

Financial Compensation for Victims of Crime and Bereaved Persons

LAST UPDATED: MARCH 12, 2014

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Provincial programs which provide financial compensation for victims of crime are not available in Nunavut and Yukon.

British Columbia

Victims of violent crime in British Columbia are reimbursed through the **Crime Victim Assistance Program** (CVAP):

- ❖ Assistance is available regardless of whether a perpetrator is charged with an offence
- ❖ Applications must be received within one year of the offence date (exceptions may be made for victims of sexual violence or minors)
- ❖ Covers counselling, physical injury, lost earning capacity, and funeral expenses, among others

Victims and non-subpoenaed witnesses (including support persons for the victim/witness) are able to apply for compensation for travel-related expenses through the **Victim Travel Fund** if required to travel more than 100km.

More information, including detailed application guidelines, may be found at:

<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victimservices/financial>

Application forms

For victims:

<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victimservices/publications/docs/cvap-victim-application.pdf>

For immediate family members:

<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victimservices/publications/docs/cvap-family-application.pdf>

For witnesses:

<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victimservices/publications/docs/cvap-witness-application.pdf>

Outside of British Columbia

Alberta

Victims of violent crime in Alberta are compensated through the **Victims of Crime Fund**:

- ❖ Victims may be compensated for both physical and emotional injury
- ❖ The crime must have been reported to police within two years of the offence (reasonable exceptions may occasionally be made)
- ❖ The victim cooperates with police as well as the Financial Benefits program

More information, including detailed application guidelines, may be found at:

http://www.solgps.alberta.ca/programs_and_services/victim_services/help_for_victims

Application forms

Injury:

http://www.solgps.alberta.ca/programs_and_services/victim_services/help_for_victims/Publications/Financial%20Benefits%20Program%20-%20Injury%20Application.pdf

Death benefits:

http://www.solgps.alberta.ca/programs_and_services/victim_services/help_for_victims/Publications/Financial%20Benefits%20Program%20-%20Death%20Benefit%20Application.pdf

Manitoba

Victims of crime, including immediately family members of homicide victims or witnesses to an offence, are eligible for financial compensation through the **Compensation for Victims of Crime Program**:

- ❖ The offence must be reported to police
- ❖ The offender does not need to have been caught or charged
- ❖ The program will reimburse victims for counselling, medical expenses, funeral expenses, and replacement of certain items damaged throughout the course of the offence (e.g. dentures, eye glasses, etc.)

More information, including detailed application guidelines, may be found at:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/victims/services/compensation.html>

Application forms

For victims:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/victims/pdf/applicationforvictim.pdf>

For immediate family members:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/victims/pdf/applicationforfamily.pdf>

For witnesses:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/victims/pdf/applicationforwitness.pdf>

New Brunswick

Victims of crime in New Brunswick can receive financial compensation through the **Victim Compensation Program**:

- ❖ Victims are compensated for expenses incurred directly as a result of the offence as long as no other funding is available
- ❖ The offence must be reported to police and victims are required to cooperate with the investigation as well as the court process, if applicable
- ❖ Victims who qualify may be compensated for funeral expenses, counselling, relocation, and various medical expenses (among others)

More information, including detailed application guidelines, may be found at:

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/services/services_renderer.201175.html

Applications must be made with the help of victim service workers.

A list of court-based victim service agencies in the province may be found at:

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/public_safety/safety_protection/content/victim_services.html

A list of police-based victim service agencies may be found at:

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/public_safety/safety_protection/content/police_fir_e_and_emergency/policing.html

Newfoundland & Labrador

Victims may be reimbursed only for travel-related expenses:

- ❖ This includes travel for the purpose of presenting a victim impact statement at a sentencing hearing, court preparation, and counselling
- ❖ Financial compensation is not available for medical expenses or other expenses that are a direct result of the criminal offence.

More information may be found at: <http://www.victimserviceshelp.ca/faq.html>

Applications must be made with the help of victim service workers.

A complete list of police-based victim service agencies in the province can be found at <http://www.victimserviceshelp.ca/contact.html>

Northwest Territories

Victims can apply for immediate emergency funding through the **Victims of Crime Emergency Fund**:

- ❖ The offence must be a serious violent crime and no other funding has been given to the victim
- ❖ This fund covers only emergency expenses (crime scene clean up, emergency home repairs, some transportation, emergency medical expenses, or other necessities)
- ❖ Compensation for other crime-related expenses (for example, long term counselling) is not available

More information, including detailed application guidelines, may be found at:

<http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/victimservices/VCEF.shtml>

Application form

http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/victimservices/documents/VCEF_ApplicationFormENG.pdf

Nova Scotia

Victims of crime can receive financial compensation through the **Criminal Injuries Counselling Program**:

- ❖ This program only provides assistance, up to \$2000, with counselling expenses
- ❖ Applications must be made within one year of the crime (with exceptions for certain sexual assaults and young victims)
- ❖ Family members of homicide victims have a limit of \$4000

More information, including detailed application guidelines, may be found at:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/victim_Services/forms.asp

Application form

http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/victim_Services/_docs/CIC_appliation.pdf

Ontario

In Ontario, victims of crime (including immediate family members of murder victims) are eligible for reimbursement of crime-related expenses through the **Criminal Injuries Compensation Program (CICP)**:

- ❖ The application must be filed within two years of the offence
- ❖ It is not mandatory that the crime be reported to law enforcement, but a claim can be refused if a victim does not cooperate with police

More information, including detailed application guidelines, may be found at:

<http://www.cicb.gov.on.ca/en/faq.htm>

In the event that a victim of a violent crime lacks the ability to pay for immediate crime-related expenses, they may apply for funding through the **Victim Quick Response Program (VQRP)**:

- ❖ The application must be made within 45 days of the offence (90 days in the event that the victim applies for assistance with counselling expenses)
- ❖ The crime must be reported to police (or, in certain cases, domestic violence or sexual assault centres)
- ❖ The VQRP covers expenses such as funerals, crime scene clean up, and other emergencies
- ❖ Applications must be made through victim services or other approved community organizations

More information, including detailed application guidelines, may be found at:

<http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/ovss/vqrp.asp>

The **Financial Assistance for Families of Homicide Victims (FAFHV)** program may provide up to \$10,000 for spouses or parents of homicide victims who died after January 1, 2013.

- ❖ The applicant must be the homicide victim's spouse (or common-law partner) or parent
- ❖ The applicant must not have any charges or convictions relating to the homicide
- ❖ The homicide occurred in Ontario and the applicant resides in Ontario
- ❖ Those who have received compensation through the CICP may still be eligible for financial compensation through FAFHV

More information may be found at:

http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/ovss/financial_assistance_for_families_of_homicide_victims

Detailed application guidelines may be found at:

[http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/GetFileAttach/004-0326E~3/\\$File/0326E_Guide.pdf](http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/GetFileAttach/004-0326E~3/$File/0326E_Guide.pdf)

Application forms

CICP (injury):

[http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/GetAttachDocs/004-0310E~1/\\$File/0310E%20Application.pdf](http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/GetAttachDocs/004-0310E~1/$File/0310E%20Application.pdf)

CICP (death):

[http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/GetAttachDocs/004-0311E~4/\\$File/0311E_Application.pdf](http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/GetAttachDocs/004-0311E~4/$File/0311E_Application.pdf)

FAFHV: [http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/GetFileAttach/004-0326E~1/\\$File/0326E.pdf](http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/GetFileAttach/004-0326E~1/$File/0326E.pdf)

Applications for the VQRP must be made with the help of victim service workers.

A complete directory of police- and community-based victim service agencies can be found at

<http://services.findhelp.ca/ovss>

Prince Edward Island

Victims of crime can apply for financial compensation through **Criminal Injuries Compensation**:

- ❖ The offence must be reported to the police and the victim must cooperate with the investigation
- ❖ Application must be made within one year of the offence through a victim services agency
- ❖ Compensation may cover funeral expenses, loss of wages, and counselling, among others

More information, including detailed application guidelines, may be found at:

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/jps/index.php3?number=1000941>

Applications must be made with the help of victim service workers.

A complete list of police-based victim service agencies in the province may be found at:

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/jps/index.php3?number=1000944&lang=E>

Quebec

Victims of crime may be eligible for financial compensation through **l'indemnisation des victimes d'actes criminels**:

- ❖ Application must be made within a year
- ❖ Victims (or immediate family of victims who have been killed) are eligible for medical assistance, counselling, protection-related expenses, and funeral expenses, among others
- ❖ Individuals assisting the victim with rehabilitation may be eligible for therapeutic rehabilitation services

More information, including detailed application guidelines, may be found at: <http://www.ivac.qc.ca>

Application forms

Benefits:

<http://www.ivac.qc.ca/PDF/0210A.pdf>

Reimbursement of expenses:

<http://www.ivac.qc.ca/PDF/382A.pdf>

Saskatchewan:

Victims of crime may be eligible for financial compensation through the **Victim Compensation Program**:

- ❖ The crime must be reported to police
- ❖ Application must be made within two years of the offence (or, in the case of sexual assault, within two years of reporting the offence to the police)
- ❖ Victims may be reimbursed for medical, counselling, and funeral expenses, but not such things as personal property damage

More information, including detailed application guidelines, may be found at:

<http://www.justice.gov.sk.ca/VS-Compensation>

Application forms

Victims:

<http://www.justice.gov.sk.ca/adx/asp/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=917,173,131,81,1,Documents&MediaID=1529&Filename=VictimsCompApp4pgs-Nov09.pdf>

Secondary victims:

<http://www.justice.gov.sk.ca/adx/asp/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=915,913,94,88,Documents&MediaID=639&Filename=victimscomp1pg.pdf&l=English>

Outside Canada

Individuals who have been victimized abroad may be eligible for funding through the Department of Justice. The **Emergency Financial Assistance for Canadians Victimized Abroad** program has the following requirements:

- ❖ The offence must be a serious violent crime
- ❖ No other form of financial compensation is available
- ❖ The victims fund covers travel expenses for the purpose of attending or testifying at a trial for the victim as well as a support person in the immediate aftermath
- ❖ Compensation is also available to cover medical expenses, funeral expenses, and counselling expenses, among others

More information, including detailed application guidelines, may be found at:

<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/eng/fund-fina/cj-jp/fund-fond/abroad-etranger.html>

Application form

<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pcvi-cpcv/form/form1.cfm>

Federal Income Support for Parents of Murdered or Missing Children

The **Parents of Murdered or Missing Children** grant is for parents who have lost their child(ren) due to a *Criminal Code* offence and are losing income as a result of time off of work to deal with the loss.

Parents are eligible if:

- ❖ The child was under 18 at the time of the incident
- ❖ The parent worked the previous year, having earned a minimum of \$6500
- ❖ The parent is on leave from employment as a direct result of the incident
- ❖ The parent is not receiving any type of Employment Insurance (EI) benefits or Québec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP) benefits
- ❖ The parent has not been charged with a *Criminal Code* offence that led to the death or disappearance of the child

More information may be found at:

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sc/pmmc/eligibility.shtml>

Application instructions may be found at:

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sc/pmmc/howtoapply.shtml>

Application forms

Employment form (a section must be completed by the current employer(s)):

[http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eforms/forms/sc-emp5552\(2013-06-002\)e.pdf](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eforms/forms/sc-emp5552(2013-06-002)e.pdf)

Incident report form (to be completed by law enforcement):

[http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eforms/forms/sc-emp5550\(2013-06-002\)e.pdf](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eforms/forms/sc-emp5550(2013-06-002)e.pdf)

Canadian Pension Plan Benefits

Death Benefit

The **Canada Pension Plan Death Benefit** provides a one-time payment for funeral expenses:

- ❖ The cheque is made out to the estate of the deceased person or the person responsible for funeral expenses
- ❖ The maximum sum is \$2,500, but the payment is determined by how much and for how long the deceased paid into the Canada Pension Plan

More information, including detailed application guidelines, may be found at:

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sc/cpp/deathpension.shtml>

Application form

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/cgi-bin/search/eforms/index.cgi?app=profile&form=isp1200&lang=e>

Survivor's Benefit

The **Canada Pension Plan Survivor's Benefit** may provide a monthly sum for spouses or common-law partners of deceased persons:

- ❖ The amount varies according to age, disability, and whether or not there are any dependent children
- ❖ "Common-law partners" is defined as two people, regardless of sex, who have lived together in a conjugal relationship for at least one year

More information, including detailed application guidelines, may be found at:

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sc/cpp/survivor/survivorpension.shtml>

Application form

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/cgi-bin/search/eforms/index.cgi?app=profile&form=isp1300&lang=e>

Children's Benefit

The **Canada Pension Plan Children's Benefit** may provide a monthly sum for dependent children of deceased or disabled persons:

- ❖ Both biological and adopted children are eligible
- ❖ The deceased must be a Canada Pension Plan contributor
- ❖ The child must be under the age of 18, or
- ❖ The child may be a student between the ages of 18 and 25 (amount varies according to whether the student is full- or part-time)

More information, including detailed application guidelines, may be found at:

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sc/cpp/childrenpension.shtml>

Application form

http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sc/cpp/answer_childforms.shtml