors on March 12, 2014, which represented the majority viewpoint of Committee members when considering the group's mandate to respond to the needs and protection of victims. Consistent with its goals, the focus of this submission was to advocate for legislative changes to reduce victimization with the objective of the abolition of prostitution due to its inherent harm. The majority viewpoint was informed by the premise that prostitution is dangerous and by its very nature exploitative.

The March 12, 2014 conference call with CACP Board of Directors to discuss the Committee's position document demonstrated the unique challenges faced by CACP membership in their response to this controversial topic. While the CACP Board of Directors were unable to reach consensus on a national policing position, members of the Committee provided invaluable knowledge, expertise and research to the Government of Canada to support the drafting of new prostitution legislation.

On June 4, 2014, the Federal Government introduced Bill C-36, the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act.



2. Response to Bill C-32, the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights

On August 26, 2013 the Committee submitted its response to the Department of Justice Canada on the development of a Victims Bill of Rights. As discussed in 2013 Victims of Crime Committee Annual Report a significant amount of effort and hundreds of hours of work went to the completion of this task. The final document provides a voice from the policing community and represents the Committee's position relating to victims rights.

On April 3, 2014, Co-Chair Eric Jolliffe reinforced the Committee's position at an event with the Prime Minister and various Ministers on the introduction of the Victims Bill of Rights. At this event the Prime Minister announced the introduction of Bill C-32, the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights and the Government of Canada's commitment to responding to victims rights.

On April 3, 2014, the Government of Canada introduced Bill C-32, the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights. In preparation for the Committee's participation in a House of Commons Standing Committee review of Bill C-32 members were surveyed to provide their input on the proposed Victims Bill of Rights.

A conference call was held on May 6, 2014 to discuss the Committee's position on the proposed Canadian Victims Bill of Rights. The Committee thoroughly reviewed Bill C-32 and identified perceived gaps that could be further enhanced through amendments and/or during implementation of the Victims Bill of Rights. A draft presentation was prepared in anticipation for a presentation to a House of Commons Standing Committee. No Committee date has been scheduled yet. **(Attach draft presentation to the Standing Committee)**

3. Attendance at the 14th bi-annual Victim Assistance Conference and Retreat, in Banff, Alberta, on October 26-27, 2013.

Majority of committee members attended the Bi-Annual Victim Assistance Conference and Retreat. This conference brought together government, law enforcement, victims, academics, victim service providers to share experiences and best practices.

4. Letter of Support for the *Federal Income Support for Parents of Murdered or Missing Children*, sent November 28, 2013.

The Committee has finalized its letter of support to all police chiefs informing them on the new program and the process involved. The letter was finalized and sent out on November 28, 2013.



5. Letter in support of proposed changes to RCMP regulations, sent March 25, 2014.

The Committee provided input on the pre-publication of the *Regulatory Impact Assessment Statement* amending the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Regulations, 1988*. The finalized letter (see appendix) supports these proposed regulations. The changes will be beneficial for victims as they recognize the trauma crime victims experience as both a short- and long-term effect of victimization, the challenges they may face following the trauma of a crime in providing informed consent for referral to services, and the importance of victim services in providing support. The final letter was sent out on March 25, 2014.

6. Attendance at the 2014 National Victims of Crime Awareness Week Symposium, *Taking Action*, in Ottawa, Ontario, on April 7, 2014.

Majority of committee members attended the National Victims of Crime Awareness Week Symposium. This event brought together government, law enforcement, victims, their families, victim service providers to share experiences and best practices. This event served to reaffirm the Committee's mission and dedication to victims of crime.

7. Attendance and participation at Federal Government's announcement and round-table discussion of New Measures to Toughen Child Sexual Offences, on August 29, 2013.

Co-chair Chief Jolliffe attended on behalf of the Committee and provided remarks on behalf of the CACP. He indicated support of police across Canada for legislative changes that would recognize the serious and life-long impact these crimes have on victims.



CONCLUSION

What are the goals for 2015?

APPENDICES

Appendix A	CACP Victims of Crime Committee Meeting Minutes
Appendix B	Position Paper on Prostitution Legislation
Appendix C	Letter in support of proposed changes to RCMP regulations
Appendix D	Letter of Support for the <i>Federal Income Support for Parents of Murdered or Missing Children</i>