

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Victims First Canada Calls for National Independent Investigation of the Parole Board of Canada

Survivors and homicide-family advocates are uniting Canadians following high-risk offender releases to demand transparency, accountability, and public-safety reform in our justice system.

October 21, 2026 — Victoria, BC

Victims First Canada is calling for a national, independent investigation of the Parole Board of Canada (PBC) to examine whether Canada's federal parole system adequately protects victims, manages offender risk, and ensures transparency and accountability in decisions affecting public safety when high-risk offenders are released into the community. At its core is one fundamental question:

Does Canada's federal parole system provide meaningful victim participation, effective safety protections, transparency, and accountability when high-risk offenders are considered for release?

Victims First Canada is an independent national survivor-led advocacy initiative created to address growing public safety concerns among citizens, victims, and their families across Canada. Victims First Canada was founded by **Christopher Ducharme**, the organization's Spokesperson, former President of the **British Columbia Bereavement Helpline**, Founder of **BC Victims of Homicide**, and Core Planning Member of the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights, and **Debbie Vance**, the **Co-Founder** who initiated **e-Petition E-7545** (GPS monitoring of certain high-risk violent federal offenders).

This is deeply personal for both founders, who are survivors of Intimate Partner Violence. Christopher's mother was strangled to death by **Brock Joseph-William Graham**, a former Vancouver Police officer serving two life sentences for murdering two intimate partners. Debbie, a former RCMP civilian employee, barely survived an attempted murder by her husband, **Brian Gene Reum**. The PBC approved Graham's recent release, and Reum is eligible for parole on December 20, 2026, just 14 months into his five-year sentence. Both founders are legitimately concerned for their lives and left to question **what safeguards protect victims and the public.** [****See Appendix A***](#)

"Having stood beside thousands of homicide victims, our family is now experiencing firsthand that same unjust treatment; standing up for fundamental victims' rights is the right thing to do. How did we come to accept a system where victims feel they deserve less consideration for their safety than the person who caused the harm?"

— **Christopher Ducharme**, Victims First Canada Spokesperson

The Scope of a National, Independent Investigation of the PBC

Survivors of intimate-partner violence and victims are joining forces around a shared concern: **When their high-risk offender is released into the community, are Canada's systems doing enough to protect victims and manage risk?**

Victims First Canada identifies gaps between established Victims' Rights policy and practice and asks whether Canada has adequately addressed lessons from serious failures to prevent further harm. This initiative does not seek to prejudge individual parole decisions, but calls for an independent investigation of systemic issues and victims' rights.

"While I'm grateful to the politicians working to strengthen victim protections through new legislation, we cannot fix a flawed system with an endless series of band-aid solutions. Canada needs to identify systemic failures, prioritize public safety and put victims' rights at the center of our justice system."

— **Christopher Ducharme**, Victims First Canada Spokesperson

"Too often, systemic failures are addressed on a case-by-case basis, one family at a time, while victims continue to struggle to be heard and have their safety protected. The growing demand for legislative reform reflects the need for accountability and meaningful change. How we treat victims says something about who we are as a country. Canada can—and must—do better."

— **Debbie Vance**, Co-Founder, Victims First Canada

The Objective of the National Investigation

The investigation would identify systemic deficiencies, uphold institutional accountability, and take a victim-centered approach to assessing whether current victim participation is adequate and safeguards are effective. The investigation would also assess transparency and accountability in PBC decision-making, victim engagement, public participation, offender monitoring, and post-release victim and public safety.

The proposed investigation would examine three interconnected areas:

1. **Public Safety, Risk Assessment and Offender Supervision;**
2. **Victims' Rights, Protection and Participation; and**
3. **Systemic Accountability, Transparency and Institutional Reform.** [*See Appendix B](#)

Building on Parliamentary Progress Toward Systemic Parole Reform

This initiative recognizes ongoing parliamentary work addressing intimate-partner violence, victims' rights, parole, corrections, offender monitoring, and public safety, including Bills C-16, C-221, C-225, C-232, C-235, C-236, S-236, and S-242, as well as Debbie's **House of Commons e-Petition E-7545**.

For instance, Christopher and Debbie believe GPS electronic monitoring and geofencing for appropriate high-risk offenders released into the community are part of broader efforts to improve risk management, public safety, and accountability.

“When victims of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) survive and learn that their ‘high-risk-rated’ perpetrators are being released into the community well before serving their full sentence, they are revictimized, traumatized, and exposed to physical danger by a system meant to protect them.

Despite the prolonged abuse that many IPV victims have experienced, and the higher likelihood of being targeted after release, the PBC does not adequately distinguish between general and Intimate Partner Violent offenders. Victims deserve meaningful, enforceable protection, including GPS monitoring, geofencing, and a genuine voice in conditional-release decisions.”

— **Debbie Vance, Co-Founder**, Victims First Canada; Initiator of e-Petition E-7545

Intended Outcome of the Investigation

The ultimate objective is a safer, more transparent, and accountable federal parole system—one that respects legal rights, prioritizes victims’ safety, prevents avoidable harm, and upholds institutional accountability and public trust.

Call to Action: Join the Call for Change

Victims First Canada is engaging with federal ministers, Members of Parliament, the Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime, and the public to gain support.

We invite all Canadians—including survivors, victims’ families, advocates, citizens, politicians, and organizations—to stay informed, follow the story, and join the call for meaningful reform.

- Sign and share our [National Victims First Canada Petition](#)
- Follow Victims First Canada on Facebook and Instagram
- Engage with your elected Member of Parliament representatives

Media Inquiries

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Victims First Canada Petition: change.org/victimfirstcanada

Instagram: [@victimfirstcanada](https://www.instagram.com/victimfirstcanada) / Facebook: [@victimfirstcanada](https://www.facebook.com/victimfirstcanada)