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MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS TO HELP VICTIMS OF CRIME

Supporting Local Agencies That Assist Victims In Our Community

OAKVILLE — The McGuinty government is supporting the victims of crime and strengthening communities by investing in programs that enhance victim services, including the Sexual Assault & Violence Intervention Services (SAVIS) of Halton that is receiving a grant of \$46,834, MPP Kevin Flynn announced today.

“This funding will make a real difference for people who find themselves in very difficult situations,” said Flynn. “Over the past three years, our government’s investment in community grants has provided funding that enables local agencies to deliver innovative and supportive services that improve victims’ lives.”

More than \$1 million will be invested in projects to enhance local services in central western Ontario this year.

“This additional funding from the McGuinty government is great news and will allow SAVIS in partnership with Transitions For Youth’s MacMillan Youth Centre, an 18 bed residential/detention centre, to address sexual assault service gaps in the Halton community,” said Jacqueline Benn-John, Executive Director of SAVIS. “These funds will allow us to provide onsite individual and group counselling, and healthy relationship resources to youth survivors of sexual violence”.

The McGuinty government has provided more than \$15 million over three years for community-based projects across Ontario. These projects are funded to assist victims of hate crimes, domestic violence and sexual assault, child/youth victims, including young victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, and other victims groups that are unserved or under-served.

Applications from community-based organizations were reviewed and evaluated by seven review committees. The committees comprise of community members, staff from the Ontario Victim Services Secretariat and representatives from the Office for Victims of Crime, an agency that advises the Attorney General on ways to ensure that the principles set out in the Victims’ Bill of Rights are followed.

“Community involvement is integral to this grant program, which depends upon both the local agencies that develop the projects and the regional committees that review the applications,” said Ruth Campbell, Chair of the Office for Victims of Crime. “I am proud of the active role that the Office for Victims of Crime plays in reviewing the applications for grants from the many local services.”

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“The McGuinty government is working with local communities to find new and better approaches to providing the help victims need close to home,” said Bryant. “The projects we are supporting will help many victims of crime across the province to rebuild their lives and get on the road to recovery.”

- 30 -

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