



August 25, 2020

Honourable Doug Schweitzer  
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General  
424 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Schweitzer:

I am writing to you to express AUMA's concern with Bill 16, the Victims of Crime (Strengthening Public Safety) Amendment Act.

Last year, AUMA participated in consultations on a new model for Victim Services benefits. Expanding the scope of the Victims of Crime Fund was not included as a topic for discussion in these consultations, and to date, a summary of these consultations has not been released. However, during consultations, a number of stakeholders including AUMA voiced their opposition to expanding the scope of the Victims of Crime Fund, and/or allowing these funds to be put into general provincial revenues. Alberta is now the only province that does not restrict the use of its Victims of Crime fund to services that support victims.

I understand you have heard concerns from victims whose cases do not go to trial, particularly in rural areas, and who do not feel that justice was served. However, many community-based organizations that serve victims of crime have noted that without the support of victim services, "many victims choose not to engage with the criminal justice system or exit the process before resolution, resulting in offenders not being held accountable and endangering the safety of our communities."

Budget 2020 highlighted the additional revenue the province will receive from all municipalities contributing to policing costs under the new police costing model, a total of \$286 million over five years. Given these new funds flowing to the Ministry, why is it necessary to raise additional funds for public safety by changing the mandate of the Victims of Crime fund?

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me by email at [president@auma.ca](mailto:president@auma.ca) or my cell phone at (403) 363-9224. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Morishita', written in a cursive style.

Barry Morishita  
AUMA President