



National Justice Network Update



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Welcome to the **October** 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/>.

This month's articles were written by Matthew Prokopiw from Carleton University and Kristina Musca from University of Ottawa. Thank You!

Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime

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UBC STUDY FINDS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS COSTLY FOR CANADIANS

According to the University of British Columbia, the repercussions of abusive relationships are costing Canadians approximately \$6.9 billion a year. It is an unfortunate statistic that many women who have left an abusive, intimate relationship tend to experience persistent health issues, legal troubles

UPCOMING EVENTS

FUNDING FOR EVENTS TO BE HELD DURING NATIONAL VICTIMS OF CRIME AWARENESS WEEK 2012

As in prior years, the Government of Canada will provide funding for organizations to host events during National Victims of Crime Awareness Week (NVCAW). This year, NVCAW will be taking place from April 22 to April 28, 2012. "Moving Forward" is the theme that has been chosen for these events.

The deadline to submit your funding application is November 7, 2011. For more information, or to submit your application, please email: victimweek-semainedesvictimes@justice.gc.ca.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH ON VICTIMS OF CRIME

The University of Ottawa is looking for victims of crime, preferably registered with the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) or the National Parole Board (NPB), and that are interested in participating in a research regarding victims. This study will be focusing on the perspective of victims and aims to better understand how they define and experience their



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



National Justice Network Update



and economic burdens. Over the last three years the University has interviewed 309 women about their service needs following an abusive relationship with a man. Researchers then compared the service needs of these women to the service needs of women within the general population.

According to Colleen Varcoe, a nursing professor at the University of British Columbia, female victims of abuse visit the emergency room, rely on food banks, require employment insurance and seek legal aid more often than others. In addition, the majority of health problems experienced by women of abuse are directly related to previous physical abuse. Varcoe explains that much of the strain experienced by women of abuse is caused by long term emotional pain and stress related to abuse. As a result, there is a growing need for better responses that incorporate health, social services, justice, education and corporate sectors before and after women leave an abusive relationship. It is also recommended that prevention, early detection and support for women at risk should be enforced more readily.

SASKATOON SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TARGETS YOUNG MEN

A new sexual assault awareness campaign is taking place in Saskatoon that seeks to prevent sexual assault by targeting 19 to 25 year old men. Saskatoon is the fifth Canadian city to promote the "Don't be that guy" campaign, displaying posters in bathrooms in bars around town.

According to Heather Pocock, assistant director of the Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre, the main purpose of the campaign is to discourage men from taking advantage of women when they are intoxicated or aiding in the intoxication of women for the purpose of sex. Campaigns regarding sexual assault awareness tend to focus on ensuring the safety of females instead of stopping perpetrators. Since sexual assault tends to be perpetrated by males against females, Pocock suggests that males also need to be educated about

participation with the Canadian penal system. The University would like to interview adults aged 18 years or older from Ottawa that would be willing to voluntarily discuss their experiences. Confidentiality and anonymity will be guaranteed. If you are interested, please contact Pascale Latreille at (613) 407-6625 or by e-mail at platr061@uottawa.ca. You can also contact Veronique Strimelle at (613) 562-5800 ext. 1806 or by e-mail at vstrimel@uottawa.ca.

SNAPSHOTS

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRE TO BE BUILT IN VANCOUVER

On October 11, 2011, the government of Canada announced its support for the development of Vancouver's first Child Advocacy Centre. It is believed that this development will bring key stakeholders together to determine how to better serve children and youth victims in Vancouver.

The Child Advocacy Centre in Vancouver seeks to minimize the trauma experienced by child victims of crime. In order to do so, the Child Advocacy Centre will consist of a team of professionals that will collaborate to help reduce the emotional and mental harms experienced by child victims. With help from the Child Advocacy Centre, child and youth victims as





National Justice Network Update



their responsibilities.

According to the *Criminal Code*, consent needs to be explicit and freely given regardless of intoxication. According to Carolyn Hlady, staff sergeant in the sex crimes unit of the Saskatoon Police Service, societal biases tend to blame women for not fighting back or not saying no. Regardless of these biases, men should also be responsible for avoiding sexual assault.

ALLEGED KINGSTON "HONOUR" KILLINGS TRIAL EXPECTED TO LAST THREE MONTHS

Mohammad Shafia, 58, his wife Tooba Mohammad Yahya, 41, and their 21-year-old son Hamed have been accused of killing the couple's three teenaged daughters along with Shafia's first wife, Rona Amir Mohammad, 53. All three have pleaded not guilty to four counts of first-degree murder.

The four bodies were found in Shafia's Nissan Sentra, which was found submerged at the bottom of a lock on the Rideau Canal in 2009. Shortly after the vehicle was discovered, the family indicated that the four victims vanished overnight while traveling to their Montreal home after a vacationing in Niagara Falls. The family stopped for the night in Kingston and Mr. Shafia and Ms. Yaha reported the four victims missing the following morning. They stated their "rebellious" eldest daughter must have taken the car without consent. When the family was informed that the car had been located in the Rideau Canal Mr. Shafia and Ms. Yaha were shocked that such a terrible accident had occurred.

Regardless of their claims, the Crown believes that these multiple killings were premeditated and disguised as an accident. More specifically, the Crown believes that the accused trio used Shafia's second vehicle, a Lexus, to push the Nissan into the Rideau Canal in the early morning hours of June 30, 2009. Damage to the rear bumper of the Nissan was clearly visible and pieces of plastic from the Lexus' front headlights were found close to the scene, suggesting that the submerged vehicle was intentionally propelled into the water.

well as youth witnesses will be able to receive the necessary support they need.

\$241,000 in federal funding over two years will be granted for this project. This funding will be made available through the Victims Fund at the Department of Justice.

OCTOBER 20TH WAS WEAR PURPLE DAY

On October 20, Canadian communities wore purple to remember Jamie Hubley, an Ottawa-area youth who committed suicide as a result of being bullied in school. Jamie suffered from depression and was constantly bullied because of his sexual orientation and his passion for figure skating. Wear Purple Day was established to raise awareness about bullying and to remember the victims of bullying who have committed suicide.

QUEBEC SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS TO BE COMPENSATED BY NOTRE DAME

On October 20th, the Roman Catholic Congregation made headlines due to a sexual assault scandal. Notre Dame, whose roots date back to the French Revolution, agreed to pay up to \$18 million to former students who were sexually abused by its clergy over decades. This out-of-court settlement is the largest payout in Quebec for a religious congregation.





National Justice Network Update



After expert examinations were conducted, it was confirmed that all four victims died as a result of drowning but it is still unclear exactly when the victims died. During autopsy reports fresh bruises were found on each of the three teenaged daughters' heads.

It is believed that the accused trio murdered the four females in order to restore the family honour which they believed had been violated through the victims' adoption of liberal, Western ideals. Furthermore, a diary left by Rona Amir Mohammad provided some insight with regards to the constant abuse she experienced at the hands of Shafia and his second wife Tooba.

The CRCVC is closely following this trial which is expected to take place over three months.

MISSING WOMEN INQUIRY OPENS IN BC: COMMISSIONER EXAMINES WHY POLICE DID NOT CATCH HIM SOONER

Negligence on the part of the RCMP and the Vancouver Police Department is being blamed at the opening of the Pickton inquiry in Vancouver. Commissioner Wally Oppal was appointed by the B.C. government to inquire into the police investigation of Robert Pickton, who was convicted in December 2007 of the second-degree murder of six women.

Cameron Ward, the lawyer for families of 18 missing women, says that both RCMP and Vancouver Police had information about Mr. Pickton, and that dozens of women disappeared "under their noses". Both police forces "completely botched handling of the investigation," he said.

Mr. Ward added that evidence is expected to show that police interviewed Mr. Pickton in 2000 but did not do a proper job. Police failed to follow up the interview with a search of the farm, although Pickton had consented to the search.

Both the VPD and the RCMP previously reviewed

Some of the sexual assault victims were greatly affected by the abuse. Sebastien Richard experienced a number of behavioural problems and difficulty respecting authority after being sexually abused at Notre Dame.

The payout applies to all victims who attended Notre Dame from 1920 to 2001. Victims will be eligible to receive approximately \$10,000 to \$250,000 each depending on the extent of the abuse and possible traumatic effects.

A YELLOWKNIFE PHYSICIAN IS CHARGED WITH ASSAULT

Dr. Richard Cunningham, a 62-year old Yellowknife physician, has been charged with assaulting a woman last month. In addition, Dr. Cunningham is accused of violating the conditions of his probation. Although he was supposed to go to trial on October 19th, Dr. Cunningham's trial has been delayed so that all of the charges against him can be heard together.

Cunningham was sentenced to 90 days for disobeying orders to stay away from a woman in Yellowknife earlier this year. Last year, Cunningham was also given a \$3,000 fine for a drunken threat he made in front of an airline employee who did not let him board an Edmonton flight. Despite his various encounters with the law, Dr.





National Justice Network Update



their own investigations into the Pickton murders. The VPD report, prepared by Deputy Chief Constable LePard, concluded that Mr. Pickton could have been caught earlier. The VPD report laid some of the blame at the feet of the RCMP. It concluded that the investigation was stalled because the alleged crime scene was in Port Coquitlam where policing is the responsibility of the RCMP. This led to "jurisdictional obstacles" and competing priorities between the two forces. The report said the RCMP essentially abandoned the hunt for a serial killer in mid-1999.

RCMP Deputy Commissioner Gary Bass acknowledged in private e-mails that the RCMP did not pay close enough attention to Robert Pickton in the years before his arrest. However, the RCMP has repeatedly refused to comment publicly about the police investigation.

The first tip linking Mr. Pickton to the missing women came in August 1998. The Vancouver police considered the tip credible and passed on the information to the RCMP where there was resistance to suggestions that a serial killer was on the loose. Mr. Pickton's crimes came to light only when a young Mountie showed up looking for weapons on the former pig farmer's sprawling property in suburban Port Coquitlam in 2002.

Questions will be raised about why police did not follow up on the tip in 1998 that stated that Mr. Pickton had killed one of the missing women, had women's clothing in his trailer and had talked to others about disposing bodies.

"The RCMP could have taken any number of steps that would have stopped Mr. Pickton in his tracks," Mr. Ward said. Thirteen women disappeared from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside after the city's police force first forwarded information about Mr. Pickton to the RCMP, according to the police review.

The public inquiry is ongoing, and it is expected that more evidence will be made public about the dual investigations of Robert Pickton. It is unlikely that any formal reprimands will be handed out to either police force, but that does not eliminate the possibility of a civil lawsuit by the families of the

Cunningham has remained an employee of the Yellowknife Health Authority.

21-YEAR-OLD MALE FACES DRUNK-DRIVING CHARGES IN ALBERTA

On October 22, 2011, five high school football players from Alberta were hit by an allegedly drunk driver as they were driving home from a party. Matthew Deller, 16, Walter Borden-Wilkins, 15, Tanner Hildebrand, 15, and Vincent Stover, 16, died as a result of the crash. Their 15-year-old teammate, Zach Judd, remains in critical but stable condition in hospital.

Police have charged 21-year-old Brenden Holubowich who is believed to have fled the scene after the incident took place. Holubowich has been released on bail and is expected to return to court on October 31st.

"CRIME AFTER CRIME" IS SET TO PREMIER ON THE OPRAH WINFREY NETWORK

The award-winning documentary "Crime After Crime" is premiering on Thursday, November 3rd at 9 pm EST on the Oprah Winfrey Network. This film documents the journey of Deborah Peagler, a battered woman who in 1983 was sentenced to 25 years-to-life in the United States for her connection to her batterer's murder. Download more information AND a discussion guide at:





National Justice Network Update



victims. The public Inquiry gives the missing women's families a much needed forum to voice their concerns and loss.

<http://crimeaftercrime.com/>.

SCHOOL-ADMINISTERED PROGRAMS TO PREVENT YOUTH VIOLENCE

Kimberly Proctor was brutally murdered in Victoria, B.C., by 17 year-old Kruse Wellwood and 18 year-old Cameron Moffat, both sentenced as adults to life in prison without parole for 10 years.

The heinous murder involved luring Kimberly to Wellwood's home where she was bound, gagged and sexually-assaulted before she was killed. The next day the boys took her body to a bridge along the Galloping Goose Trail where they set it on fire.

Proctor's aunt, Jo-Anne Landolt, has applied for funding through the Aviva Community fund in order to protect children and youth from such unsuspecting violence by informing them through school-administered programs.

With several crime prevention programs already in place in British Columbia targeting youth gangs, the sexual exploitation of youth and crime in the community, Landolt hopes to introduce the Kids in the Know program to schools in areas with the highest crime statistics. She hopes to eventually see the program province-wide.

The Kids in the Know interactive program is supported by most provinces and is in about one-quarter of B.C.'s schools, but has not reached Vancouver Island. Last year, Nova Scotia's Ministry of Education ordered that the Kids in the Know program be implemented in every school across the province. The program, which costs about \$260 per school, is also offered at schools in Manitoba, Ontario and Alberta.

The crime prevention program targets youth from Kindergarten through Grade 9, and educates youth on everything from internet dangers to child luring, safe routes home and safe dating. Kids in the Know was developed by the Canadian Centre for Child



CANADIAN RESOURCE CENTRE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME
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National Justice Network Update



Protection, a non-profit, charitable organization based out of Manitoba, dedicated to the personal safety of all children.

"Kim's face is in the media again but it's for a good cause — it's not because of these two [killers]," Landolt said. "It's good to see something good come out of something absolutely horrific." Visit <http://www.avivacommunityfund.org/ideas/acf11490> to vote for the School Safety Program For Kids.

ATLANTIC BALLET COMPANY RAISES AWARENESS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Igor Dobrovolskiy, artistic director of the Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada, was approached by the New Brunswick Silent Witness Committee to create a ballet that would raise awareness about domestic violence. Although Dobrovolskiy was skeptical at first, *Ghosts of Violence* has become the Atlantic Theatre of Canada's most important project. Igor is now collaborating locally and internationally with the RCMP and many other community organizations in response to the positive support of *Ghosts of Violence*. As a result, *Ghosts of Violence* will be touring across Canada over the next three years.

In order to successfully prevent instances of domestic violence, the Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada will be offering free performances to high school students in a number of communities during the tour. The company believes that cases of violence can be avoided if respect is emphasized and embodied in schools. The Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada also believes that *Ghosts of Violence* will empower female victims to seek help. By addressing violence in this way, the Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada believes that domestic violence will no longer be taboo. Instead, victims may be encouraged to speak to someone about their experiences.

Although it raises awareness about a real issue in society, none of the cases depicted in *Ghosts of Violence* are based on real events and are creations of Dobrovolskiy's imagination. More specifically, the ballet presents instances of domestic violence





National Justice Network Update



among four distinct couples. The plot focuses on the story of a young girl who witnesses several acts of domestic abuse throughout her life. Despite everything she witnesses, the girl does not believe that she will experience a similar fate. According to Igor, many women in society have similar beliefs. By addressing reality-based experiences, the Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada hopes to empower female victims to seek help and prevent instances of domestic abuse from taking place.

