



The Honourable Mark Furey
Attorney General and Minister of Justice
425 King Street
Bridgewater, NS B4V 1B1

Business address:
Department of Justice
1690 Hollis Street
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April 24, 2020

Dear Minister Furey,

The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC) is a national agency committed to providing support, advocacy, and information resources to all victims and survivors of crime across Canada. At this time, the CRCVC is writing to express our sincere condolences following the violent rampage in Portapique and surrounding communities on April 18-19, 2020. We are deeply saddened for the victims, survivors, their family, friends, and all those who have been impacted by this tragedy. We stand with all of them and are ready to help when they need us.

We remember the victims:

Tom Bagley
Kristen Beaton
Greg and Jamie Blair
Corrie Ellison
Gina Goulet
Frank Gulenchyn and Dawn Madsen
Lillian Hyslop
Lisa McCully
Sean McLeod and Alanna Jenkins
Heather O'Brien
Emily Tuck, Jolene Oliver and Aaron Tuck
Const. Heidi Stevenson
Joey Webber
John Joseph Zahl and Elizabeth Joanne Thomas
Peter and Joy Bond

We are also writing to address the issue surrounding compensation and the need to support victims both short-term and long-term following the mass shooting. The impacts of this crime will be far-

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reaching, and our priority is to ensure that all those impacted receive the support they need and ensure their voices are heard. We know the police and all relevant victim services personnel are working tirelessly to support the community; however, we want to acknowledge the importance of supporting victims, survivors and their families as they grieve and as the tragedy disappears from the news cycle. We must not and will not forget.

Victims of mass victimization have complex needs. While every victim response is unique, the needs of victims are essential in the crisis response, consequence management and recovery phases. We want to ensure that victims are supported throughout these transitions. This is not something that should be overlooked by community officials as adequate supports need to be in place so that victims feel supported and know there are resources in place to help.

The CRCVC recognises the likely detrimental financial impacts and consequences this attack may have on victims and their families. It is important for officials to make this a priority when devising plans for support. At this time, Nova Scotia does **NOT** offer monetary compensation to victims of crime. While there is a compensation program for counselling, we believe this is not adequate to support victims' and their families given the scope of this event. We encourage the government to create an action plan to provide financial compensation to those affected. As you know this traumatic event is exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, making additional support pertinent and time-sensitive.

Along with the immediate needs such as medical assistance, emotional supports, information, and legal assistance, there must be consideration for state compensation, which may include the costs for burials and memorials for the victims. It is essential to think about and recognize there will be devastating psychological impacts for any survivors and the surviving family members. Some of the deceased victims listed above have young children, who not only have witnessed this violent rampage, but are now left without their parents and caregivers. As a result, there will be long-term financial costs for extended family to support these children and there may be no life insurance policies to rely on. Affected families should not face additional financial distress as a result of this violence.

Many in the impacted communities witnessed the event, had to hide in their own homes, have lost loved ones or know of those who have been impacted. This traumatic incident will have severe psychological impacts for these individuals so we ask that adequate compensation and wide-reaching long-term mental health supports will be put in place to help alleviate some of these impacts.

The individuals and families affected should not be left to carry the weight of this violent victimization without government support. Victims have a right to state compensation, and should not be forced to beg for public support through crowd sourced funding. All who have been directly impacted will need assistance to cope with what has happened, and providing assistance now will help to mitigate any significant negative health and lifestyle impacts.



The CRCVC is committed to supporting victims and their families. We stand alongside you and the people of Nova Scotia and are ready to help each and every victim and their loved ones in any way we can.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director