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New online training program first for victim services staff in Canada

Edmonton... Alberta's newest e-learning initiative is the first online training program in Canada for people who provide frontline services to victims of crime.

The program enhances and standardizes training across Alberta, and features interactive web links and videos. Staff can take the training anytime, anywhere, where previously they were required to attend weekend classroom-based sessions.

"This unique e-learning initiative greatly improves access to training and helps improve our services to victims of crime throughout the province," said Frank Oberle, Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security. "I am pleased that, once again, Alberta is at the forefront of ensuring victims receive the help they need to rebuild their lives."

Developed by the Solicitor General and Public Security Ministry in partnership with the Justice Institute of British Columbia, the online program will:

- reduce long-term distribution and facilitation costs;
- increase training opportunities for volunteers and increase access for those in Aboriginal communities and remote areas;
- permit timely revision of materials to reflect legislative and policy changes;
- introduce standardized learning measures and,
- deliver training quickly and efficiently.

The program's 35 modules deal with issues such as crisis intervention, court orientation, e-crimes, and domestic violence. It will help to ensure victims of crime continue to be treated with dignity and respect, and get the best service possible.

The training is available to victim services staff, police liaison officers, criminal justice system stakeholders such as shelter and sexual assault workers, probation, parole officers and sheriffs. More than 500 learners are expected to take the online training this year.

The cost of the initiative is approximately \$168,000, received from the Department of Justice Canada Victims Fund.

Information about the program is available at:

<https://www.solgps.alberta.ca/Victims%20Services%20e-Learning/>, or call 310-000 toll-free from anywhere in Alberta. You can also contact 780-427-3460.

Communications
Solicitor General and Public Security
780-427-6171

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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