

Backgrounder – Crime Victims Featured in *Adding Insult to Injury*

William Jentzel, 21, Windsor: Mr. Jentzel was attacked Dec. 29, 2002 in Windsor when he intervened to stop four men from beating another man. He spent eight days in a coma, had four brain surgeries, and was left with some brain damage, no sense of taste or smell and reduced strength and co-ordination in his right hand. The attackers were never found. William's father, Tristan Jentzel, applied to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for compensation on his behalf on Aug. 18, 2003. After a lengthy runaround, William received a cheque for \$22,349 on July 24, 2006.

Jeffrey Downes, 43, Toronto: Mr. Downes was attacked outside a housing complex in downtown Toronto on Aug. 11, 2001. His assailant hit him eight times, giving him two black eyes and a chipped tooth, then shattered his right arm with a wooden stool. He applied for compensation on May 5, 2003. The attacker pleaded guilty to aggravated assault causing bodily harm and was sentenced on May 17, 2004, but Mr. Downes' compensation claim continued to be delayed. It was finally scheduled for a hearing on Aug. 3, 2006 – tragically, Mr. Downes died of a heart attack on July 6, 2006. No compensation was awarded, as Mr. Downes' death was not directly attributable to the crime. The Board sent his family a letter saying his hearing had actually been scheduled ahead of the usual time frame.

Aurelio Almeida, London, Ont.: Mr. Almeida's five-year-old daughter, Naiomi, was abducted, raped and murdered on Aug. 19, 2001. Mr. Almeida applied for compensation for himself and his nine-year-old son on Jan. 11, 2002 and for reimbursement of funeral expenses on May 22, 2002. His claims were treated with suspicion and delayed despite a "priority" designation. He was denied compensation for lost wages, but he and his son finally received \$7,000 each for nervous shock on Feb. 10, 2003 and he was reimbursed for more than \$6,000 in funeral expenses on June 18, 2003. Thomas Hurst, 21, was convicted of first-degree murder in Naiomi's death in December 2003.

Jonathan Wamback, 15, Newmarket: Jonathan was beaten into a coma by a group of teenagers in Newmarket on June 29, 1999. He was on life support for 16 days and comatose for months, and still suffers some cognitive and physical impairment. Two of the three young offenders were convicted in February 2001. Jonathan's father Joseph Wamback applied in November 1999 for interim compensation, but finally withdrew his claim in frustration on July 5, 2005. Mr. Wamback and his wife Lozanne formed the Canadian Crime Victims Foundation in 2002.

Eva-Marie and Thomas Devine, Rodney: The Devines' daughter Deborah, 33, was found dead in a house fire in London, Ont. on June 1, 2006. Her common-law husband Loranzo Kimpe, 38, is charged with second-degree murder in her death. Mr. and Mrs. Devine applied for reimbursement of funeral expenses on June 12, 2006 and after being shuffled between a dozen Board workers and threatened for forgetting their file number, they received a cheque for \$4,586.23 on Aug. 28, 2006. Their claim for compensation for nervous shock is pending.

Olwen Redwood, Orillia: Ms. Redwood was present when her partner Harry Stirk, 49, was stabbed to death on March 20, 2005 at his home in Coboconk. She was traumatized and unable to work. Ms. Redwood applied Sept. 23, 2005 for compensation for therapy costs. When she contacted the Board on Aug. 9, 2006 to inquire about her case, she was told her file was "in the bottom of The Bin." Her claim is still in the system. The accused murderer was recently found not criminally responsible due to mental illness.

Priscilla de Villiers, Burlington: Mrs. de Villiers' daughter Nina, 19, was murdered Aug. 9, 1991 in Burlington. Six months after Mrs. de Villiers applied for compensation, she received a terse, three-line letter from the Board, telling her it would take at least 18 months to process her claim and she should not contact the board. Nina's killer, Jonathan Yeo, a sex offender out on bail at the time, subsequently murdered another woman in New Brunswick before killing himself during a police pursuit. Mrs. De Villiers formed the crime victims' advocacy group CAVEAT, which existed from 1991-2001. She was a member of the Ontario Office for Victims of Crime and has recently been involved with the Canadian Association for Victims Assistance and the Canadian Crime Victims Foundation.