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Dear Stakeholders, Service Providers and Communities:

Ontario is committed to supporting victims of crime and creating safer communities across our province. The leadership, expertise and commitment that is shown from local volunteers, organizations and practitioners are essential to ensuring people who have experienced victimization due to crime can access critical supports and services when they need them.

I am pleased to announce that nominations are now being accepted for the 2024/2025 Attorney General's Victim Services Awards of Distinction, which will be held in Spring 2025. **The deadline for nominations is Friday, November 29, 2024, at 11:59 pm EST.**

This important awards program recognizes exceptional achievements in service to people who have experienced victimization due to crime. It also honours the courageous efforts of individuals who have been personally impacted by crime and are now working to raise the profile of victims' issues in Ontario to help make their communities stronger.

Nominations can be made for any eligible individual or organization/group in Ontario:

- individuals who have experienced victimization due to crime*, their family members, or others personally impacted by crime who have raised the profile of victims' issues in Ontario
- volunteers who offer their time and personal resources to help people who have experienced victimization due to crime
- professional practitioners and paid victim services providers who have gone above and beyond their regular duties while providing support to people who have experienced victimization due to crime
- programs, groups, and organizations that deliver innovative services to people who have experienced victimization due to crime

**Crime refers to an offence under the Criminal Code (Canada).*

Please note that the ministry cannot accept self-nominations (for the Individual category) or nominations for:

- persons who are not residents of Ontario*
- organizations located outside of Ontario*
- employees of federal, provincial, and municipal governments and sworn police officers
- persons with criminal cases *currently* before the courts (inclusive of sentencing and appeals).

**Exceptions may be made for individuals or organizations involved with human trafficking work.*

The nomination package, including the nomination form and instructions, is available on the ministry's [website](#).

You can obtain more information by contacting the awards' Planning Committee at AGVSAD@ontario.ca.

I would kindly ask you to distribute this information to appropriate members of your community so that deserving individuals and groups may be considered for this award.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this very important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Downey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Doug Downey
Attorney General