



# National Justice Network Update



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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/>.

### Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime

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Department of Justice  
Canada

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### SNAPSHOTS

#### FEDERAL CABINET SHUFFLE

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has shuffled the decks of his federal cabinet making Vic Toews the new Public Safety Minister, moving him over from the Treasury Board. Minister Toews is a former Minister of Justice and the CRCVC looks forward to renewing our working relationship with him. Rob Nicholson will remain the Minister of Justice.

The shuffle did not involve key ministers tied up with Canada's response to the earthquake in Haiti, delivering the government's economic action plan or drafting the next budget which will be tabled Mar. 4. Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon and Defence Minister Peter MacKay will all stay put in their current roles.

#### HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE SEEK VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME

The victim services branch of the Halifax Regional Police department is seeking to expand its number of volunteers by ten, according to the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald*.

Volunteers have been working with victims, from manning phones to providing support at crime scenes, for nearly fifteen years. Victims of domestic violence are most commonly assisted, but victims of armed robbery and sexual assault are also supported by the group.

Volunteer co-ordinator Sherry Burns explains that there are three categories of volunteers: those



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## **PROROGUE DELAYS NUMEROUS CRIME BILLS**

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's decision to prorogue Parliament until March will temporarily put a halt to several Conservative-proposed bills that are aimed at toughening Canada's criminal justice system.

The "tough-on-crime" bills, such as the repeal of the faint-hope clause and the elimination of parole for non-violent offenders once they have served one-sixth of their sentence, will need to be re-introduced in a new session, which means their passage will be delayed.

Heidi Illingworth, Executive Director of the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime, expressed her disappointment over the situation. The CRCVC closely follows bills such as the proposed repeal of the faint-hope clause, which has a major impact on many of the families that the Centre represents.

"A lot of these families that we help have been waiting on some of these issues for a very long time," said Illingworth to the Globe and Mail.

## **CHANGE RECOMMENDED FOR JUSTICE SYSTEM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN WAKE OF LEE KILLINGS**

On the morning of September 4, 2007, in Oak Bay, BC, Peter Lee brutally stabbed to death his six-year-old son, his wife and her parents before taking his own life.

The murders took place weeks after Lee's wife, Sunny Park, told her violently abusive husband that she wanted a divorce. In the weeks following Ms. Park's request for divorce, Lee attempted to kill his wife, was charged, and was released on bail.

The tragedy that badly shook the Vancouver Island community caused the province to undertake an official inquiry into how the criminal justice system responds to domestic violence in the future. The five-member panel issued a province-wide list of recommendations that are not enforceable, but are part of public record and are expected to be complied with. The recommendations are:

### **To Solicitor General for B.C.**

1. Continue unification efforts for various police departments.
2. Before release of high-risk accused on bail, properly

with a background in social work, those who are qualified professionals in a related field and those who have experienced victimization in their own lives.

### **'A LITTLE BIT OF JUSTICE' FOR HILARY BONNELL**

On September 5, 2009, 16-year-old Hilary Bonnell disappeared from the Esgenoopeetitj First Nation reserve in New Brunswick.

Her body was not recovered until November, in a heavily-wooded area in Tracadie-Sheila. Ms. Bonnell was last seen walking along Highway 11 at 7:30 a.m., the morning after she had attended a party with a group of friends.

The RCMP has laid a first-degree murder charge against the victim's cousin, 29-year-old Curtis Bonnell. Investigators say they are confident that they have the right man in custody following a three-month investigation that has been assisted by more than 200 police officers.

### **POLICE NARROW LIST OF SUSPECTS IN MORRISSEAU CASE**

Since December 10, 2006, the Gatineau police have been searching for Kelly Morrisseau's killer. After three years of investigation, the list of suspects has been narrowed to approximately a dozen men, the most recent of which was added to the list in December 2009.

Gatineau police's major crime unit is keeping a close watch on their suspects, most of whom live in the Ottawa area. During the course of their investigation, police have ruled out 273 suspects, one as far away as Edmonton, Alberta.





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screened and appropriate sureties but be provided.

3. All police departments work across jurisdictional boundaries as one unit.

#### **To Attorney General for B.C.**

4. All victims and abusers should be provided with universally available advocacy services. Such services to be initiated upon first contact.

5. Risk assessment be made at the front end of process before bail conditions set.

#### **To Solicitor General for B.C.**

6. Special domestic violence units be set up regionally and coordinated with all stakeholders.

7. "No fixed address" designation not be allowed on bail orders unless accused agrees to GPS monitoring on high-risk cases.

8. All updated "K" file information be shared across all jurisdictional lines immediately and with all agencies.

9. Bail release conditions be developed in conjunction with bail supervisors to ensure they are enforceable.

#### **To Government of B.C.**

10. Ongoing multimedia community based educational advertising program surrounding domestic violence be expanded and enhanced.

11. The government provides global funding to accommodate associate costs of these recommendations.

#### **To Ministry of Education**

12. Family relationships and domestic violence education program be instituted for all students from kindergarten to Grade 12.

#### **To Solicitor General for B.C., Attorney General for B.C., Ministry of Children and Family Development**

13. Develop a single domestic violence unit across all provincial jurisdictional lines and include all agencies and services.

14. SARA or BSAFER be used to train all involved service providers to a common standard in all criminal justice regions in the province.

Following the recommendations, BC Solicitor-General

Morrisseau, who was seven-months pregnant at the time of her death, was found stabbed a dozen times and abandoned in Gatineau Park.

#### **WOMAN WHO LURED ONTARIO TEEN ARRESTED IN TEXAS**

Lauri Price, a Texas mother of four, was arrested upon arrival at Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, following her alleged luring of a 16-year-old Ontario teen.

Price and the unnamed teen from Barrie, Ontario are believed to have had an "incredibly sexually explicit" online relationship for the past two years, a relationship that culminated in Price's post-Christmas visit to the boy on December 29. Price allegedly enticed the teen to leave his home, which prompted a two-day search that ended when the pair was discovered in Orillia, Ontario.

Barrie police held Ms. Price for questioning, but were forced to release her because no Canadian law was broken — the age of consent in Canada is 16. In the state of Texas, however, it is illegal to entice a minor from their home. Price faces two counts of solicitation of a minor and one count of child enticement.

#### **LINC SOCIETY LOOKS INTO CREATING A HEALING CENTRE**

LINC Society is conducting a feasibility study into starting a 'Healing Centre' for people whose lives have been impacted by homicide. The purpose of their survey is to determine if there is a need for a facility where survivors/victims could stay while taking part in programs which would include counselling,





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Kash Heed promised to deliver "a comprehensive response to domestic violence in British Columbia."

The CRCVC will write to officials in BC to encourage the recommendations of this report be implemented in a timely manner, as there have been at least 70 domestic violence homicides in BC in the last five years.

## **CORNWALL INQUIRY REPORT RELEASED**

On December 15, 2009, Justice G. Normand Glaude released his findings into the nearly four-year, \$50 million Cornwall Inquiry. The Inquiry Commissioner's Report is based on the proceedings that began in January 2006, in which more than 300 hearing days were held, more than 170 witnesses took the stand, 3,400 exhibits of evidence were brought forward and 60,000 pages of transcripts were generated.

The Cornwall Inquiry was the result of Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty's promise to hold a public inquiry into how various institutions dealt with numerous child sexual abuse allegations against men in positions of power and trust in Cornwall as long ago as the 1950s. The institutions that were examined were: Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Cornwall Community Police Service, Ontario Provincial Police, Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall, Children's Aid Society, Upper Canada District School Board, Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario and Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General.

One of the most serious allegations that led to the inquiry was the suggestion of a pedophile ring that passed child victims from one abuser to another. Following the release of the report, many of the victims were outraged that no pronouncement was made as to the existence of such a ring, although Glaude acknowledges strong evidence that victims were shared among abusers. Glaude found that "there were systematic failures in the response of institutions to allegation of sexual abuse of children and young people in this community (which) resulted in re-victimization by the institution from whom they sought help. The response of institutions became a further source of harm."

The report has dozens of recommendations to ensure similar situations are prevented in the future, among them, that the local Catholic diocese, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the local school boards make public apologies to the victims and to the entire community.

advocacy, peer support groups, etc.

LINC Society would like your input. Please click on the following link to take part in the survey:

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dGVvWmlVcnVhUU5ZRnlkcGFKRdY1E6MA>.

You may also obtain an electronic copy of the survey by contacting Marjean Fichtenberg at [marjean1@telus.net](mailto:marjean1@telus.net) or [seflett@telus.net](mailto:seflett@telus.net).

## **TOUGHER IDENTITY THEFT LAWS COME INTO FORCE**

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson announced the coming into force of *Bill S-4*, which will strengthen laws to protect Canadians from identity theft. Minister Nicholson welcomed the legislation which will help Canada's criminal justice system better cope with the ever-growing rate of identity theft that has swept North America.

"Our Government believes Canadians are entitled to have their identities and other valuable information protected to the highest degree possible," said Minister Nicholson. "Beginning today, they will have greater protection against identity theft and police will be better equipped to stop these crimes before they are committed."

The legislation creates three new *Criminal Code* offences, all subject to 5-year maximum prison sentences:

- Obtaining and possessing identity information with the intent to use deceptively, dishonestly, or fraudulently in the commission of a crime;
- Trafficking in identity





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Justice G. Normand Glaude's report can be found in its entirety by clicking the following link:

<http://www.cornwallinquiry.ca/en/report/index.html>.

## **SUPREME COURT UPGRADES CONVICTION TO FIRST-DEGREE MURDER IN COURTEPATTE CASE**

In 2005, 13-year-old Nina Courtepatte was lured from West Edmonton Mall by a group of teens who promised to take her to a "bush party". The group of teens, one of whom was 17-year-old Stephanie Bird, then took young Courtepatte to a golf course, where they brutally raped and murdered her.

During her trial, evidence showed that Bird hit Courtepatte with a wrench as they were walking down a path to the golf course, and then helped pin her down while she was sexually assaulted. Bird claims to have left the group at that point, returning to their car, while Courtepatte was beaten to death with a sledgehammer.

The trial judge found an "air of reality" in Bird's claim of abandoning the group, and found her guilty of manslaughter. The Supreme Court, during a Crown appeal, has ruled that the trial judge made an error in accepting Bird's defence of abandonment, and has upgraded the charge to first-degree murder.

The Supreme Court ruling states that: "The facts found by the trial judge clearly establish that the murder was planned and deliberate, and involved the unlawful confinement of the victim at the time of the killing." Bird will now be returned to the original trial judge, where she will be sentenced as an adult.

The ruling comes as a small victory to Peacha Atkinson, Nina's mother, who claims that her faith in the criminal justice system has been somewhat restored.

## **OTTAWA MOURNS SLAIN POLICE OFFICER**

Early Tuesday morning, December 29, Ottawa Police Constable Eric Czapnik was seated in his cruiser outside the Civic Campus of The Ottawa Hospital. He was filling out paperwork when the door of his cruiser was pulled open and he was stabbed.

Nearby paramedics who witnessed the attack acted quickly and heroically — three paramedics managed to apprehend Const. Czapnik's attacker and restrain him while a fourth tended to the wounded officer. When police arrived on the scene, Czapnik's attacker — later

information; and,

- Unlawfully possessing or trafficking in government-issued identity documents.

The CRCVC applauds the passage of this legislation, which we believe will help to decrease the number of victims of identity theft in Canada.

## **CORRECTIONAL SERVICE OF CANADA RENEWS VICTIM SERVICES WEBSITE**

On January 12, 2010, Correctional Service Canada (CSC) announced the renewal of their Victim Services website.

A statement by CSC Director General Martin-Denis Morais claims that the website "provides easy access to information about CSC Victim Services and other related information of interest to victims and the public." Information on a variety of services is contained within the site.

The CRCVC supports CSC's efforts to improve its services to victims of crime with the renewal of this website. To access the site, please click on the following link: <http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/victims-victimes/index-eng.shtml>.

## **MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN DEATH OF JANE CREBA**

On Boxing Day, 2005, the life of 15-year-old Jane Creba was senselessly taken as she was caught in the crossfire of a Yonge Street shootout. Four years later, Jeremiah Valentine has pled guilty to second-degree murder in the case.

Valentine, 27, is no stranger to the criminal justice system. His prior offenses include drug and



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identified as 43-year-old former RCMP officer Kevin Gregson, had been restrained using Czapnik's handcuffs and detained in the back of the parked police cruiser.

Tragically, the stab wound to Const. Czapnik's throat proved to be fatal. The 51-year-old loving father and husband was the oldest ever police academy recruit to be hired by the Ottawa Police, at 48, because, according to Police Chief Vern White at the time: "I've never seen someone want something so much in life; I know that he will give his best."

Const. Czapnik's funeral, which took place on January 7, was attended by thousands from across North America and from his native Poland. The officer known as "Pickles" will be sadly missed.

The CRCVC wishes to offer our condolences to Cst. Czapnik's family, friends and colleagues.

## TEENS SENTENCED IN MANITOBA SCHOOL SHOOTING PLOT

A 17-year-old male and his 18-year-old girlfriend, whose names are under publication ban, have been sentenced to two years in jail, followed by three years' supervised probation, after they pled guilty to conspiracy to commit murder.

Judge Brian Corrin accepted the joint sentencing recommendation of Crown and defence attorneys, although he had reservations due to the chilling nature of the teens' plot.

The couple, who had amassed a collection of firearms and Molotov cocktails which they stored in the girl's bedroom closet, planned to order staff at a Winnipeg high school to send students to the auditorium, where the couple would open fire upon "anyone who attempted to escape."

The teens then planned to throw Molotov cocktails into the crowd of students, after which they would escape through a trap door in the stage, and flee in a waiting car. The couple then planned to drive to the University of Manitoba, where they would "shoot people until they got tired," and then take their own lives.

Fortunately, a friend of the couple anonymously tipped police upon discovering the plot.

weapons convictions for which received a five-year ban on owning and possessing firearms — a ban he ignored on that fateful Boxing Day.

Ms. Creba was shopping in downtown Toronto with her family when she walked into the middle of a dispute between two groups of men who began firing on each other. The 15-year-old was caught in the crossfire and took a single shot to her back, which pierced her aorta.

Valentine is the second man convicted in the murder. Earlier in the year, Jorrell Simpson-Rowe was convicted of second-degree murder in the case. Two other men will face similar charges in 2010.

Jane Creba's family, which was not present in court, chose not to submit a victim impact statement at Valentine's trial. The family did submit an impact statement for the trial of Simpson-Rowe.

In the article "[Victim Impact Statements: Lessons Learned and Future Priorities,](#)" Oxford Criminology professor Julian Roberts claims that victim impact statements are still relatively rare in Canadian courts, though the minority of victims who do submit an impact statement generally find it beneficial and report more satisfaction with sentencing. Dr. Roberts' article is part of the Department of Justice *Victims of Crime Research Digest* series, which can be found by clicking the following link: <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/rs/r d-rr.html>.





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## **PUBLIC SAFETY CANADA RELEASES STATISTICAL OVERVIEW**

Public Safety Canada recently released a report entitled: "*Corrections and Conditional Release Statistical Overview.*" The contents of the report include a number of sections that are relevant to victims and victimization in Canada.

Among the highlights of the report:

- **Victimization rates for theft of personal property have increased:** Rates jumped from 7.5% in 1999 to 9.3% in 2004. Assault rates dropped slightly, from 8.1% to 7.5% over the same period. Sexual Assault and Robbery rates were stable over the period, at 2.1% and 1.1%, respectively.
- **The majority of victims of violent crime are under 30:** 53.5% of victims of violent crime reported in 2008 were under the age of 30 (group makes up 37.4% of the Canadian population).
- **Most adult custodial sentences ordered by the court are short:** 54.6% of custodial sentences imposed by adult courts are less than one month.
- **Relatively few crimes result in sentences to federal penitentiaries:** Of the approximately 2.5 million crimes reported in Canada in 2008, only 4,825 offenders received federal sentences (two years or more).
- **Federal expenditures on corrections increased in 2007-08:** Federal expenditures on corrections increased 19.1%, to \$2.02 billion, from 2003-04 to 2007-08.
- **The cost of keeping an inmate incarcerated has increased:** In 2007-08, the annual average cost of keeping an inmate incarcerated was \$101,666 per year, up from \$83,276 per year in 2003-04. In 2007-08, the annual average cost of keeping a male inmate incarcerated was \$99,205 per year, while the annual average cost for incarcerating a female was \$182,506.
- **Offenders with life or indeterminate sentences represent 22% of the total offender population:** As of April 12, 2009, there were 4,955 offenders serving a life sentence and/or an indeterminate sentence, representing 21.8% of the total offender population. The majority (62.7%) of these offenders were in custody. Of the 1,850 offenders who were being supervised in the community, the majority (80.5%) are serving a life sentence for second-degree murder.
- **The supervised federal offender population in the community has increased since 2004-05:** The number of offenders on day parole, full parole or statutory release has increased slightly in each of the past four years.
- **Offenders granted full parole serve about 40 % of their sentence prior to starting full parole:** The percentage of time served until supervised under first full parole was 38.3% in 2008-09. The percentage has fluctuated very little in the past ten years (between 39.5% and 38.1% of sentence served).

To read the entire Public Safety report, please click on the following link:

[http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/res/cor/rep/2009-ccrso-eng.aspx#top\\_of\\_page](http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/res/cor/rep/2009-ccrso-eng.aspx#top_of_page).



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