



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

January 24, 2012

The Honourable Robert Douglas Nicholson  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
284 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0H8

Dear Minister,

The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC) works with and on behalf of families who have experienced the devastation of child sexual abuse. These young victims and their families need compassion and expertise as they journey through the criminal justice system and we would like to congratulate you and the Department of Justice regarding the announcement of substantial funding towards Toronto’s first Child and Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC).

Child victims and witnesses are often scared and intimidated by the vast complexities of the criminal justice system. Many are fearful of what will happen to the perpetrator, as well as to their family. Establishing a CYAC in the largest city in Canada is critically important. By bringing child welfare, police, Crown prosecutors, advocates and health practitioners together in one setting the efficiency of the service provided will be improved and, most importantly, the ability to respond quickly and effectively towards the children and their families after abuse has taken place.

The funding that has been granted towards the Toronto CYAC in partnership with Boost must be commended. It is our hope that all medium/large cities in Canada will one day open similar child/youth advocacy centres.

Sincerely,

Heidi Illingworth  
Executive Director