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May 1, 2012

The Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of Industry
C.D. Howe Building
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5

Dear Minister Paradis:

Following the tragic death in the line of duty of York Regional Police Constable Garrett Styles on June 28, 2011, media outlets published or broadcast the emergency transmissions of the incident and his final words.

Members of the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC) strongly support an amendment to the federal *Radiocommunication Act* to prohibit the publication or broadcast, in any form and at any time, of the radio transmissions of emergency services workers in Canada without permission of the originator, for the following reasons:

- the risk that victims will be identified and their personal information, including medical information, disclosed;
- to respect the dignity of victims and their families, loved ones and colleagues, who might be further victimized by such invasions of privacy;
- to eliminate the possibility that the integrity of a criminal investigation will be compromised;
- to ensure the safety of the public and emergency responders, should the media broadcast information about an on-going incident or investigation;
- to retain the spirit and intention of the Radiocommunication Act, which prohibits the interception and use, or interception and divulgence, of radio communications without permission.

We request that the protections afforded to radio-based telephone communications in Section 9(1.1) of the Act be extended to apply to all radio communications, including emergency services' transmissions. Section 9(1.1) provides as follows:

9(1.1) Except as prescribed, no person shall make use of or divulge a radio-based telephone communication

- (a) if the originator of the communication or the person intended by the originator of the communication to receive it was in Canada when the communication was made; and*
- (b) unless the originator, or the person intended by the originator to receive the communication consents to the use or divulgence.*

Extending this provision to encompass radio communications would ensure that communications cannot be used or divulged without the permission of the originator, regardless of how the interception was made. We thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Heidi Illingworth
Executive Director