



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Funding for Victim Services extended**

WHITEHORSE—Victim Services branch will receive \$500,000 in continued funding from the Justice Canada-administered Victims Fund.

"We are very pleased to have this funding agreement extended for an additional three years," Attorney General and Minister of Justice Mike Nixon said. "This will allow Victim Services to further fulfill the Department of Justice mandate of providing resources for healthy and safe communities and fair access to the justice system."

Victim Services received \$821,000 from 2011 to 2013 from the Victims Fund. In 2013 the funding was extended to 2016 by a further \$1.5 million. Through this agreement the branch can access up to \$500,000 each year.

Four projects have been initiated under this funding agreement:

- Project Lynx was developed to deliver services to child or youth victims or witnesses to crime.
- A Victims of Crime Emergency Fund was established to provide immediate assistance to help victims pay for services such as crime scene clean-up, emergency home repair for immediate safety or short-term counselling.
- Victims of crime services in the communities have been enhanced by increased travel budgets to support client services, and by the creation of a second victim services worker position in Watson Lake.
- In collaboration with Kaushee's Place Housing Society in Whitehorse and Help & Hope for Families in Watson Lake, Victim Services has funded a project to collect data about usage of the agency's crisis lines.

In the past, the Government of Canada has funded various Victim Services projects, but this is the first time that long-term funding of this scale has been secured.

"With the support of Justice Canada the responses and services that were initiated will continue, and victims of crime will have access to the information and support they need," Nixon added.

Work that has been accomplished as part of the Victims of Crime Strategy is in large part due to the participation of non-government and government service providers and First Nations organizations.

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