

Backgrounder
National Victims of Crime Awareness Week 2014

The ninth annual National Victims of Crime Awareness Week (Victims Week) is being observed across Canada from April 6th to 12th with the theme *Taking Action*.

Victims Week 2014 provides a backdrop for a national discussion about the laws, services and programs available for victims of crime at the community, provincial, territorial and federal levels. The theme also recognizes that:

- Throughout Canada, countless dedicated professionals and volunteers are taking action to better serve victims of crime every day. Criminal justice system professionals and service providers give information and meaningful support to victims and their families at the community, provincial, territorial and federal levels;
- Over the past three decades, Canada has made significant advances toward giving victims a more effective voice in the criminal justice system, most recently with the introduction of legislation to create the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights*. By working together collaboratively, all levels of government are taking action on issues important to victims of crime; and
- The first source of support for many victims of crime is family and friends. All Canadians can be taking action by helping victims of crime access the services available to them.

Through the Victims Fund administered by the Department of Justice Canada, the Government of Canada provided funding of up to \$10,000 each to organizations to host events during Victims Week 2014. To view the complete list of the more than 180 funded projects and events in every Canadian province and territory, visit the Victims Week Map of Events at <http://www.victimsweek.gc.ca/map-carte/events-evene.aspx>.

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April 2014
Government of Canada