



National Justice Network Update



January 2012

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Welcome to the **January** issue of the *National Justice Network e-Update*, a publication of the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime. PLEASE SHARE THIS **FREE** NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES OR HAVE THEM SIGN UP TO RECEIVE IT DIRECTLY AT:

<http://crcvc.ca/en/newsletter/en/newsletter/>.

This e-newsletter was written and compiled with assistance by Matt Prokopiw, Carleton University and Kristina Musca, University of Ottawa. Thank you!

Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime

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Department of Justice
Canada

Ministère de la Justice
Canada

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LINKS OF INTEREST:

[Policy Centre for Victim Issues](#)

[Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime](#)

[National Office for Victims](#)

[Victim Services, Correctional Service Canada](#)

[Information for Victims, National Parole Board](#)

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN AND GIRLS: REPORT TABLED

Three days before the House of Commons rose for its Christmas recess, a parliamentary committee quietly tabled a report. It was called [Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls](#). But sadly, it was not a plan of action or even a commitment to do better. Only one MP, 22-year-old New Democrat Mylène Freeman, cared enough to speak out. "This report

UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL VICTIMS OF CRIME AWARENESS WEEK 2012

The National Victims of Crime Awareness Week 2012 website is now live! Visit www.victimswweek.gc.ca to see the exciting new graphic design and updated information about planning Victims Week events in your community. Additional resources will continue to be posted to the website, so check back regularly.

"STEP BY STEP" ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM

The Victims Advisory Committee Ontario - Nunavut Region in partnership with Correctional Services Canada (CSC) and Parole Board Canada (PBC) is pleased to offer a one-day symposium to heighten awareness surrounding victim-related issues.

Guest Speakers:

- Ed and Dawn Novak - parents of Natalie Novak, murdered by her estranged boyfriend;
- Tammy Bullock - mother of Brayton Bullock, murdered by his Young Offender cousin;
- Douglas Macklem -



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does not really broach the subject of violence," she said. "It offers no recommendations whatsoever and does not acknowledge the humanitarian crisis facing aboriginal women."

Amnesty International Secretary-General Alex Neve pointed to issue after issue overlooked by the committee,

- "It said nothing about the near-absence of emergency shelters for aboriginal women fleeing domestic violence;
- It said nothing about the indifference of many police forces to reports of missing and murdered aboriginal women;
- It said nothing about Canada's failure to meet its obligations under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- It offered no support to families of missing and murdered women; and
- It didn't even mention that abject poverty compels aboriginal women — especially those living on reserves — to stay with their abusers."

In March 2010, with the goals of gaining a better understanding of the extent and nature of violence against Aboriginal women and its root causes, the Standing Committee on the Status of Women listened to representatives of Aboriginal Organizations, academics, service providers, and Aboriginal women themselves. Between April 2010 and February 2011, the Committee heard from over 150 witnesses from across Canada.

The interim report, entitled [*Call into the Night: An Overview of Violence Against Aboriginal Women*](#), was a first step. Testimonies described the impacts of colonization, of residential schools, and of missing and murdered Aboriginal women as being intergenerational and intimately connected with the violence that is manifested in many Aboriginal communities and families. Witnesses suggested that the indifference of society to the fate of these Aboriginal women renders Aboriginal women more vulnerable to targeted acts of violence against them, by strangers or acquaintances.

Among the services that people identified as most

victim of financial crime;

- Vicky Laforge - daughter of murder victims Romeo and Yvonne Laforge;
- Glenn Allan - Survivor Childhood Sexual Abuse/Advocate Sexual Abuse Prevention;
- Françoise Mathieu, M. Ed., CCC - Moving Forward: self-care for victims and victim service workers.

WHEN: Thursday, February 9, 2012

TIME: 7:45 am - 4:30 pm

LOCATION: The Salvation Army Kingston Citadel, 816 Centennial Dr, Kingston, ON

RVSP: Cheryl Fisher at 613-536-4691 or by email: cheryl.fisher@csc-scc.gc.ca

SAPAVS NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

The Saskatchewan Association of Police Affiliated Victim Services Inc. (SAPAVS) "...The Road to Resiliency..." conference will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan from March 19 - 22nd, 2012. Visit the Conference webpage today ~ www.RoadtoResiliency.com where you can register to attend. Speaker information, changes and updates are also posted on the conference site.

SNAPSHOTS

CARLETON UNIVERSITY



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effective are: Community healing; Supports to Families and Individuals; Support to deal with Addictions; Federal Government funding for non-profit organizations.

The most recent report was particularly disappointing because the interim report made such a strong statement. "It is the silence which is the greatest shame of all. It is the silence of those of us in the majority who chose to turn a blind eye to this violence — cases of missing aboriginal daughters and mothers which never make the headlines, epidemics of suicide which don't elicit an outpouring of concern. It is this silence which is complicit in allowing the situation to continue."

'ATTENTION BLACKBERRY USERS: BBM FOR SAFETY!'

As part of its ongoing work to encourage Canadians to take action on violence against women and girls, YWCA Canada, the country's oldest and largest women's multi-service organization, released the much awaited YWCA Safety Siren application for BlackBerry smartphones.

As part of its suite of anti-violence tools and programming for young women, the "Safety Siren" is a unique violence prevention and intervention tool, turning your BlackBerry smartphone into a multi-functional safety device. By pressing the Siren when you are in an unsafe situation, the application sends an emergency SOS email and 'bbm' (BlackBerry Messenger) message while auto dialing a pre-selected friend, displaying your location on a map.

The application also provides amazing information about sexual health, dating, tips and facts on safety and essential crisis information. In addition the application geo-locates users with maps and directions to over 300 resource centres across Canada by topic or proximity including local YWCAs, emergency hotlines, health clinics and crisis centres.

"What I love best about the Safety Siren for BlackBerry smartphone users is that it focuses on making preventative choices about safety before

LOOKING FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

In partnership with the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre, Masters of Social Work students of Carleton University are conducting a research study looking for what barriers individuals face in accessing sexual assault services within the Ottawa area, and how they evaluate the effectiveness of the service they received.

The study is titled "Using Sexual Assault Services in Ottawa: Investigating the Service Gaps, Needs, and Wants of Service Users." Through an anonymous online survey, in-person interviews and focus groups, Carleton students are hoping to gain a better understanding of the support that sexual assault victims encounter, and to locate gaps in areas needing improvement across support services.

The study is looking for individuals who have been victims of sexual violence, have accessed sexual assault services in the past 10 years, and are 16 years of age or older. Please go to the following website to complete the online survey:

<http://app.fluidsurveys.com/s/ORCC-CommunitySurvey/>

SAFETY OF SUPPORT WORKERS A CONCERN AFTER THE MURDER OF BAYUSH HAGOS





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heading out,” says Corinne Rusch-Drutz, YWCA Canada Director of Communications & Membership Development. It’s also your own private gateway to a library of women’s resources, from sexual harassment to STIs.”

Created as part of YWCA’s award-winning, signature anti-violence initiative, ‘Power of Being a Girl’, the Safety Siren is available as a free download on BlackBerry App World.

AN UPDATE ON THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE FOR DALLAS MARTENS

Dallas and Kristy Martens sold everything they owned when they moved from Saskatchewan to the island of Roatan, Honduras, in July 2009 to volunteer for a non-profit AIDS awareness group. On September 18, days after their wedding, the couple was out celebrating when gunmen surrounded them and fatally shot Dallas, 31, who was attempting to protect Kristy during an apparent robbery.

Although the crime initially appeared to be a random act of violence, Kristy Martens has been denied a life-insurance claim based on allegations that implicated her in the murder of her husband. “Kristy Martens is now taking the Wawanesa Life Insurance Company to court for refusing to pay out the policy based on its belief Ms. Martens may have been criminally responsible for her husband's murder,” writes Justice Lian Schwann in her November 30, 2011 ruling in Regina's Court of Queen's Bench.

The court documents show that Honduran police laid charges against six people in connection with the killing, all of whom were convicted. However, statements from Wawanesa revealed that the prosecutor's office still considers Martens' murder investigation open because of inconsistencies between Kristy's witness statement and testimony given at trial about the positions the vehicle and Dallas' body were left in.

Additionally, a statement given by a protected witness four days after Dallas Marten’s murder contends that a mysterious man told the witness that he had been given money by “the deceased’s wife” to kill a

In a story that hits close to home for victim service providers, the tragic slaying of 57-year-old Bayush Hagos on September 1, 2011 in B.C. raises a lot of questions about the delicate and potentially dangerous role of community support workers.

Hagos worked at the Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services for 19 years, supporting battered women and helping marginalized people find housing and other community services. The agency has said that they have received threats in the past “because we do anti-violence work and our staff are advocates for women and children.”

When Ayelech Zenebe Ejigu, who had been accused of attempting to kill her husband, needed a place to stay once released on bail, Hagos made extraordinary efforts to find her shelter. When she couldn’t find anyone to take Eligu in, Hagos allowed the woman to stay at her Burnaby apartment.

“The only reason Hagos was in contact with Ejigu was because there was nobody who could interpret”, said Shashi Assanand, executive director of the agency where Hagos worked. Assanand said the society wouldn’t normally work with a client





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"Canadian man".

Kristy Martens' role in her husband's murder is still under investigation and her civil suit against Wawanesa is presently awaiting the next stage of proceedings. Dallas Martens' family continues to seek justice for his murder.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION SEEKS TO PREVENT BULLYING IN SCHOOLS IN ONTARIO

On the heels of several high-profile teen suicides linked to homophobic bullying, the Ontario Government introduced Bill-13, an act to amend the Education Act. The legislation is known as the *Accepting Schools Act* and it aims to deal with homophobic and transphobic bullying, along with integrating homosexuality into the curriculum's sex education and permitting students to form sexually orientated clubs and alliances.

"The purpose of our accepting schools act is to send a strong signal to all Ontarians, of all faiths and backgrounds, all places of origin, culture, ethnicities, in our province and our publicly funded schools — schools will be warm and accepting of all our children, regardless of their sexual orientation as well," Dalton McGuinty told reporters.

As the Minister of Education, Laurel Broten said in a statement, "Bullying is an underestimated and pervasive problem in our schools and in our communities. The statistics are clear. A 2009 survey of grade 7 to 12 students by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health found that almost one in three students has been bullied at school."

"A 2011 national climate survey by Egale, found that 64% of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer students and 61% of students with LGBTQ parents felt unsafe at school." Broten also added that "since 2004, this government has invested \$285M in safe schools initiatives that are helping make Ontario's schools some of the safest in the world. Ontario was the first province in Canada to require all school staff

charged in a violent crime, but since no one else spoke Ejigu's language, Hagos was called in to help.

Assanand said there is a general lack of support for people like Ejigu with a multitude of issues, including mental health problems and language barriers. "Nobody takes the responsibility," she said.

Bayush Hagos was beloved in the local Ethiopian community as someone who opened her heart and her home to anyone in need and the society is doing what it can to support her many friends.

PROVINCIAL & TERRITORIAL MINISTERS OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE MEET IN CHARLOTTETOWN

In meetings at the end of January in PEI, provincial and territorial ministers sent a united message to Ottawa, with a resolution asking the federal government to consult with them on the cost of the omnibus crime Bill, C-10. The request also asked for consultation before the bill comes into force to ensure provincial courts and police are prepared for the changes.

When asked for comment, federal Minister Nicholson's office stated that "meetings are on-going." Bill C-10 will begin to be studied by a





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to report serious student incidents – including bullying – to the principal.”

If passed, the *Accepting Schools Act* will create legal obligations for boards to address bullying prevention and early intervention, progressive discipline, and equity and inclusive education.

The proposed legislation will provide clear expectations and increase accountability for school boards and bullies, including making expulsion a possible consequence for bullying. In addition, the bill will designate the third week of every November to recognize Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week in legislation to encourage and support existing activities within communities to maintain that bullying must end.

NCVLI FIGHTS AGAINST THE INVASION OF ONLINE PRIVACY

A number of different victim records can be accessed through subpoenas but recently the type of information being sought has changed. More specifically, social media and text messages belonging to victims have been accessed through subpoenas. As a result, the credibility of certain victims (i.e., rape victims) has been questioned. In the most recent American case, a military defendant in possession of a photograph of a rape victim in hospital posted on Facebook is arguing that the victim was not actually raped since she is smiling in the photograph. The defendant is using this photograph as the basis to subpoena the victim's Facebook account, suggesting that other revealing photographs may be found. The defendant's argument is based on common rape myths, including stereotypical views of the ideal rape victim.

In order to address this issue, the National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI) in Portland, Oregon has worked with a number of partners over the last year to protect victims' personal information found in social media accounts and text messages. More information can be found at the following link:

http://law.lclark.edu/centers/national_crime_victim_la

Senate committee in February.

HEALING AFTER HOMICIDE LOSS

The B.C. Victims of Homicide will be hosting support groups for those who have lost a loved one to homicide.

An 8-week Homicide Bereavement Support Group will take place Saturday mornings beginning on February 4 and continue through March 31, 2012. In addition, a monthly Drop-In Support Group is scheduled to begin in April 2012.

These self-help, peer support, non-therapy groups are cost-free and facilitated by trained professionals. Saturday morning sessions will provide:

- A safe, non-judgmental, compassionate environment with time for sharing stories and insights.
- Essential grief and mourning survival tools.
- Practical support and information as well as valuable community connections.

No-cost is associated with the meetings however, pre-registration is required as space is limited.

For inquiries and to register, please contact: 604-738-



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TORONTO COACH CHARGED WITH SEXUAL ASSAULT LOSES BID TO UNSEAL PSYCH RECORDS OF YOUNG VICTIM

A public school swim coach in Toronto has lost his request for access to the psychiatric records of the boy whose accusation of sexual assault was first made a year after it was alleged to have happened — and soon after the boy's lengthy stay in a psychiatric ward because of hallucinations and delusions.

Describing the request as an "invasive fishing expedition," an Ontario Superior Court judge said the law does not allow him to assume a witness or complainant is unreliable simply because he is mentally ill.

Jonathan Summerhayes, who has worked for the Toronto District School Board since 1995, faces trial on charges of sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching and forcible confinement.

The alleged victim, who cannot be named, was 12 at the time of the alleged offences in the spring of 2009, which are alleged to have taken place in Toronto's west end, in an office at Carlton Village Public School, where the boy was a student and Summerhayes the swim instructor.

The *Criminal Code* makes it explicit that a record need not be released if it relates to reliability "merely because the complainant or witness has received or is receiving psychiatric treatment, therapy or counselling."

"Part of the reason for including (this clause) is to discourage stereotypical reasoning about those who suffer from mental health problems," the judge wrote, saying it is wrong to "draw a direct line between mental illness and testimonial unreliability."

9950 or 1-877-779-2223.

NEW LOOK FOR CRCVC WEBSITE

The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime is proud to present our brand new website. Please visit: www.crcvc.ca today to check out the sleek new design. You can now share news, events and other CRCVC updates more easily in your social media spaces!

What do you think of the new site? We'd love your feedback - please send comments to crcvc@crcvc.ca.

