

Minister of Public Safety and
Emergency Preparedness



Ministre de la Sécurité publique
et de la Protection civile

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

JUN 01 2017

Heidi Illingworth
Executive Director
Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime
100-141 Catherine Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1C3

Dear Ms. Illingworth:

Thank you for your correspondence of February 6 and May 26, 2017, regarding the fatal shooting at the Centre culturel islamique de Québec on January 30. All Canadians were shocked, saddened and angered by this incident. Acts of senseless violence such as this are not acceptable in Canada. The Government of Canada condemns this attack against Muslims in a centre of worship and refuge.

Any government's first duty is to ensure the safety and security of its citizens, while ensuring that their rights and fundamental values are respected. For this reason, we are proud of the work of our law enforcement and security services.

The Quebec Integrated National Security Enforcement Team (INSET), in close collaboration with Quebec police services, responded swiftly to this incident. The men and women of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and law enforcement agencies across Canada will continue to do what is necessary to keep Canadians safe.

To protect our communities from these kinds of tragic attacks, my colleagues and I are delivering on our commitments to keep Canadians safe and safeguard our rights and freedoms: we are assembling a new office to better coordinate and enhance the skills and capabilities of Canadians to deal more effectively with radicalization to violence.

Furthermore, Budget 2017 indicated an additional \$1 million of funding annually for the next five years for the *Communities at Risk: Security Infrastructure Program*, which provides funding and support for communities at risk of hate-motivated crime to improve their security infrastructure.

Canada

When combined with existing funding, the new investment provided in Budget 2017 means a total contribution of up to \$10 million over the next five years.

As for the question of offering assistance to victims of terrorism, you point out that there are programs existing in other federal government departments. The Policy Centre for Victim Issues in the Department of Justice may have the greatest expertise to address this important issue. The Department also manages the Financial Assistance for Canadians Victimized Abroad Program. A number of financial assistance programs for victims of violent crime and their families are also managed by provincial governments.

Thank you for taking the time to write regarding the tragic incident in Québec City, and for offering your expertise and suggestions regarding the resources that the Government can put in place to support victims of terrorism.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Goodale', is written over a faint, illegible printed name.

The Honourable Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P.