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June 8, 2015

The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur  
Attorney General of Ontario & Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs  
Ministry of the Attorney General  
720 Bay Street 11th Floor, McMurtry-Scott Building  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K1

Dear Minister Meilleur:

The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC) is a federal not-for-profit corporation that assists persons harmed by serious crime, including fraud. We are writing to you in regards to Bill C-32, specifically to the victims' rights to restitution under the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights (CVBR)*, and to learn what approach the Government of Ontario will be undertaking to implement this new legislation.

As you are aware, under Section 739.2 of the *Criminal Code*, a new element to restitution orders was added, whereby courts must consider a restitution order for all offences and specify a date by which the restitution will be paid or through an alternative payment schedule. In addition the CVBR outlines that provinces and territories can designate a public body to assist in the collection of restitution orders. At present time in Ontario, it is entirely the victim's responsibility and expense to enforce the collection of court ordered restitution. For many victims, particularly those who have been victimized by financial crimes such as fraud, the reality is their financial resources were stolen from them, and having to spend further in an attempt to recover what they are legally owed, is fundamentally impossible. Victims should not have to track down offenders on their own or hire lawyers to garnish their wages. Hence, of particular interest to CRCVC, is what mechanism -- such as a public governing body -- will be put into place to oversee the enforcement of the order, collection of restitution and complaints when offenders violate? If needed, Ontario should look to the province of Saskatchewan, as an example of effective restitution assistance.

The CRCVC believes that Ontario can significantly improve upon holding offenders accountable for their crimes by ensuring they are required to pay restitution as ordered by civil and criminal courts. If we do not require offenders to repay what they stole, restitution orders are meaningless and virtually impossible for victims to enforce. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Heidi Illingworth  
Executive Director

Cc Ruth Campbell, Chair, Office for Victims of Crime