



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

February 6, 2017

The Honourable Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Safety
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC) was appalled and saddened by the recent attack on individuals praying in the mosque in Quebec City. We are writing to you to express our concern for terrorism/mass violence incidents and the impacts they have on Canadians.

In August of last year, my office wrote to you with regards to these issues. It is well documented that mass violence incidents have long-term physical and psychological impacts on the victims, survivors, responders and the wider community. We believe that compassionate immediate response is critical but that supports and resources for those victimized must extend to the long-term. From our work with individuals impacted by terrorism and mass violence, we know that the consequences of extremism are felt for decades following the event.

We question what the federal government response is to Quebec City and what resources will be offered to the families of those injured and killed? While the province may respond initially with psycho-social and victim services, can it be sustained over the longer term? The attack on the mosque left 17 children without their father, and many spouses without their primary bread-winner. Can the province of Quebec, or any other province which may experience such an act, adequately compensate the victims? Psychological counselling to help mitigate the negative repercussions must be available to the victims as they need it, over the long-term. Some surviving or injured victims may be prevented from working for a period or ever returning to the same employment. These are just a few of the complex needs of victims which are not quickly resolved. It will take great leadership to confront these issues.

We believe that Public Safety Canada has a role to play in the response to victims of crimes like terrorism/mass violence, being the lead agency on issues of counter-terrorism, national security and also responsible for policing. Public Safety Canada has an opportunity to provide that leadership. We have previously called for the creation of a federal office or national program to assist Canadians harmed by terrorism (both domestic and abroad) and other violent crimes abroad and repeat this call in the wake of Quebec City. We believe this office requires a greater jurisdiction than the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime and should provide more direct services than what Global Affairs Canada currently does.

Victims need help to normalize their lives in the wake of extremist or mass violence and have unique issues to cope with such as: compensation/financial issues, media, privacy, insurance, notification/identification of remains, travel to the site, legal issues, etc. Persons impacted require long-term aftercare so that they can recover and be resilient.

The CRCVC has supported a number of families impacted by terrorism and mass violence and was funded by Public Safety through the Kanishka Project to develop resources, specifically

**CANADIAN RESOURCE
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www.terrorvictimresponse.ca, to help communities develop response plans that consider the needs of victims/survivors, thereby increasing community resilience. We would welcome the opportunity to assist and to be engaged further with your department as you continue to oversee these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Illingworth', written in a cursive style.

Executive Director
Heidi Illingworth

Cc Mark Holland, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
Sue, O'Sullivan, Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime