



National Justice Network Update



May 2011

Volume 18, Issue 5

Welcome to the **May** 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/>.

Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime

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Department of Justice
Canada

Ministère de la Justice
Canada

The National Justice Network e-Update would not be possible without funding received from the Department of Justice Canada - Victims Fund.

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](#)

EUROPEAN UNION ENSURES BETTER PROTECTION OF CRIME VICTIMS

The EU commission has recently proposed to put victims first regardless of the country they reside in. If a tourist from Poland is mugged and injured while visiting Paris they will be treated with respect, offered protection and support, and be able to access the justice system. The proposal was initiated based on the Cowan v. Trésor public case which ruled that victims have the right to compensation regardless of their nationality.

The EU's Justice Commissioner, Viviane Reding has stated, "While our criminal justice systems focus on catching criminals, they sometimes end up neglecting the victims themselves. [The] Commission

MAY IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

UPCOMING EVENTS

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY – JUNE 15TH

Help raise awareness, educate others and empower elders with the message that elder abuse is not acceptable. Show the world you care about ending elder abuse and bring it to the attention of others by wearing something purple on June 15th. For more information about how you can raise awareness in the workplace or in your community about elder abuse visit, <http://www.inpea.net>.

SUMMER INSTITUTE ON MEN, TRAUMA AND CHANGE JUNE 13-17, 2011 OTTAWA, ON

The Men's Project will be presenting Canada's first national training program aimed at service providers who work with male survivors of sexual and/or physical abuse. The program will cover topics on a full day schedule and can be booked individually. More information and registration is available at www.themensproject.ca.

SCOTIABANK FOR BC VICTIMS OF HOMICIDE



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proposals will ensure that the EU puts victims first. With millions of people suffering from crime each year, any citizen could become a victim. Victims of crime need respect, protection and support to see that justice is served. That is why I am putting victims at the head of criminal justice in the EU by making sure they can rely on minimum rights and support anywhere in Europe”.

The proposal will ensure that individuals residing in and visiting one of the 27 EU countries will be guaranteed certain rights under the *Directive on minimum standards for victims*. These rights include:

- victims are treated with respect and police, prosecutors and judges are trained in how to properly deal with them;
- victims get information on their rights and their case in a way they understand;
- victim support exists in every Member state;
- victims can participate in proceedings if they want and are helped to attend the trial
- vulnerable victims are identified – such as children, victims of rape, or those with disabilities – and they are properly protected;
- victims are protected while police investigate the crime and during court proceedings.

In addition, a proposal has been presented by the commission named a *Regulation on mutual recognition of civil law protection measures*. The proposal is meant to ensure that victims of violence can still rely on protection and restraint orders that have been issued against a perpetrator regardless of whether they are travelling or have relocated to another country.

The EU views the proposals as a first step in positioning victims of crime as the central focus of their justice system and is aiming to strengthen the EU’s rules on compensation for victims abroad and for individuals in traffic accidents within the next few years. Currently the plan is to allow victims to claim compensation and damages based on the time constraints within their home country.

Overall, the EU’s broader objective is to build a European arena of justice so that all individuals are privy to the same level of basic rights. It is important to note that victims’ rights are fundamental rights

This year the Scotiabank Group Charity Challenge has added the British Columbia Bereavement Helpline (BCBH) to the list of charities that are eligible to raise money during the Scotiabank Vancouver Half-Marathon and 5K races. Chris Ducharme will be representing the BCBH Hotline and 100% of the money raised will go directly to fund the BC Victims of Homicide initiative. More information on this event can be found at [Scotiabank Vancouver Half-Marathon and 5K](#).

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME - 2011 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Washington, D.C.

The National Center for Victims of Crime will be holding a conference June 20-22, 2011. The conference will emphasize a multidisciplinary approach to sharing promising practices, current research, and effective programs and policies that are victim-centered, practice-based, and research-informed. For more information, including program and registration details: www.ncvc.org.

“THE ROAD TO RESILIENCY”

The Saskatchewan Association of Police Affiliated Victim Services Inc. (SAPAVS) will be holding a conference in Saskatoon from March 20-22, 2012.



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and include the respect for maintaining human dignity. It is the hope of the EU that by safeguarding these rights a strong sense of confidence with the justice system will resound throughout the 27 countries and citizens associated with the EU.

HOMICIDE SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUP HELPS SASKATCHEWAN FAMILIES

Lois Isnana and her children are slowly beginning to focus on living their lives instead of focusing on one that was cut short. Mrs. Isnana's husband, Lloyd, died in hospital in 2006 after a violent incident at their home. Mrs. Isnana and her children have been in pieces at the loss of their father and husband and were not able to locate any services available for families of homicide victims.

Immediately after Lloyd's death, Lois and her children were thrust into the public spotlight and their lives soon became an open book. Mrs. Isnana is a social worker by trade, but was not prepared for what laid ahead for her and her children. Even though she had many caring and loving colleagues around, her no one understood her pain. She started to reach out and attempted many avenues until she contacted the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime.

The CRCVC forwarded information on a conference in Edmonton for homicide victims that she attended. While at the conference she connected with support groups in other provinces, but found nothing currently available within Saskatchewan. The conference inspired her to launch a support group in her region. She contacted the Greystone Bereavement Centre in Regina for additional support and guidance. Mrs. Isnana's perseverance paid off and for the past year individuals have been meeting the third Wednesday of every month at the Bereavement Centre that is run by Regina Palliative Care Inc. in partnership with the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region.

The centre offers counselling with trained counsellors that have specialized in grief training and aims to give participants a sense of connection and community. Marlene Jackson, bereavement coordinator states that, "It brings people together that otherwise would never have occasion to meet each other. It's not that we're there to compare our

The conference is intended to provide professionals in the fields of victim services, justice, policing, mental health, social services, corrections and direct service providers across Saskatchewan and Canada with educational sessions to augment the current knowledge required in their respected fields. Individuals that attend the conference will gather the necessary skills that assist you to interface with victims of crime or traumatic events. More information to follow.

SNAPSHOTS

"DON'T BE THAT GUY" CAMPAIGN UNVEILED IN OTTAWA

As part of activities to mark Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Crime Prevention Ottawa, the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre and the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence against Women unveiled a new campaign targeting young men and women at the *Building Prevention: Sexual Violence, Youth and Drinking* conference on Thursday, May 19, 2011. The "Don't Be That Guy" campaign is a collection of thought-provoking posters that will be distributed to local Ottawa-area bars and places that young people frequent. The posters are designed to raise awareness among young people about drinking and sexual violence.



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stories or losses, but it takes away that sense of isolation when you're in a room with others who understand."

Prior to attending meetings individuals must pre-register and attend pre-group individual counselling sessions. According to Jackson, mandatory individual sessions are necessary. "... We know that grief can be more complicated, we want to help ensure that people are ready for the group experience and that we are not going to further complicate their grief by entering the group process too early."

On a monthly basis less than 10 people attend the support group and the majority of those in attendance have lost a child or sibling to homicide. Lois wants to make sure people know that individuals do not have to suffer alone and that services are available to them.

FAMILIES OF PICKTON'S VICTIMS WILL HAVE STANDING AT INQUIRY

On May 2nd it was announced that 10 groups would be granted standing during the inquiry into the missing B.C. women. All of the groups and individuals given standing will have access to all documents and will be able to make submissions to cross examine witnesses. The groups that have received standing include the Vancouver Police Department, federal and provincial governments, the Vancouver Police Union, a coalition of organizations serving individuals in the sex trade, a criminal profiler and former Vancouver police officer Kim Rossmo. Cameron Ward will represent the families of four women slain by Robert Pickton as well as the family of Dawn Crey. Although Dawn's remains were found on Robert Pickton's Port Coquitlam farm he was never charged with her murder.

Wally Oppal, the head of the missing women inquiry, has stated that, "Most of these groups were frontline lobbyists for public attention to the missing and murdered women and ultimately for the establishment of a public inquiry."

An additional eight groups have been granted limited standing that will permit them to access documents and make a final submission. The groups with limited standing will also have the ability to request an opportunity to cross-examine a witness.

SAY NO – UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN RELEASES NEW WEBSITE

"My 'UNITE to End Violence against Women' campaign sparked a global movement to address this pandemic. The social mobilization platform 'Say NO - UNITE' carries this movement forward by raising awareness and striving to inspire people to work for a world free of violence against women and girls. Together, we can reach this goal, which will benefit individuals and societies, creating a better future for all."

— Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

The UN Secretary-General's UNITE to End Violence against Women Campaign has released a new interactive website that allows individuals worldwide to post actions and initiatives taking place within their communities. The initiative has been put in place to build momentum and engage a global audience by sharing news, alerts and tools concerning ending Violence against Women. Visit www.saynotoviolence.org for more information on how to get involved.

THE WALK – OTTAWA FRINGE FESTIVAL

In association with PACT-Ottawa (Persons Against the Crime of Trafficking in



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Mr. Oppal has made an additional recommendation that 13 of the applicants receive provincial funding to have the ability to fully participate in the inquiry. Mr. Oppal was quoted saying, "I am also mindful that many of these organizations have limited resources and their involvement in this commission may provide a unique opportunity for their voices and perspectives to be heard."

The inquiry will examine the broader issues regarding the disappearances in Vancouver as well as in other provinces. Police investigations of women reported missing from the Downtown Eastside between January 23, 1997 and February 5, 2002 will also be included within the report. In addition Mr. Oppal will look into the decision by the British Columbia Criminal Justice Branch in January 1998, to suspend legal proceedings against Pickton and the charges of attempted murder and other offences.

The two-part inquiry is expected to begin in northern British Columbia sometime in mid-June. The final report is expected to be submitted the end of 2011.

ELDERS WANT RESPONSE REGARDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WHILE YUKON CHIEFS STAY MUM

An estimated three dozen people attended a rally in front of the Council of Yukon First Nations Office on May 10th to vocalize the issue of violence against women. A number of women from the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation organized the event in response to their chief, Eddit Skookum, being charged with assaulting his girlfriend last year. Skookum pleaded guilty on a lesser charge as his girlfriend has refused to testify against him in court.

The women and elders who attended the rally accused the attending chiefs of avoiding the issue of violence against women as Skookum was voted to remain as chief in November.

"I really truly feel that as elders, we're working on [violence against women] but we don't have our leadership behind us. [The leaders] have to stop being silent," Stated Elder Agnes Mills of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.

The Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Ruth

Humans) will be presenting **"The Walk"** at Moon dog Theatre in Ottawa. **"The Walk"** is the story of three wildly incompatible individuals, a socially active nun, a neurotic writer and an out of work film director, struggling to write a play about the trafficking of women. From the groups meetings and writings haunting stories of trafficked women emerge. **"The Walk"** will run from June 16th – June 25th at the Moon Dog Theatre. More information can be located at, <http://www.moondogtheatre.com>.

NOVA SCOTIA MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER OF MISSING WOMAN

The RCMP have charged 31-year-old James Leroy Leopold of Greenville, N.S., with second-degree murder of 47-year old Laura Lee Robertson.

Ms. Robertson had been missing since April 14, when she failed to show up for work and did not contact family. The police have not stated whether her body has been found.

The 47-year-old woman's keys and purse were still in her Liverpool apartment when she disappeared. The RCMP are still in the preliminary stages of their homicide investigation.

The CRCVC is deeply



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Massie has vocalized that she opposes violence of all kinds but she cannot do anything regarding the matters at the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation. If the Council of Yukon First Nations enters the community and discusses the matter with citizens it is considered to be an interference of community affairs and is viewed as crossing the line.

Ms. Massie informed those in attendance at the rally that all visiting chiefs were invited to attend the rally but only Eric Morris, the northern vice-chief with the Assembly of First Nations came outside to address the crowd.

saddened for Laura's family. This case is yet another example of violence against women having deadly consequences in Canada and it is unacceptable.

MANITOBA PROPOSES CANADA'S FIRST CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT

The Manitoba Government has recently announced plans to expand its current sexual exploitation strategy to include stronger measures to prosecute traffickers and protect victims. With co-operation from police, service agencies and Aboriginal organizations, the province will be enacting Canada's first Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking Act called Tracia's Trust. It is aimed at targeting individuals that traffic, exploit and abuse victims and is committed to providing an additional \$2 million dollars to the existing sexual exploitation strategy. The \$2 million will be dedicated to establishing 18 safe transition beds and increasing awareness of human trafficking throughout the province of Manitoba.

The Manitoba Government has incorporated additional initiatives including:

- Specialized prosecution of human-trafficking predators ;
- The creation of a provincial specialized sexual exploitation and trafficking investigator;
- The launch of a travel and tourism code of conduct to engage the private sector; and
- Establishing regional teams in up to 15 Manitoba cities and towns to raise awareness and counter local sexual exploitation.

The addition, Tracia's Trust will allow victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation the ability to obtain protection orders against individuals that have exploited them as well as provide victims the capacity to sue their abusers.

Additional information regarding Manitoba's Human Trafficking Strategy can be located at, <http://news.gov.mb.ca>.

NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS COME TO QUEBEC TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST RAPE

Jody Williams, an American, was joined in Montebello, Quebec this month by two other female Nobel peace laureates – Mairead Corrigan Maguire of Ireland and Shirin Ebadi of Iran – to talk about rape in conflict zones. They invited more than 100 women from around the world to join them, many of whom have experienced sexual violence.



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"There has always been rape in war, yes," says Ms. Williams. "But using it specifically as a tactic of war seems relatively new and on the scale that we're seeing it in the Congo, in Darfur, Rwanda, Bosnia, Burma."

Rape has devastating impacts on individuals and communities. While there have been three resolutions by the UN Security Council since 2000 that call on parties in a conflict to protect women from sexual violence and urge countries to bring perpetrators to justice, Williams says there has been no consistent enforcement. "We have all these resolutions at the UN. They are fine. But if you don't try to get states to actively implement them, they are just words on paper," said Ms. Williams.

The Nobel Women's Initiative, of which Ms. Williams is a member, sees the solution in prosecution. It argues that:

- Impunity must be ended for sexual violence;
- Money must be provided for medical and legal services;
- A survivor-centric approach must be adopted for all programming;
- The UN Security Council resolutions that aim to protect women and children from sexual assaults in conflict zones must be enforced;
- There must be reparations for survivors;
- Reporting of sexual violence must be standardized;
- Prevention must be enhanced.

Bev Oda, Canada's International Development Minister, said she raises the issue with foreign governments at every opportunity – especially in situations where the countries are receiving Canadian aid.

On a tour of Sri Lanka, Ms. Oda said she was invited to visit a police station at a refugee camp where rape victims could report the crimes. And it quickly became apparent that the police did not speak the same language as the women who had been assaulted.

"When I pointed it out to the President of Sri Lanka, he happened to have the chief of police in the same building so he brought him in and told him it was not acceptable," said Ms. Oda.

But "here were these victims who are living in tents and getting [no more than the] the necessities of life, not knowing what their futures are, being told that there is access to redress," she said. "However, when they go there [to the police station], there's no one there who can appropriately help them."

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE VICTIMOLOGY PROGRAM HANDS OUT INAGURAL CRCVC ADVOCACY AWARD

The Algonquin College Victimology Program is the first of its kind in Canada and provides graduates with a multi-dimensional framework for interacting with victims



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and their families. On May 25th students and staff of the Police and Public Safety Institute celebrated the educational achievements of exceptional students and handed out the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime Advocacy Award. The award is presented to a graduating student in the Victimology program who embodies a solid work ethic, integrity, cooperation, knowledge, excellence and determination in their student life, academic achievements, and involvement in the community. The inaugural award was presented to Alison Warnes, a great addition to the field of victim services.

From everyone at the CRCVC, congratulations Alison!



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