



The *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights* recognizes the importance of victims being able to **seek restitution, a financial payment from the offender, for their losses**



RESTITUTION ORDER

16. Every victim has the right to have the court consider making a restitution order against the offender.

ENFORCEMENT

17. Every victim in whose favour a restitution order is made has the right, if they are not paid, to have the order entered as a civil court judgment that is enforceable against the offender.

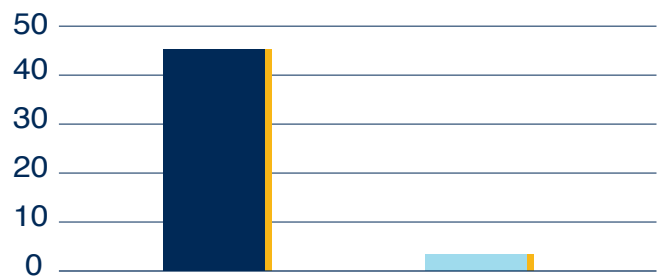
WHAT WE KNOW*



2,033,925
crimes reported
to police



217,451
guilty verdicts



96,857 | **45%** of cases
5,256 | **<3%** of cases
restitution ordered

Fines are paid to the state while
restitution is paid to the victim.

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW



Number of **victims** provided
with **restitution request**
form **34.1** by police



Number of **restitution**
requests denied by
a court



Number of **restitution**
orders paid



Total losses suffered
by victims



Types of cases
where restitution
is ordered



Amounts
sought versus
imposed



Number of times victims had **orders**
entered as civil court judgments in
efforts to **enforce the orders**



How **often restitution is**
included with other sentencing
options such as probation

OBSERVATIONS



Victims are not well informed
of their right to seek restitution
in the courts.



Only a few jurisdictions provide
assistance with enforcement of
restitution where it is ordered.



There is a lack of comprehensive
data collection and reporting
in all jurisdictions related to
restitution orders.

RECOMMENDATION

Amend the provisions related to the enforcement
of restitution orders (section 17) with:

Every victim in whose favour a restitution order is made has the right, if they are not paid, to have assistance with collection of the judgment that is enforceable against the offender.

This recognizes the responsibility of all governments
to assist with the enforcement of court-ordered
restitution, as victims have a right to receive
reparations for the losses they have suffered.

* Statistics Canada, Police-reported crime for selected offences, Canada, 2018

* Statistics Canada, Adult criminal courts, guilty cases by type of sentence