

Attention News Editors:

Ontario Fights Hate Crime And Supports Victims

McGuinty Government Supporting Community Projects

TORONTO, May 16 /CNW/ -

NEWS

Fighting hate crime and making victims safer are the goals of more than \$1.4 million in new projects funded by the province.

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The projects will:

- Better monitor high-risk offenders
- Help to provide faster, more effective notification of offenders' whereabouts to victims
- Educate the public on signs of racism
- Work to prevent hatred and intolerance in all its forms.

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Eight projects will share \$875,000 under Ontario's Victim Safety Project - an 18-month, \$4.5-million joint initiative between the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Ontario is also providing almost \$580,000 under its Safer and Vital Communities grant program to community-based, not-for-profit organizations and First Nations Chiefs and Band Councils. This year's grants are dedicated to addressing racism and hate crime. Grants in previous years have addressed youth crime, drug and alcohol abuse and elder abuse.

QUOTES

"Hate crimes and racism have no place in our society. We're helping community groups to work closely with police and youth leaders to eliminate hate crimes and racism in Ontario," said Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Rick Bartolucci

(http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about_min/bio.html).

"I am pleased to support the Victim Safety Project, which will provide services and safety planning to victims of crime, to help protect them in their everyday lives," said Attorney General Chris Bentley

(<http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about/ag/agbio.asp>).

QUICK FACTS

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- Under Canada's Criminal Code, any crime can be considered a hate crime if it is motivated by hate or bias.
- A 2004 report by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (<http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/85-557-XIE/85-557-XIE2002001.pdf>) found that 57 per cent of hate crimes were motivated by race or ethnicity.
- Studies have estimated that the economic cost of violent crime to the health-care system, criminal justice, social services and in lost productivity is in the billions of dollars.

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LEARN MORE

Learn about the Victim Support Line (<http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about/vw/vsl.asp>) and the Assaulted Women's Helpline (<http://www.awhl.org/>).

Read about other McGuinty government actions (http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GPOE/2006/06/09/c7963.html?lmatch=&lang=_e.html) to fight hate crimes in Ontario.

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BACKGROUND

FIGHTING RACISM AND HATE CRIME IN ONTARIO

The Safer and Vital Communities grant was launched in 2004 to support the goal of working with community partners to create safe and vital communities in Ontario. It is open to community-based, not-for-profit organizations and First Nations Chiefs and Band Councils.

Previous years' grants supported projects to:

- Combat youth crime and provide jobs for at-risk youth
- Offer counselling on drug and alcohol abuse
- Help prevent elder abuse
- Guard against Internet luring.

This year, Ontario is providing almost \$580,000 to support 30 anti-hate crime and racism projects across the province. The Ontario government issued a call for applications for grants of up to \$20,000 in September 2007. Successful proposals are listed below.

ANTI-RACISM AND HATE CRIME GRANTS

NORTHERN ONTARIO

Recipient	Location	Amount
Aboriginal Peoples' Alliance	Cochrane	\$19,000.00
Grand Council Treaty No.3	Kenora	\$19,965.00
Regional Multicultural Youth Council	Thunder Bay	\$20,000.00
Sioux Lookout Anti-Racism Committee	Sioux Lookout	\$19,982.00
Sudbury Multicultural and Folk Arts Association	Sudbury	\$20,000.00
Wasauksinig First Nation (Parry Island Reserve No.16)	Parry Sound	\$20,000.00

EASTERN ONTARIO

Recipient	Location	Amount
Carleton Place and District Youth Centre	Carleton Place	\$20,000.00

Community and Race Relations Committee	Peterborough	\$20,000.00
Groupe ADEP (Anti-Délinquance En Poésie)	Ottawa	\$19,770.00
Jaku Konbit	Ottawa	\$19,950.00
Regroupement Ethnoculturel des Parents Francophones de l'Ontario	Ottawa	\$20,000.00

WESTERN ONTARIO

Recipient	Location	Amount
Cultural Coalition of Chatham-Kent	Chatham	\$19,975.00
John Howard Society of London and District	London	\$20,000.00
Niagara Pride Support Services Inc	St. Catharines	\$19,436.80

CENTRAL ONTARIO

Recipient	Location	Amount
African Community Services of Peel	Brampton	\$19,995.00
Africanadian Mediation and Community Services	North York	\$12,500.00
BIG: Bloor Improvement Group	Toronto	\$20,000.00
Brampton Neighbourhood Centre	Brampton	\$20,000.00
Canadian Arab Federation	Toronto	\$20,000.00
Canadian Hate Prevention Network	Brampton	\$20,000.00
Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion	Hamilton	\$20,000.00
Leave Out Violence	Toronto	\$20,000.00
Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line	Toronto	\$20,000.00
Support Enhance Access Service Centre	Toronto	\$20,000.00
Safe City Association Incorporated	Maple	\$20,000.00
St. Stephen's Community House	Toronto	\$19,930.60
The Canadian Safe School Network	Toronto	\$11,000.00
Urban Youth Riding Project	Toronto	\$18,240.00
YMCA of Greater Toronto - Peel Youth Village	Mississauga	\$20,000.00
Youth Assisting Youth	Toronto	\$20,000.00

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BACKGROUND

VICTIM SAFETY PROJECT GRANTS

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The Victim Safety Project is a joint \$4.5-million 18-month initiative between the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the Ministry of the Attorney General, funded through the Victims' Justice Fund. The Victims' Justice Fund is a special purpose account established under the Victims' Bill of Rights and funded from fine surcharges imposed under the Criminal Code of Canada and the Provincial Offences Act.

The Victims' Justice Fund is dedicated exclusively to assisting victims of Criminal Code offences. Victims' Justice Fund grant applicants are required to provide a description of how their proposal will assist victims of Criminal Code offences as specified in the Victims' Bill of Rights.

Members of a committee, including justice sector partner representatives

from the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ontario Victim Services Secretariat, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the Ontario Provincial Police reviewed a total of 22 applications last fall. Eight proposals totaling \$875,000 are receiving funding in 2008.

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LIST OF PROJECTS AWARDED FUNDING

- Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services (\$45,000): This project will enhance services to victims of high-risk offenders. A CD-ROM containing safety planning information will be available to victims who live in remote communities where victim support and assistance are less accessible.
- Greater Sudbury Police Service (\$150,000): This project will offer training to front-line officers with an emphasis on victim notification and services available to victims. A coordinator will be hired to maintain a registry of victim contacts and assist in the development and maintenance of a web page containing updated information about offenders for victims and members of the community.
- Hamilton Police Service (\$140,000): This grant will assist Hamilton Police Service in offering state-of-the-art technology to its vulnerable population. Through a Global Position System victim tracking and messaging device, victims will receive up-to-date information about the offender based on police information and real-time information that probation and parole services may wish to share.
- Ottawa Police Service (\$70,000): This grant will assist the Ottawa Police Victim Crisis Unit in hiring a victim crisis worker who will review files, conduct clinical assessments, provide safety plans and offer post trauma counselling to victims and referral to community partners. The worker will also provide victims with information on reporting procedures to ensure a timely response to breach of conditions.
- Oxford Community Police Service (\$143,000): This project will lead to improved accountability between local High Risk Offender Response Team members, effective information sharing and better coordination of case management efforts in monitoring offenders and assessing risk. Specialized safety planning and risk assessment training will be offered to victim services, Crown attorneys and probation and parole officers.
- Victim Services of Middlesex County (\$150,000): The project will develop focus groups including victims, victim crisis and referral services staff, police, Crown attorneys, probation and parole officers, and, when appropriate, offenders. Using the information gathered from the focus groups, an educational video and information package will be produced to address service gaps and support the needs of victims.
- Victim Services of Wellington (\$89,000): A victim notification and safety coordinator will be hired to help shorten the time between offender release and victim notification and notify victims of the outcome of hearings when the offender is not released.
- Victim Services of Windsor and Essex County (\$91,000): A project coordinator will be hired to increase victim/community safety by addressing gaps in services to victims. The coordinator will develop a police in-service training tool; create and facilitate a service provider public education training session; create terms of reference

for a high-risk case management review team; and create a pamphlet on safety precautions for the release of a high-risk offender.

A portion of the grant funding will be used to offer a provincewide training symposium in fall 2008. The training will ensure that police services, Crown attorneys and community-based victim service agencies are provided with information and materials on victim safety and victim notification. Attendees will also be provided with the ministry's guidelines on Victim Assistance and Police Response to High-Risk Individuals.

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For further information: Laura Blondeau, Minister's Office, (416) 325-4973; Anthony Brown, Communications Branch, (416) 314-7772

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES - More on this organization



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