



*Building Better Services for Children and Youth who are Victims or Witnesses of Crime in Canada
Prestation de services améliorés aux enfants et aux adolescents qui ont été victimes ou témoins d'actes criminels au Canada*

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

KEY INFORMATION ABOUT SERVING CHILD VICTIMS & WITNESSES IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

- Victim Services in Prince Edward Island provides assistance to child victims and witnesses at all stages of the criminal justice process. Services include:
 - information about the case and court process,
 - court preparation and accompaniment,
 - assistance to prepare a victim impact statement,
 - help to access testimonial aids where appropriate, and
 - assistance in making application for Criminal Injury Compensation.
- Victim Services works closely with police, Crown Attorneys, Child Protection, Court Services, and other justice partners and community organizations.

For more information see:
www.gov.pe.ca/go/victimservices

SUCCESS STORY #1:

Testimonial aids to support child victims and witnesses

— With funding support from the Victims of Crime Fund, PEI has implemented testimonial aids and other measures to help facilitate the testimony of children and other vulnerable victims and witnesses. These aids include availability of witness screens, support persons, closed circuit television and videoconferencing capability in the four courthouses in PEI.



Child-friendly waiting room, Provincial Court, Charlottetown, PEI

SUCCESS STORY #2:

Child friendly waiting rooms — In addition to the technology that has been implemented, child friendly waiting rooms have been designated in each courthouse, equipped with appropriate furniture and supplies. For victims and their families, who can sometimes have long waits before testifying, this makes the experience of coming to court more comfortable and less traumatic.

SUCCESS STORY #3:

Technology to display sensitive images — With funding support from the Victims of Crime Fund, PEI courts have been equipped with technology equipment to more discretely display electronic documents or exhibits that are categorized as sensitive information.(eg. pornographic images, potentially traumatic images such as autopsy photos in a case involving death, etc.). This technology allows the materials to be viewed by the Judge, Crown and Defence, without being displayed to the whole courtroom, thereby demonstrating sensitivity, and respecting the privacy of the victim and family members.

CHALLENGES

- The feasibility of a Child Advocacy Centre in Prince Edward Island, given the small number of child victims and witnesses.
- Access to counselling and mental health services for children and their families.