



## **VICTIM SERVICES OF HALDIMAND NORFOLK MISSISSAUGAS OF THE CREDIT FIRST NATION**

July 10, 2020

Haldimand Police Services Board  
PO Box 400  
Cayuga, ON  
N0A 1E0  
Att: Mr. Bernie Corbett,

Victim Services of Haldimand-Norfolk-Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations has demonstrated our service commitment over the last 30 years, becoming a trusted pillar within our community and an integral part of the first response team. Victim Services has continued to provide services to our community throughout the pandemic through social distancing and the use of technology. Victim Services provides client-centered services for victims of crime and tragedy, now more than ever in the absence of other service providers. We have seen an increase in death support within our communities and have offered additional supports to the funeral home and the retirement home staff and families.

Since the beginning of COVID 19 we have also seeing an increase of domestic violence clients reaching out to access our Mobile Emergency Response System. MERS is a limited resource of non funded alarms managed by the private-public sector alliance involving Victim Services, OPP, justice partners, other social services agencies, and the GPS service provider. The Mobile Tracking System Program is designed as GPS enabled interventions strategies to address the need to enhance safety of individuals identified at risk of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, Human Trafficking, and/or criminal harassment.

The units are carried by victims who have experienced escalating violence and can transmit their exact location to Police in the event of danger or for investigative purposes. The police respond 911 to the victim's location, increasing their global safety whether driving, at work, at the park with kids or at home. The victims also get the benefit of a multi-disciplined High-Risk Management Team who work with the victim to keep their safety plan current and mitigate risks through collaboration.

The increased cases of domestic violence we believe is due in part to the isolation within homes where violence has been an issue, but it is also a result of perpetrators not being held after a violent incident and released back to the community and often their homes. Monitoring high-risk vulnerable victims is central to Victim Services mandate but the alarms are not funded. We are requesting the Haldimand Police Services Board consider partnering with our agencies to keep the most vulnerable of Haldimand County safe. The cost consideration for this request is \$ 2,500 which would fund the purchase alarms with monitoring for a one-year period.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Charlene A. Gains-Lovegrove

Corporate Manager

Victim Services of Haldimand-Norfolk-Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations

