



## Dr. Colin Carrie MP Oshawa

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### Prime Minister Harper Announces Historic Legislation to Create a Canadian Victims Bill of Rights

#### News Release

For Immediate Release

**Ottawa, ON, April 3, 2014** – Prime Minister Stephen Harper today announced the introduction of legislation to create a Canadian Victims Bill of Rights that would transform the criminal justice system by creating, at the federal level, clear rights for victims of crime – a first in Canadian history.

“Our Government wants victims of crime across this country to know that we have listened to their concerns and that we are squarely on their side,” stated Prime Minister Harper.

“Victims will have enforceable rights in Canada’s criminal justice system, will be treated with the respect and fairness that they deserve, and will have a stronger voice.”

“The Prime Minister’s announcement is another example of our Conservative Government’s commitment to protecting victims of crime,” stated Dr. Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament for Oshawa and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment. “Canadians want a fairer system that puts the rights of the victim ahead of criminals and this legislation will do just that.”

This legislation is building on the Government’s commitment in the 2013 Speech from the Throne to introduce a Canadian Victims Bill of Rights, a commitment reiterated in Budget 2014. The Canadian Victims Bill of Rights is also part of the Government’s Plan for Safe Streets and Communities, which focuses on holding violent offenders accountable, enhancing the rights of victims, and increasing the efficiency of our justice system.

During consultations held by the federal Government over the past year, many victims of crime shared stories of their interactions with the criminal justice system. Many participants expressed a desire for victims of crime to be kept better informed and involved at every stage of the justice process, and called for an increased understanding of the needs of victims.

The legislation would create the following statutory rights for victims of crime:

- **Right to information:** Victims would have the right to general information about the criminal justice system and available victim services and programs, as well as specific information about the progress of the case, including information relating to the investigation, prosecution and sentencing of the person who harmed them.
- **Right to protection:** Victims would have the right to have their security and privacy considered at all stages of the criminal justice process, to have reasonable and necessary measures to protect them from intimidation and retaliation, and to request their identity be protected from public disclosure.

- Right to participation: Victims would have a right to convey their views about decisions to be made by criminal justice professionals and have them considered at various stages of the criminal justice process, and to present a victim impact statement.
- Right to restitution: Victims would have the right to have the court consider making a restitution order for all offences for which there are easy-to-calculate financial losses.

“There is only one party that is consistently sticking up for victims and that is the Conservative party,” stated Dr. Carrie. “I hope the Liberals and the NDP support this important and historic legislation.”

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#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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