



National Justice Network Update



December 2017

Volume 25, Issue 12

Greetings!

Welcome to the **DECEMBER** 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 newsletter was written and compiled with the assistance of Carleton University Criminology and Gender Studies student and CRCVC volunteer, Mari-Lisa Mank.

Want to [print the newsletter](#)?

Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime
Visit: <http://www.crcvc.ca>
Email: crcvc@crcvc.ca
Phone: 1.877.232.2610

NEW! Live chat with us!

In addition to our Toll-Free Information & Support Line (1-877-232-2610), which operates from 9 am – 4 pm EST from Monday to Friday, immediate support is also available outside of regular office hours to victims/survivors, their friends, and families through our live chat system.

How does it work?

When a trained CRCVC staff member is available to chat, the icon on the bottom right-hand side of our website will say 'CHAT WITH US' – 'NEED HELP? Click to Chat!' Click on the talk bubble icon below and a new chat window will open. Sometimes, a chat window will open up and let you know we are there.

Currently, regular support through online chats is available during these times:



Wishing all of our readers a safe, peaceful and joy-filled holiday season! All the best for 2018.

OFFICE CLOSURE

Please be advised the CRCVC office will be closed for the holidays from December 23, 2017 until January 8, 2018. Faxes, emails & voicemails will be monitored during this time.

QUICK LINKS

Consider supporting our work with victims and survivors this holiday season by making a donation to the CRCVC through CanadaHelps, and make a difference that counts. [Click here](#) to donate.

Driving under the [influence of alcohol](#) and/or drugs has the potential to devastate lives. Don't let your holiday season be ruined by driving while impaired. Read suggestions for safe alternatives to impaired driving [here](#).

[@IntervalOttawa](#) is raising funds to support women and



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National Justice Network Update



- Sundays: 7 pm – 11 pm EST (English, French, Romanian)
- Mondays: 7 pm – 1 am EST (English only)
- Tuesdays: 7 pm – 1 am EST (English only)
- Thursdays: 6 pm – 10 pm EST (English, French, Romanian)

We are grateful to the Department of Justice Canada Victims Fund for financial assistance to offer this live chat service.

How to Be Resilient During the Holidays

Coping abilities are challenged during the holidays. It can be an emotional time, a stressful time. You may feel the need to brace yourself; whether it's about encounters with family, the cost of gifts and other financial crunches, the pressures of advertisers or simply the awareness that another year is coming to an end and how this brings unfinished business into focus. For these reasons it's good to plan ahead and create more effective coping strategies to become more "Holiday resilient."

Preparing for the holidays can begin with examining how you treat yourself. What do you notice about your internal voice; that voice you hear 24/7? For example, are you kind to yourself or judgmental? It's easy to find fault for not getting it all right. However, you don't want to make the holidays more difficult by being hyper-critical or by making unreasonable demands on yourself. Recognize that a healthy relationship with yourself means being accepting, supportive and compassionate. It's never okay to put yourself down. Of course you always want to do your best, but once you do that, be accepting. And if you make a mistake, instead of beating yourself up, use this as an opportunity to learn from it, so you do a better job the next time.

Relationship with others is also important in your focus on having a resilient holiday. It's easy to become stressed by the conflicting demands and expectations of others during this time. Spend as much time as possible with supportive, loving and accepting people. Think carefully about who you decide to spend your

their pets to flee violence. Pets provide invaluable love & support, & fear for their safety can be a barrier to leaving an abusive situation. According to the Canadian Women's Foundation, in one study, 57% of survivors of domestic violence had their pet killed by an abusive partner.

Prime Minister Trudeau delivers apology for Canada's role in systemic oppression, criminalization, and violence against the LGBTQ2 community. Read the statement [here](#).

[Manitoba couple](#) found guilty of sexually assaulting young girl go free because case took too long.

Quebec Bar [releases recommendations](#) on how courts deal with sexual assault.

[Saskatchewan ponders British policy](#) for Domestic violence cases.

60 [sexual assaults on New Brunswick campuses](#) disclosed to new advocate.

Families fret over [likely Supreme Court challenges](#) of consecutive murder sentences.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sexual Harassment & Precarious Workplaces (Webinar)



CANADIAN RESOURCE CENTRE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME
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National Justice Network Update



time with. When you must be with critical or negative people (such as family members you can't avoid) make sure that you don't buy into their messages, or their expectations.

To help you in this process consider the Golden Rule: do unto others as you would have them do unto you. In this case, the reverse is also a guiding principle: don't allow others to do unto you, what you wouldn't do to them. This is part of taking care of yourself. Consider also, setting an invisible boundary around yourself when you are with negative or critical people. This is your safe perimeter and you don't allow harmful words or actions to enter. In fact it's helpful to actually visualize the words coming toward you and hitting this barrier and falling harmlessly to the ground.

Flexibility is also important for resilience. Flexibility means that you "go with the flow" and find what there is to appreciate about an experience rather than what you don't like. During the holidays, if your desires are thwarted, think of how you can make adjustments and find acceptance and even joy in the way things are.

For more information, read the full Psychology Today [blog by: Stephen Sideroff, Ph.D.](#)

Domestic violence during the holidays

Several studies have found an increase in domestic violence incidents during the holidays. A [study published by the University of Calgary](#) noted that New Year's Day shows an especially worrisome spike in domestic violence incidents according to a four-year span of data from reports to the police and to a local help line. Additionally, they found increases in domestic violence on other holidays such as Good Friday, Easter, Canada Day, Labour Day, Valentine's Day, and Halloween. Overall, the study warned that some days were more conducive to domestic violence than other, and suggested further research on the role of alcohol in this type of violence.

In 2014, Dr. Katreena Scott, Canada Research Chair in Family Violence Prevention and Intervention, brought attention to the fact that many of the risk factors for domestic violence coincide with the characteristics of holiday celebrations. Namely, holidays are often accompanied by increased alcohol use, financial

Exploring the connections between precarious work environments, the law, and experiences of sexual harassment on the job.

When: January 23rd, 2018
1:00 – 2:15 pm EST
Click [here](#) to register.

Enhancing Leeds & Grenville's Response to Child Sexual Abuse

Free workshop by Geraldine Crisci on Assessing & Understanding Trauma in Children

When: January 31st, 2018
Where: Brockville, ON
Contact [Brandy Morton](#) for more information.

Building Supports: Housing Access for Immigrant and Refugee Women Leaving Violence (Webinar)

When: February 13th, 2018
1:00 – 2:15 pm EST
Click [here](#) to register.

Summit on Criminal Guns and Gangs

A national summit on challenges, solutions, and best practices in the fight against criminal guns and gangs

When: March 2018
Read the Public Safety news release [here](#).

SNAPSHOTS

Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability (CFOJA) is launched

Earlier this month, on Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on



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



National Justice Network Update



pressure, and additional stress from trying to make it "perfect." The presence of extended family and children being home from school can be stressful, too. According to Dr. Scott, combined with other risk factors – such as a recent separation/divorce, lack of support systems, or a recent criminal charge – domestic violence can be the unfortunate result. The Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH) has also reported an average increase of 30% in calls for support to transitional shelters during the holidays.

Click [here](#) to learn about family and domestic violence. There are many types of abuse, including physical, emotional/psychological, sexual, and financial/economic. If you feel that you are a victim of domestic violence or abuse, you should report to the police. The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime is also available to connect you to resources and information about the criminal justice system. In addition to seeking help from the police, you can use legal channels such as Legal Aid, Lawyers Referral Services, or Students Legal Services. If you feel unsafe in your current living situation, you should contact emergency shelters or a trusted friend/family member. Finally, it can be helpful to seek the help of a mental health professional during your recovery process.

Outside the Shadows

New Criminal Harassment video project launches

Did you know that 76% of stalking victims in Canada are women? Criminal harassment is gendered. Anti-violence educator and women's advocate Julie S. Lalonde wants to talk about it.

Launched on December 15, Julie created a powerful 5-minute video called [#OutsideTheShadows](#) to raise awareness of this problem in Canada and to provide victims with tips to help them document the abuse and stay safe.

Funded by donations from individuals, this video includes hand drawn art and animation by @AmbivalentYou. It is a very accurate description of stalking and ensures the victim understands it is never, ever their fault. The video also includes a lot of practical and vital tips for victims and survivors in documenting their abuse, staying safe on social media

Violence Against Women (Dec. 6), the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability (CFOJA) and its website were launched. The Observatory aims to bring attention to social and state responses to femicide in Canada.

Femicide is "the killing of one or more females, primarily by males, *because* they are female". It sheds light on gendered violence specifically towards girls and women. Recognized as an international human rights issue, the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner called for better responses to, and increased research on, femicide. Specifically, the CFOJA will work to: track femicide cases and collect data on them; identify legislation and policy that should be changed; documenting inadequate social and state responses; highlighting social attitudes and stigmas that may prevent adequate recognition; and providing information to various stakeholders.

To find more, check out their [website](#).

Housing assistance to be provided to Yukon victims of violence

Victims of family violence will receive rental assistance through four Whitehorse organizations through the Canada-Yukon Investment in Affordable Housing Agreement.





National Justice Network Update



and the importance of a crew or social supports in staying safe.

Amazing work. Please share the video widely. Congratulations to Julie!

London Police Service to adopt Philadelphia Model; lawsuit against LPS grows

The London Police Service has announced it will be one of our four police forces in Ontario to conduct a pilot implementation of the 'Philadelphia Model' for reviewing sexual assault investigations.

The Philadelphia Model is a collaborative review process that allows outside experts to review sexual assault cases to ensure the investigation is thorough and properly classified.

"We are looking forward to implementing this model as we believe it is one more way to continue to develop best practices and evidence-based, trauma-informed investigations to provide an improved response and more support for victims of sexual violence," said Chief John Pare. He added that the model will "provide oversight and accountability."

The announcement comes nearly three months after the London police force was found to have one of the highest percentages in the country of sexual assault cases that were classified as unfounded. The London figure was 44 per cent, compared to 20 per cent among police services across Canada.

Meanwhile, a second woman is now part of a lawsuit against the London Police Service over the way it handled sexual assault complaints. The woman, known only as Jane Doe, joins Ava Williams who previously announced her intentions to sue the London force. In their statements of claim, both women say they were "subjected to treatment steeped in rape-myths."

And the Barbra Schlifer Clinic of Toronto is co-filing with the two women to make the case that "this is about a practice ... that affects women in every jurisdiction in Canada," said Amanda Dale, the clinic's executive director. She said legal action is required because research has shown that the commitment to implement new best practices is often dependent on an individual police chief's intentions.

The participant organizations are: the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition; Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre; Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society of Yukon; and Blood Ties Four Directions. These organizations will be able to direct their housing funding to clients in need. They will each receive \$10,000 by October 2018 in an effort to relieve the pressure on shelters and social housing programs.

Importantly, this rental assistance has the potential to help victims of violence get back on their feet. Loss of shelter can be a significant obstacle to healing.

New Brunswick to address refusal by insurance companies to pay-out domestic violence victims

This year, Canadian media outlets reported about incidents of domestic abuse wherein angry spouses set fire to family homes, yet insurance companies rejected claims from the victims. The loophole left victims vulnerable and unsupported.

New Brunswick is leading the charge to change this in Atlantic Canada, while British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, and Quebec have already instituted laws directed at this issue. While some insurance companies pay innocent co-insured individuals regardless of provincial laws, formal legislation will no doubt bring other insurance companies up to the same





National Justice Network Update



"What we want is something that's enforced by the court. That means if a certain police chief leaves ... we still have that on the books ... and that women can count on being treated with dignity, respect and equality."

Study points to success of Green Dot Strategy in Kentucky high schools

A five-year study of 26 Kentucky high schools has found success in the [Green Dot Strategy](#), which has resulted in decreasing rates of interpersonal violence. Data from 89,707 student surveys regarding the frequency of self-reported sexual violence perpetration and victimization showed that the Strategy helped to reduce the average of 300 experiences of violence to 157.

The Strategy targets the culture of violence, and works to shift norms to being *unaccepting* of interpersonal violence. It works to educate and train *all* members of the school community, including students, teachers, staff, administrators, and parents. They receive training to:

1. recognize high-risk situations;
2. understand what factors might be preventing them from getting involved;
3. identify realistic actions they could or would take in a situation of violence; and
4. engage in proactive behaviours to shift the school's norms.

The Strategy addresses different types of violence, including sexual assault and harassment, dating violence, and stalking. The study found reductions in all of these types of violence, noting especially that there were reductions in sexual assault both in reports of perpetration and of victimization.

The Green Dot curriculum was developed by Dr. Dorothy Edward, intended for use on college campuses. She has since realized its positive potential in lower level schools, as well. The Strategy has been applied in regions across the U.S., which may be an indication of how its implementation could be advantageous in Canadian schools, too.

Seattle University Women in Criminal Justice Survey

standard. New Brunswick finance Minister Cathy Rogers recognizes the need for different types of support for domestic violence victims, including monetary support and reimbursement for property damage.

This change follows a number of disturbing cases in which innocent co-insureds have been denied payouts. For example, Terri-lynn Robison found herself in a difficult situation after her husband lit their bedroom on fire. Her insurance company, Allstate, denied her insurance claim since her husband was co-insured under the same policy, and he had intentionally committed arson. Also, Wendy Soczek was doused in gasoline and lit on fire by her husband. Ms. Soczek was in a coma for nine weeks following the incident, and had to endure thirty surgeries. Shockingly, her insurance company, also Allstate, denied her claim to repair the house, due to her husband's intentional acts.

Reviewing the Canadian criminal justice system

The Government of Canada is consulting Canadians across the country with regards to our criminal justice system. The consultation is open to participation until January 15, 2018.

The Government's hope is to ensure a just, compassionate, and fair CJS, so as to bolster a safe and prosperous society. The review is hearing





National Justice Network Update



Researchers at Seattle University are working on a journal article that seeks insight from women working across all components of the criminal justice system to include police, courts, corrections, juvenile justice, **victim services**, research agencies, and academia. This research seeks to identify key components that contribute to the professional success of women in criminal justice. Further, the article will examine the experiences and challenges women face in their professional environments with the hope of providing knowledge that will benefit women who seek careers in criminal justice in the future and those currently working as in the field as criminal justice professionals.

This survey should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Please participate and share widely:
[WOMEN PROFESSIONALS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SURVEY](#)

voices from the general public, stakeholders, and provincial and territorial counterparts. A report on this consultation will be published next winter 2018.

Canadians can participate via the Online Choicebook; online discussions; Twitter townhalls; and e-mail submissions. Read more about how to get involved by clicking [this link](#).

