



*“Dedicated to Justice” • «Au service de la justice»*

May 13, 2008

The Honourable Rob Nicholson  
Minister of Justice  
284 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0H8

The Honourable Jim Prentice  
Minister of Industry  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Ministers:

The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC) is a national, non-profit advocacy group for victims and survivors of violent crime.

We are writing to urge you to implement the General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization annually in Canada. As you know the survey is presently conducted every five years. Conducting the survey every year would provide data comparable to criminal victimization surveys conducted on an annual basis in the U.S. (the National Crime Victimization Survey has been ongoing annually since 1973) and the U.K. (the British Crime Survey became an annual data collection in 2001).

We believe it is necessary to better monitor the rates of victimization in Canada, particularly violent victimization, so that Canadians can have a more accurate picture of crime levels in this country. As you know, many crime victims do not feel comfortable, for many different reasons, reporting what happened to them to the police. The 2004 GSS on Victimization shows that every five years in Canada the proportion of victims of crime reporting their victimization to the police has been dropping. The victimization survey conducted in 2004 indicates that twice as many violent incidents occurred than were reported to police.

An annual widespread survey of the public will allow for a more accurate indication of the extent of crime in Canada, as it is clear that annual police statistics are not an accurate measure of actual crime rates. An annual victimization survey will allow the government to closely monitor what needs to be done to reduce violent crime and prevent repeat serious offending. The survey will also provide a forum for victims and survivors to describe the impact and consequences of crime.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Heidi Illingworth  
Executive Director