



National Justice Network Update



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Welcome to the **November** 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/>.

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Department of Justice
Canada

Ministère de la Justice
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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](#)

VICTIMS SHARE OPINIONS ON THE OMNIBUS CRIME BILL

The CRCVC has been closely following testimony at the Justice Committee on Bill C-10, the *Safer Streets and Communities Act* during October and November. A number of victims and advocates from across Canada have testified both in support and against the Bill.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

"ONE STEP AT A TIME"

- Symposium hosted by the Ontario Region Victim Advisory Committee (VAC) to Correctional Service of Canada/Parole Board of Canada
- FEBRUARY 9, 2012
- Salvation Army in Kingston, Ontario
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Please join the members of the VAC for a FREE training session including four impactful presentations from crime survivors, a video presentation "IF ONLY: NAT'S STORY" and a wellness session. Registration information to come in the New Year.

NATIONAL VICTIMS OF CRIME AWARENESS WEEK 2012

National Victims of Crime Awareness Week (NVCAW) will be taking place from April 22 to April 28, 2012. "Moving Forward" is the theme that has been chosen for this year's event. The main goals of NVCAW is to raise awareness about issues involving victims of crime and about the assistance and laws in place to help victims and their families. Visit the website often and sign up for updates:

www.victimswk.gc.ca



CANADIAN RESOURCE CENTRE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME
Ensuring the equitable treatment of crime victims in Canada



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Sue O'Sullivan, Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime, expressed her support for victims having more say during parole hearings and receiving more information about the status of offenders.

Sharon Rosenfeldt, president of Victims of Violence, says she hears critics' concerns about the costs of keeping more criminals in prisons longer, but she believes the price is worth paying to keep dangerous people off the streets. "This is a necessary cost for the protection of society," she told the justice committee. "The cost of incarceration pales in comparison to the toll crimes take on their victims," she said. Sharon told the committee she believes her son Daryn, who was murdered by serial-killer Clifford Olson in 1981, would not have died if C-10 had been in place back then.

The Canadian Crime Victim Foundation also expressed support for the Bill, stating "This initiative is not just about the interest of Canada's crime victims or its criminals. It addresses the safety and security concerned with all Canadians in all communities across Canada."

The CRCVC feels it is important to also share opposing views on Bill C-10. Celine Lee of Victoria, BC wrote a letter to the Justice Committee this month to share her opinion on the proposed legislation, which she feels will not make Canada safer.

"21 years ago, at the age of 15, I witnessed the deaths of my mother and 12 year old sister in an early morning house fire. The fire was eventually determined by police arson investigators to have been deliberately set. Four months later, after several tips were received by police, a suspect was arrested, and I learned that he had started the fire in the course of committing a break and enter at our residence. Almost 2 years after the offence, after a drawn out preliminary hearing, the offender plead guilty to one count of manslaughter and one count of criminal negligence causing death. He was sentenced to 8 years for the manslaughter plea and 6 years for the criminal negligence causing death

SNAPSHOTS

BOOK RELEASE - JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE: HOW PROJECT ANGEL CRACKED THE CANDACE DERKSEN CASE

Mike McIntyre's book, *Journey for Justice: How Project Angel Cracked the Candace Derksen Case* was released this month. The Candace Derksen case is one of the most famous murder mysteries in Winnipeg's history. An unknown predator kidnapped Candace when she was walking home from school one winter afternoon in 1984. Although Candace's body was found, the cold-case investigation took a number of twists and turns and took more than twenty years to solve. In his book, Mike chronicles the Candace Derksen case and examines all aspects of this haunting story. The book can be purchased in book stores across Canada or online at www.chapters.ca

NO DISCIPLINE FOR JUDGE OVER RAPE CASE REMARKS

The Canadian Judicial Council says Manitoba Judge Robert Dewar will not be disciplined for calling a convicted rapist a "clumsy Don Juan". According to the council, Dewar acknowledged that his poor choice of words "negatively affected women who are victims of sexual assault", suggesting that punishment is unnecessary.





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plea, the sentence would be served concurrently.

I have heard comments that the committee believes victims speak with one voice about the need for tougher penalties. If this is the case, I am probably an unheard voice within this homogenous group you have created of victims of crime.

I wish to provide a voice, as both a victim of crime and as someone who has worked and volunteered for various victim services and crime prevention organizations, for victims who do not believe tougher penalties are the answer for safer communities. In my 15 years of working and volunteering with various victim services organizations, I have worked with hundreds of victims of crimes of varying degrees of harm, including: murder, aggravated assault, sexual assault, childhood abuse, elder abuse and domestic violence. Crime does not affect all victims the same way, and victims obviously are not victims of the same type of crime that has been committed against them, so why would you as a committee think that we all speak with one voice. I have equally spent the same number of years working and volunteering for various crime prevention organizations and initiatives, where I have spoken to many residents in our communities that do not believe tougher penalties are the solutions to making their streets safer.

To lump all victims into one voice would be to discredit the individual and unique unfortunate circumstances, experience, trauma, harm and violence that each victim experiences as a result of their victimization. To lump victims into one voice denies victims of the individual needs and services that victims require as they try to understand what had just happened to them and try to 'recover' in the aftermath of the harm that has been committed against them. You also ignore the complexities of some of the interpersonal dynamics in the victim offender relationship in some circumstances.

As a victim, I feel that the harm that I had experience means nothing, when you say that my thoughts and opinions are represented in one generic voice. When the offender was sentenced in my case, the sentence meant nothing to me. I

As a result of the incident, many individuals have called for Dewar to be removed from the bench. Executive director of the council, Norman Sabourin, said that the comment was an "isolated incident" in Dewar's career.

Kenneth Rhodes, the individual Dewar was referring to in his comment, was convicted of sexual assault in February, 2011.

"THIS TIME LAST WINTER" PREMIERS IN REGINA

This Time Last Winter, a short drama, premiered on November 24, 2011 in Regina. This drama explored the issue of violence in young relationships. The drama was then followed by a panel discussion and a catered reception.

Special thanks go out to Sarah Abbott, associate professor at the University of Regina and Danna Henderson, one of the individuals who starred in the production, for their contribution to the film. Also deserving recognition is Dory Oochoo, a young father, husband and student who has changed his life to become a better person.

To find out about upcoming screenings, visit:
www.sarahabbott.ca

A NEW PROGRAM LAUNCHED FOR FAMILIES OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN





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knew that the offender needed to face the consequences for the crime that he had committed, but I did not understand how sitting in prison for any length of time would make me feel remotely better about what had happened.

I often feel that I am one of those unheard voices, silenced by those who believe tougher penalties is the solution, when I tell folks that prison is not the answer, and question how we can prevent individuals from ending up on the path of criminality. Wouldn't it be better to put the resources and time into preventative initiatives which address the root causes of crime and be proactive in preventing members of our communities from becoming victims, than to put band aids on wounds after the fact? Instead of throwing resources at the back end of the system, focus should be made on addressing the issues that put individuals at risk for entering a criminal path.

Through a restorative justice program called the Victim Offender Mediation Program, I had learnt that the offender who broke into our house that night was an individual who had been in and out of the criminal justice system since he was a youth (he was 27 at the time of our crime). I learnt that he had experienced physical abuse and witnessed domestic violence within his home as a child. I have talked to many offenders, and have heard similar stories. This does not excuse the harms that they have done, but I have often questioned whether any form of early intervention might have prevented the offender in my case and the many other offenders I have spoken with from taking the path that lead them to the harm that they have done.

Instead of dedicating monies on tougher penalties, why not consider putting the same amount of resources into programs and services which help break the cycle of violence, abuse prevention programs, gang involvement prevention programs, youth violence prevention programs in our schools, social development and asset development programs in our communities which target at risk children and youth, substance abuse programs in our communities, initiatives which address poverty and homelessness, or initiatives which allow

ONTARIO

The Financial Assistance for Families of Homicide Victims (FAFHV) program was launched on the Ministry of the Attorney General's website on November 7, 2011. The FAFHV program was developed in response to concerns regarding cases that compensation for pain and suffering was denied by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB).

Although no amount of money can mend emotional pain, the FAFHV program recognizes that financial assistance may help families recover from the loss of a loved one. The program helps eligible families of homicide victims by providing up to \$10,000 per incident.

In order to be eligible, the homicide must have occurred in Ontario between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2011. Furthermore, the applicant must have been the victim's parent or spouse at the time of death.

For more information regarding eligibility requirements, visit the ministry of the Attorney General's website at the following link:

<http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/>

HOMICIDE RATES DECREASING IN CANADA

According to Statistics





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offenders to make amends to their victims?

If you don't see prevention in the early stages or addressing the root causes of crime as a way of keeping our communities safer, why can't the same amount of resources which are being used to keep criminals incarcerated be dedicated to services and programs for all victims of crime? A victim's need for support and services does not end once the offender in their case is incarcerated or punished. Although there currently are various resources available for victims to support them at the Correctional Service of Canada and National Parole Board levels, many victims that I have spoken with do not feel that these services address their emotional and day-to-day needs. Many victims feel that the support that is currently available to them is time limited, or that it is not financially feasible for them to access some of the services that they desperately need to assist them in their recovery.

Tougher penalties will not assist the unknown percentage of men, women and children who remain silent about the crimes that have been committed against them and do not report. Such individuals are often shut out from the services that are available to victims of crime due to their decision not to report. I have supported many individuals, both on a professional and personal level, who have chosen not to report various crimes which had been committed against them; tougher penalties would not have been a motivator for them to report.

Tougher penalties are not the solution to creating safer communities. Focus needs to be made on addressing the root causes of what is creating the perception that our communities are not safe."

What is certain is that many victims/advocates have spoken eloquently about their support or opposition for the legislation and all of the viewpoints presented are valid.

At Justice Committee, all of the opposition amendments were rejected and the Bill has been returned to the House of Commons for report stage. The opposition is expected to introduce many more amendments to the legislation. Marjory LeBreton,

Canada, homicide rates have been declining in Canada. In 2010, police reported 554 homicides in the country, 56 fewer than the previous year. Furthermore, the Canadian homicide rate fell to 1.62 for every 100,000 population, the lowest it has ever been since 1996. The declining homicide rate can mostly be attributed to fewer reported incidents in the western provinces.

A further decline in firearm-related homicides has also been discovered by Statistics Canada. In 2010, 170 firearm-related homicides were reported by police. These numbers are down from 180 in the previous year. This finding is consistent with a general decline in firearm-related homicides that have been reported over the past thirty years.

For the second year in a row, gang-related homicides have also decreased. In 2010, 94 homicides were gang-related, down from 124 in 2009. Despite these declines, gang-related homicides have been generally increasing in all provinces since 1991.

Even though homicide rates are generally decreasing, intimate partner homicide remains stable. In 2010, there were 89 victims of intimate partner homicide, 1 more than the number of victims reported in 2009. That same year, common-law spouses accounted for





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the government leader in the Senate, expects the bill will get first and second reading in the upper chamber before the holidays. It will then be referred to the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs which will likely begin hearing from witnesses - likely many of the same ones who appeared before the Commons committee - when Parliament resumes at the end of January.

THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IS A HARSH REALITY IN CANADA

According to a report by the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights, the sexual exploitation of children is an awful reality in many Canadian households. Although this is true, there is still a limited understanding of the scope and the extent of child exploitation in Canada. Nevertheless, Canadians must be made aware of this unfortunate reality.

According to the study released by the committee, almost 9,000 Canadian children are sexually exploited each year. A disproportionate amount of the victims are young girls and Aboriginals. Solutions put forward by the committee include tackling low reporting rates of abuse and low conviction rates of offenders, raising social awareness of the issues and improving social programs available to children.

The report urges the Government of Canada to establish a national strategy in order to create adequate services for children. These services would help children avoid, escape or heal from the painful experiences associated with sexual exploitation. Furthermore, the committee believes that the Canadian government should help fund the necessary research in order to develop these programs and services. Since girls are particularly vulnerable, the committee believes that gender should be appropriately addressed in the development of these services.

In order for these services to be successfully implemented, the committee believes that local solutions and local people with sufficient resources need to address the issue of child exploitation. This

45% of homicides committed by an intimate partner, followed by legal spouses and dating partners at 28%.

BILL C-310 TO AMEND HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD EXPLOITATION OFFENCES

The CRCVC recently showed our support for Bill C-310, which is a Private Members' Bill to amend human trafficking and child exploitation offences in the *Criminal Code of Canada* and has the support of all major parties in Parliament. The bill proposes two amendments, one of which would prosecute Canadian or permanent residents of Canada who commit crimes of human trafficking in other countries.

MP Smith's bill also recommends that the definition of exploitation in human trafficking crimes be altered to help courts determine whether a person was exploited. It would aid in providing the court clear examples of what constitutes exploitation, such as the use of threats, violence, coercion and fraudulent means.

During the debate in the House, speakers from each party strongly endorsed the amendments proposed in the Bill. Liberal MP Kevin Lamoureux said, "there is far too high a percentage of youth under the age of 10 who are being sexually exploited". NDP MP Pierre





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is especially true for First Nations communities since sexual exploitation is more pervasive among Aboriginal children and youth. Furthermore, the committee strongly believes that the needs and interests of all children must be protected.

The committee's report can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/411/ridr/rep/rep03nov11-e.pdf>

SUPPORT NETWORKS SPARSE FOR MALE ABUSE VICTIMS IN CANADA

Recent allegations of child molestation against Jerry Sandusky, a former Penn State University assistant football coach, have raised concern over the horrific experiences of sexual abuse victims. Earlier this month, Sandusky was arrested on 40 counts of molesting eight boys within a 15-year period.

Thousands of similar allegations have surfaced in Canada against Catholic priests and more recently Scouts Canada. In fact, one in six Canadian men are victims of sexual abuse before the age of 18. These men are often haunted by their experiences and a disproportionate number of them are thought to be in Canada's prisons.

According to Jim Hopper, a clinical instructor in psychology, male abuse victims are promiscuous and often express uncontrollable rage or anger in order to overcompensate for the emasculating effects of sexual abuse. This is quite common because boys are socialized to suppress their emotions. Since abuse triggers a number of overwhelming emotions, men tend to avoid these emotions, making it difficult for them to report the incident or seek help. Instead, men may try to numb the pain by turning to alcohol or drugs. However, this coping mechanism can make it difficult for these individuals to hold a job or maintain intimate relationships.

In Ontario, there are presently 39 centres for female victims of abuse. However, resources for male abuse victims are lacking. Presently, there are only four agencies in Canada devoted to counselling

Jacob said the bill would bring Canada in line with international commitments.

The next hour of debate for Bill C-310 is expected to take place on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 and will go to a vote at Second Reading on Wednesday, December 14, 2011. To stay up to date with the progress of Bill C-310, visit www.joysmith.ca.

CANADIAN CRIME VICTIM FOUNDATION PARTNERS WITH YORK UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDE COUNSELLING

The Canadian Crime Victim Foundation donated \$50,000 to help improve understanding of the effects of violence on families and communities.

For 31 years, the LaMarsh Centre has been a critical hub for research, education and knowledge aimed at reducing violence in the lives of women and youth at York. This financial support is making possible activities in three crucial areas: research, community service and education and training.

The LaMarsh Centre is exploring the effectiveness of trauma-focused cognitive behaviour therapy, an evidence-based treatment that combines psycho-education, traumatic narration, relaxation and stress management and other techniques to help children and their parents or





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male victims of sexual abuse and they can be contacted via:

- The Men's Project in Ottawa – www.themensproject.ca
- Criphase in Montreal – www.criphase.org
- B.C. Society for Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse in Vancouver – www.bc-malesurvivors.com
- Men's Trauma Centre in Victoria – www.menstrauma.com

FORMER STUDENTS OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS TO BE COMMEMORATED ON PARLIAMENT HILL

On the journey towards reconciliation, the Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development announced that the Government of Canada would commemorate the memory of Indian Residential Schools, a shameful chapter of Canadian history, through a permanent installation of stained glass artwork in Centre Block on Parliament Hill.

"The stained glass artwork will honour the First Nations, Inuit and Métis children who attended Indian Residential Schools and their families and communities who were profoundly impacted by the schools." In an effort to help reconcile the irreparable harm done upon Aboriginal people, the artwork will help encourage Canadians to learn more about a fundamental aspect of Canada's history.

On June 11, 2008, Prime Minister Stephen Harper apologized on behalf of Canadians to former students of Indian Residential Schools and all Aboriginal people for the government's wrongdoing. Canadians witnessed as the Prime Minister acknowledged the abuse experienced by many who attended Indian Residential Schools and the impact this system had on the Aboriginal people, their languages and culture. It was the highlight of a series of commemorations and reconciliation efforts that continue through the work of the federally funded Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Minister Duncan spoke of the Residential Schools as an "education policy gone wrong". This is an

caregivers overcome the negative effects of trauma and traumatic grief.

The generous support of the Canadian Crime Victim Foundation enables the LaMarsh Centre to provide on April 10 & 11, 2012 a training program for 20 Clinical Psychology graduate students at no cost. This free counselling service provided by trained professionals will translate into 40 families receiving much needed support for up to a year. Congrats to CCVF and York U on this amazing initiative, which is desperately needed in the community!





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understatement to say the least and the CRCVC feels it is critically important to educate all visitors to Parliament Hill about the intergenerational harm that was perpetrated against thousands of Aboriginal people in Canada.

