

## INDEX

### **BENEFITS OF VISs**

- beneficial for courts, 189–192
- benefits of appropriate VIS, 190–191
  - community awareness, 190
- cautions in usage, 191
- Crown Attorneys finding VISs useful for court, 192
- judges finding VISs as useful source of information, 191–192
- sentencing judge to consider VIS, 189
- VISs filling void, 192
- beneficial for victims, 185–189
  - test of how beneficial, 188–189
    - willingness of victims to participate again, 188–189
  - victim frustration, 185
  - victim participation as therapeutic and empowering, 186–187
  - victim satisfaction, 187–188

### **CROSS-EXAMINATIONS ON VISs, see ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND CROSS-EXAMINATIONS ON VISs**

### **DISCLOSURE OF VISs/ NEW EVIDENCE IN VISs, 255–258, see also FUTURE OF VISs**

### **FORMS AND VICTIM SERVICES IN CANADA, see also FUTURE OF VISs and PAROLE BOARD OF CANADA**

- Alberta, 51–59
  - definition of “victim of crime”, 51
  - direct victims, 51
    - request for services, 51
  - indirect victims, 51–52
  - victim compensation, 59
    - *Victim Restitution and Compensation Payment Act*, 59

- Victim Services Units, 52
  - information and services provided, 52
- *Victims of Crime Protocol*, 51, 52
- VIS form, 53–58
  - instructions, 55–58
- British Columbia, 29–50
  - information not to be provided, 29–30
  - victim compensation, 37–38
    - compensation for immediate family members, 37–38
    - compensation for victims, 37
    - compensation for witnesses, 38
    - Crime Victim Assistance Program, 37
  - victim compensation application form, 38–50
    - authorization for further information, 48–49
    - crime information, 41–43
    - employment and benefits, 46–47
    - medical information, 44–45
- Victim Impact Statement form, 31–36
  - outline, 32
  - property offences, 34–36
- “victims” defined, 29
- VISs providing information to Crown counsel, 29–30
  - introduction, 29
- Manitoba, 66–98
  - “any victim of crime”, 66
  - cross-examining of victim, 66
  - disclosure of VISs, 66
  - filing of VISs with court, 66
  - option to read aloud, 66

## Index

- FORMS AND VICTIM SERVICES IN CANADA (*cont'd*)
- restrictions on VIS content, 66
  - victim compensation, 72
    - definition of victims, 72
    - reasonable expenses, 72
  - victim compensation forms, 73–93
    - application for compensation, 73–76
    - application for compensation information sheet, 77–78
    - application for family member, 79–98
  - victim compensation forms, 73–98
    - application for compensation, 73–76
    - application for compensation information sheet, 77–78
    - application for family member, 79–98
  - Victim Services assistance, 66–67
  - VIS form, 67–71
    - impact of crime, 69–70
  - Ontario, 99–147
    - victim compensation, 111
      - *Compensation for Victims of Crime Act*, 111
      - Victim/Witness Assistance Program, 111
      - Vulnerable Victims and Family Fund, 111
    - victim compensation forms, 112–147
      - application for compensation for death, 127–137
      - application for compensation for injury, 112–126
      - supplementary Vulnerable Victims and Family Fund request, 142–147
      - Vulnerable Victims and Family Fund request, 138–141
    - Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Services, 99
    - Victim Quick Response Program, 99
  - VIS forms, 99–110
    - VIS for adults, 100–103
    - VIS for children, 108–110
    - VIS for older children and youth, 104–107
  - Quebec, 147–165
    - *Act respecting the Quebec Correctional System*, 148
      - information regarding offender, 148
    - definition of “victim of crime”, 148
    - Information Request form, 153
    - victim compensation, 156–165
      - Crime Victims Assistance Centres, 156
      - *Crime Victims Compensation Act*, 156
      - property offences not included, 156
    - victim compensation form, 157–165
      - application for benefits, 157–165
      - authorization to forward copy of file, 165
      - close relatives of deceased victim, 164
      - dependants of deceased victim or rescuer, 163
      - information on employee remuneration, 161
      - submitted after deadline, 162
    - VIS form, 148–152
    - Written Representations of the Victim form, 154–155
  - Saskatchewan, 59–65
    - definition of victim, 59
    - information provided by victims, 60
    - victim compensation, 64–65
      - application form, 64, 65
      - eligibility for compensation, 64
      - “reasonable expenses” compensated, 64–65
    - VIS form, 61–63
    - VIS Program, goals of, 59

## Index

- FORMS AND VICTIM SERVICES IN CANADA (*cont'd*)
- Yukon, 166–177
    - Department of Justice, 166
      - Victim Services Unit, 166
      - Victims of Crime Strategy, 166
    - *Victim of Crimes Act*, 166
      - victims' bill of rights, 166
    - VIS form, 167–168
    - Yukon Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund, 169–177
      - application form (C.P.V.S.T.F.), 173–177
      - Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund (CPVSTF), 169–172
        - purpose of CPVSTF, 169, 171
        - use of funds, 169, 171–172
- FUTURE OF VISs**
- communication between victim and offender, fostering, 258–260
  - communication beneficial for offender in three ways, 259
  - communication continuing to be encouraged, 259–260
  - words of offender educating offender as to effect of behaviour, 258–259
  - conclusion, 265
  - educating judiciary to alleviate victim concerns with VISs, 251–255
  - communication as key interaction between victim and judiciary, 251–252
  - concerns raised by victims involving their communication, 252
  - listening/interacting with victims in courtroom, 253–255
    - appellate courts forgiving of not following subsec. 722.2(1), 254
    - definition of “victim” meant to include everyone, 253
    - inappropriate use of VISs also of concern with victims, 254
  - practice of orally reading VISs, 253
  - sentencing judge to be more proactive in informing victim, 253
  - work needing to be done to address concerns, 254–255
  - educating victims, 233–243
    - generally, 233–234
    - inappropriate content, alleviating, 233–243
      - dangerous for court to measure gravity of offence by VIS contents, 239–240
      - editing of VISs, 242–243
      - other inappropriate information, 241–242
      - proper education alleviating vetting process, 242, 243
      - public interest to be served by sentencing process, 240–241
      - sentencing circle model, speaking to sentence in, 241
      - victims not to speak to sentence, 240, 241
      - VISs not created to allow victims to get some sort of revenge, 238–239
      - VISs not to contain recommendations as to sentence, 239
  - participation numbers, improving, 234–238
    - better education of victims, 237
    - “criminal justice professionals” as educators, 237–238
    - Crown Counsel, police and VWAP currently assisting victims, 238
    - Crowns suggesting understanding of role of VISs, 237
    - instances where people more likely to submit VISs, 236–237
    - low participation rates, 234–235
    - reasons for smaller submission numbers, 235–236

## Index

- FUTURE OF VISs (*cont'd*)
- victim education program alleviating many concerns, 238
  - introduction, 215–216
  - improving current VIS process, 215
  - maximizing benefits for all involved parties, 215
  - victims identifying concerns with VIS system, 216
  - new evidence in VISs/disclosure of VISs, 255–258
  - accused arguing mistrial as VIS contained relevant information for defence, 255
  - application for disclosure of VIS prior to trial denied, 258
  - breach of obligation to disclose VIS not impairing ability to make defence, 255–256
  - Crown Counsel Policy on Disclosure re VISs, 257–258
  - judge not persuaded that new lines of inquiry pursued if VIS disclosed, 255
  - limited confidentiality interest of victim, 257
  - nothing in VIS catching defence by surprise, 256
  - sentencing procedure not contemplating new factual background in VIS, 256
  - timing of VIS disclosure, 257, 258
  - late disclosure affecting how counsel running trial, 257, 258
  - VIS disclosing prior incident but defence not exercising due diligence, 256–257
  - VIS including new facts breaching obligation to disclose, 257
  - where VIS containing new evidence not at trial, 255
  - redefining “victim”, 216–233
  - amendments of 1999 expanding definition of “victim”, 219–220
  - assumption that judge’s discretion being enough is misleading, 225
  - current definition in subs. 722(4) of Code, 217, 218–219
  - definition of “victim” too expansive, 218
  - failure to narrow definition, 218
  - judges choosing not to vet VISs, 219
  - restrictive approach by judges remedying many issues, 218–219
  - section 772(1) of Code not viewed as remedy to problem, 219
  - support for restrictive definition, 219
  - current definition needing to be improved, 224–225
  - increase in use of VISs, 223
  - number of VISs varying greatly, 217–218
  - onus to limit VISs falling on judiciary, 221–222
  - post-1999 amendments: case law commentary on definition, 229–233
  - expansive definition, 230–231
  - narrow interpretation, 230
  - non-restrictive definition, 229–230, 231, 232, 233
  - restrictive definition, 229
  - restrictive vs. non-restrictive approach, 231–232
  - reasons for non-restrictive approach, 232
  - proposing narrower definition, 223–224
  - unnecessary to include everyone remotely connected to victim, 224
  - Recommendations of Standing Committee, 220, 224–225
  - advising clarification of definition, 220, 225
  - Standing Committee’s concerns about expansiveness of definition, 221, 223

## Index

- FUTURE OF VISs** (*cont'd*)
- • “true victims” of crime, finding, 220–221, 223
  - • unhelpful or unnecessary VISs being accepted, 218
  - • where definition of “victim” should go, 233
    - • • definition in England suggested, 233
    - • • need to clarify definition, 233
    - • • proposed definition clarifies current definition, 233
  - • whether reliance on judiciary’s discretion is efficient, 222–223
  - • who accepted as “victim”, 225–228
    - • • inconsistent treatment of victims, 228
    - • • judicial discretion used to limit who able to file VIS, 228
    - • • parents accepted as victims, 225–226
    - • • unexpected VISs, 226
    - • • victim’s family or those extremely close to victim, 226
    - • • VISs discussing effect on community, 226–227
    - • • VISs from businesses and corporations in fraud cases, 227–228
  - restorative justice, 260–263
    - • benefits for victims, 261–262
    - • drawbacks to restorative justice, 262
    - • restorative justice programs, 261
    - • sentencing process being restorative and inclusive of victim, 260
    - • victims needing to be told about options, 262–263
    - • VISs based on restorative terms, 260
    - • what restorative justice offering to victims, 261
  - uniform VIS system across Canada, 243–250
  - time allotted to VISs, 249–250
    - • • more proactive measures to gather VISs and updates, 250
    - • • suggestions to improve VIS process, 216–250
    - • • suggestions to remedy time restrictions, 249
    - • • time restraints equated to lower victim VIS submissions, 249–250
    - • • time restrictions causing two problems, 249
  - uniform purpose for VISs, 246–249
    - • • academic literature identifying “purposes” for VISs, 246–247
    - • • case law focusing on most important purposes, 248
    - • • two main objectives identified in Roberts case, 248–249
    - • • two main purposes identified in the academic literature, 248
    - • • VIS system requiring clear goal or priority, 249
  - uniform system making VIS process more efficient and effective, 243
  - VIS form, 244–246
    - • • informal VISs, acceptance of, 245
    - • • joint VISs accepted by courts, 245–246
    - • • limitations on courts as to acceptable VISs, 246
    - • • one main VIS form, 245
    - • • suggested changes to Ontario VIS form, 244
    - • • suggestion of two forms not supported, 244–245
    - • • uniform VIS offering formality and clarity, 245, 246
- HISTORY OF VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENTS (VISs)**
- post-1988 victim impact statements, 8–10
  - Court Martial proceedings, not used in, 9–10

## Index

### HISTORY OF VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENTS (VISs) (*cont'd*)

- *Criminal Code* amended to add VIS provisions, 8–9, 10
- reading of VISs aloud, 8–9
- custody disputes and discipline proceedings, 9
- mental health review boards, 9
- parole hearing, 9
- Standing Committee report, 8
- pre-1988 victim impact statements, 5–8
- Canadian Criminal Justice Branch, 5–6
- Canadian Sentencing Commission recommendation, 7–8
- common law countries allowing victim input, 6
- Federal-Provincial Task Force, 7
- President’s Task Force on Victims of Crime, 7
- United Nations *Declaration of Basic Principles*, 7
- victim having no standing before 1988, 6–7
- what constitutes VISs, 1–5
- definition of “victim”, 4–5
- description of harm or loss, 3
- “inappropriate” content, 3–4
- judge’s discretion, 3–4
- main guidelines in *Criminal Code*, 4
- requirements for admissibility, 2–3
- updating VISs prior to sentencing hearing, 4
- VIS received after guilty verdict, 2
- where victim “suffered harm or physical or emotional loss”, 2

### NEW EVIDENCE IN VISs/DISCLOSURE OF VISs, 256–258, *see also* FUTURE OF VISs

### ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND CROSS-EXAMINATIONS ON VISs

- cross-examination of victims on their VISs, 209–213
- “cross-examination” defined, 209
- cross-examination seldom occurs, 211
- Crown counsel having right to have victim testify, 209
- limited right to cross-examination, 210
- parameters of cross-examining victims needing further clarification, 213
- possibility of cross-examination, 210–211
- whether appropriate to cross-examine on VISs, 211–212
- court “air of reality” burden on offender, 212
- lack of jurisprudence, 212
- offender not having automatic right to cross-examine victim, 211
- oral presentations, 203–209
- introduction, 203–204
- Canada allowing victims to read VISs aloud, 203, 204
- victims benefiting from participation and input, 204
- oral presentation of VISs: beneficial or not, 207–209
- American commentator critical of Victim Rights Amendment, 208–209
- Canadians not in favour of VISs being read aloud, 208
- opportunity for offender to respond, 207–208
- reasons for allowing VISs to be read in courts, 207
- post-1999 amendments: inherent or discretionary, 204–207
- amendments providing victims with right to deliver VISs orally, 204, 205

## Index

### ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND CROSS-EXAMINATIONS ON VISs (*cont'd*)

- mandatory duty vs. discretionary duty on judiciary, 205, 206
- court having “residual discretion”, 206
- Recommendation 9 of Standing Committee, 204–205
- two interpretations given to subs. 722(2.1) of Code, 205–207
- conflicting messages having detrimental effect, 206–207
- debate over subs. 722(2.1) of Code continuing, 207
- judge permitting oral submission or alternative method, 206
- victim’s right to oral submission or to submit statement, 205–206

### PAROLE BOARD OF CANADA, *see also* FORMS AND VICTIM SERVICES IN CANADA

- access to information about offenders, 178
- additional information, 178
- “registered victims”, 178
- forms, 181–184
- request to present victim statement at hearing, 183–184
- victims request for information, 181–182
- information available to victim, 27–28
- key points for victim to know concerning PBC hearing, 180–181
- VISs presented to Parole Board, 179–180
- relevant information from victim, 179–180
- request to present VIS, 179

### REDEFINING “VICTIM”, 216–233, *see also* FUTURE OF VISs

### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, 260–263, *see also* FUTURE OF VISs

### SENTENCING PATTERNS OF COURTS, *see also* FUTURE OF VISs, new evidence in VISs/disclosure of VISs

- academic literature advocating that VISs not affecting sentence, 197
- concerns with utilization of VISs, 193–196
- better purpose in assisting in preparation of prosecutor’s case, 195
- courts expressing concern, 195
- John Howard Society of Alberta, 194–195
- emotionally charged issues, 195
- VISs appearing here to stay, 195–196
- extent to which VISs affecting sentencing patterns, 199–201
- informative but not aggravating sentence, 199, 200
- opinion of victim regarding punishment considered, 200
- shorter sentence if creating undue hardship, 200–201
- rationales for supporting existence of VISs, 198
- victim input being influential on sentencing patterns, 198–199
- international literature, 198–199
- survey of Ontario Crown Attorneys, 199
- survey of Ontario judiciary, 199
- VISs having little effect on sentencing patterns, 197–198
- studies in U.S., U.K. and Canada, 197–198
- whether VISs encouraging stricter penalties for offenders, 196
- judges not letting inappropriate information influence judgment, 196
- offenders appealing on basis of inappropriate VIS, 196

## Index

### UNIFORM VIS SYSTEM ACROSS CANADA, 243–250, *see also* FUTURE OF VISs

- time allotted to VISs, 249–250
- uniform purpose for VISs, 246–249
- uniform system making VIS process more efficient and effective, 243
- VIS form, 244–246

### VICTIM COMPENSATION, *see* FORMS AND VICTIM SERVICES IN CANADA

#### VICTIMS RIGHTS IN CANADA

- Alberta, 19–21
  - *Victims of Crime Act*, 19–20
    - principles, 20
    - role of victim, 20–21
    - ten-year vision, 19
    - victims not provided with extra protection, 21
  - *Victims' of Crime Protocol*, 20
- British Columbia, 18–19
  - *Victims' of Crime Act*, 18–19
    - entitlements for victims, 18
    - case law silent respecting “rights” of victims, 18–19
  - Canada’s treatment of victims generally, 11–12
  - *Canadian Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime*, 7, 12–14
  - lack of entrenchment, 13
  - symbolic rights, 13–14
  - ten principles, 13
  - United Nations *Declaration of Basic Principles*, 12–13
- funding and support organizations in Canada, 24–28
  - Correctional Services of Canada, 27
    - information available to victims, 27
    - VIS statements considered, 27
  - National Office for Victims, 25
    - information and services provided to victims, 25–26
- National Victims of Crime Awareness Week in Canada, 26
- Ombudsman for crime victims, 26
  - role and powers, 26
- Parole Board of Canada, 26–28
  - information available to victim, 27
- Policy Centre for Victims Issues, 24–25
  - financial assistance for attending hearing, 25
  - limitation to “serious violent crime”, 25
  - “victim fund”, 25
- “Victims of Crime Initiative”, 24
  - improving experience of victims, 24
  - raising awareness of victims’ role, 25
- lack of judicial consideration of victim rights legislation, 23–24
  - *Criminal Code* protection, 23–24
  - Manitoba, 17–18
    - *The Victims' Bill of Rights*, 17, 18
      - actual “rights”, 17
      - limited judicial consideration, 17, 18
      - test for compensation, 17–18
      - wide variety of rights, 17
  - Ontario, 15–17
    - *Victims' Bill of Rights*, 15–16
      - lack of judicial consideration, 15
      - legislature not intending to provide rights, 15–16
      - private law duty of care relating to police investigations denied, 16
      - protections limited, 16
      - “victim” defined, 15
- Quebec, 22–23
  - *Act Respecting Assistance for Victims of Crime*, 22–23



## Index

- VICTIMS RIGHTS IN CANADA (*cont'd*)
- rights of victims, 22–23
  - reasons for involving victims in criminal justice system, 11
  - Saskatchewan, 21–22
  - *Victims of Crime Act*, 21–22
  - Declaration of Principles, 21–22
- no judicial consideration of “rights”, 22

