

### *Recommendation 2*

The Committee recommends that all participants in the criminal justice process give high priority to the provision of general and appropriate case-specific information to victims and their families.

### *Recommendation 3*

The Committee recommends that, at a minimum, general information include the victim's right to seek compensation and restitution, the right to submit a victim impact statement and the right to be kept informed about various pre-trial, trial, and post-trial proceedings. Basic information should identify who is responsible for providing it and where further information may be obtained.

### *Recommendation 4*

The Committee recommends that the provision of case-specific information to victims and, in appropriate cases, to their close family members be facilitated by the use of a form on which the victim may check off the various kinds of information he or she would like to receive. Such forms should be appended to Crown attorneys' files and subsequently forwarded to correctional authorities.

## **3. Making Maximum Use of Victim Impact Statements**

### **a. At Plea and Sentencing**

The submission of a victim impact statement ensures that the sentencing judge has sufficient information about the impact of the crime on the victim (physical and emotional pain suffered, loss of wages or property, damage sustained, and other expenses incurred as a result of the crime) to determine a fair and proper sentence. Judges should consider all relevant information about both offenders and victims in order to reach a "just" sentence. In some cases, judges are provided with relatively extensive information about the offender (through pre-sentence reports or representations by defence counsel), but less accurate or less up-to-date information about the impact of the crime on the victim. This is particularly so where the offender pleads guilty or negotiates a guilty plea to a lesser