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February 18, 2015

The Honourable Peter MacKay
Minister of Justice & Attorney General of Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H8

Dear Minister:

The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC) is looking forward to the passage of *Bill C-32, An Act to enact the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights and to amend certain Acts*, and this historic piece of legislation receiving Royal Assent. We are writing to inquire what federal funding, if any, will be allocated to implement/enforce and monitor the effects of the Bill.

We are concerned about the Bill being enforced uniformly in the provinces and territories, especially since the federal government is not in charge of the administration of justice and because the courts already have problems with access to justice. While we understand that it will take time and some adaptation, we believe it is critically important to ensure compliance with the law. We also believe it is important to monitor and assess how the legislation is implemented so that, in practice, victims are not denied their rights.

We are pleased that amendments to the Bill added a Parliamentary Review to take place 5 years after the Bill comes into force. We believe Canada must monitor the rights provided to victims in the CVBR in order to enhance federal/provincial/territorial cooperation in this regard. The federal Policy Centre for Victim Issues (PCVI) can aid in this endeavour by tracking statutory violations of victims' rights laws and alleged mistreatment by criminal justice practitioners. It is our belief that this office should also track the number of complaints made by victims and monitor whether complaints are resolved according to the victim's satisfaction. In doing so, stakeholders such as victim service providers, advocates and members of the public will be able to assess how the Bill is meeting the needs of victims across Canada.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Heidi Illingworth
Executive Director