



Greetings!

Welcome to the **February** 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 & FRIENDS OR HAVE THEM SIGN UP TO RECEIVE IT DIRECTLY AT: <http://crcvc.ca/en/newsletter/>.

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

THE OTTAWA POLICE BOARD WANTS TO RETURN TO THE OLD COMMUNITY POLICE MODEL

During a recent meeting with the new Ottawa police board, there has been significant pressure for the Ottawa police force to return to the old community policing model. In fact, around a dozen speakers, including three city councilors expressed their concern on decreasing the amount of community police officers. Since the implementation of the [new community police model in 2017](#), which reduced the number of community police officers, and brought together all front-line officers under one department, the public has expressed worry. Specifically, this new model moved many community and neighbourhood officers to front-line patrol duty. In fact, according to Councillor Diane Deans of the Gloucester Southgate ward, when you put all officers under the same department, if "they don't develop rapports with neighbourhoods, then the whole thing breaks down". There are additional concerns regarding how this model contributes to police being more reactive rather than proactive.

With an increase in violent crimes within the capital over the past year, there has been a growing debate on which type of model the police should follow. In fact, according to the Ottawa police, in 2018, there

QUICK LINKS

Chat & Text Support

CRCVC's chat and text support for victims of crime who wish to access information as well as emotional support.

Text support: Our number is 1-(613)-208-0747.

You didn't get a reply right away? That's okay! We can send a text back during our hours of operation.

Chat: Please access through our [website](#). Automatic pop-up when we are online, or you can send an offline message by clicking the chat box on the bottom-right hand side.

For **hours of operation** or other info, please click [here](#).
Hoping to connect with you soon!

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

Ireland: New domestic violence law will criminalize emotional abuse.

Bruce McArthur pleads guilty to 8 counts of 1st-degree murder.

Supreme Court of Canada: Finds teacher who used a camera pen guilty of voyeurism.



were [more than 60 shooting incidents](#). In response, \$660,000 was approved by the city council to hire new officers specifically for the guns and gangs unit. While the Ottawa Police service was granted no more than a two per cent budget increase in the past several years, they are hoping to increase the police budget by four per cent in following years, in order to hire more officers.

With the number of community police officers decreasing from 15 to 10 officers within the past year, many people do not agree with the 2017 community model. In fact, many people believe that increasing the number of community police officers will be the long-term solution to the rising crime in Ottawa. According to Ketcia Peters, the co-chair of the police community equity council, community police officers prevent youth from falling into a path of crime and connects them to services. She explains "It's a strategy where you won't be able to measure the success overnight, but in the long term we know that it's worked".

It appears that community police officers play an important role in reducing crime in the long-run. Cheryl Parrot, who represented several communities at the police board meeting, explains that [community policing contributed to a noticeable drop in crime](#) in her neighbourhood. Many people left the meeting disappointed, after the board simply accepted the proposed policing overhaul. However, Supt. Mark Ford stated that the plan is yet to be finalized, where community consultations will play a significant role going forward. As police board chair [Coun. Diane Deans states](#), "I heard loud and clear that people want to know the police officers, they want to see them at community events". As such, there is still time for the model to be adjusted and the opportunity to return to the old model, where officers had a greater presence in the community.

#CallItFemicide Report: Understanding Gender-related Killings of Women and Girls in Canada 2018

At the end of last month, the first annual Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability

[Toronto](#): Police rule out sexual assault charges for former RCMP doctor after accusations were made by 30 women.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ottawa Monthly Drop-in Support Group for "Loss to Violence"

The drop-in support group will return in March for family members of homicide victims. This group addresses a gap in the community and offers a place for peers to support each other in healing. Please "like" the CRCVC on our [Facebook page](#) or email crcvc@crcvc.ca in order to keep updated about the time/location of the gathering, as it is subject to change. We welcome all family and loved ones to join us!

When: March 28th, 2019

Time: 7:15pm-9:15pm

Where: Ottawa, ON

Saskatchewan Association of Police Affiliated Victim Services (SAPAVS) "Tell Us Your Story" Conference

About: Presentations and discussions provided by speakers from across North America to raise awareness on how crime can impact individuals, families and communities.

When: March 6th-8th 2019

Where: Saskatoon Inn & Conference Centre. 2002 Airport Drive. Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M4

Cost: \$250-\$375

[Register here.](#)



[#CallItFemicide report](#) was released. This report addresses the concern from the United Nations that countries should be working towards tracking gender-related killing of women more efficiently. In order to get a better understanding of how women's violent deaths can be prevented, it's necessary to start looking at the circumstances and motivations surrounding femicide and see how it compares with the rates for men.

In this report, it was identified that on average in 2018, a woman or girl was [killed every 2.5 days](#) in Canada. Specifically, it goes into detail stating that 148 women and girls were killed in 133 incidents last year. Within these incidents, 90% of those accused were men and in 12 of the 133 incidents there was no accused identified. Although these statistics are quite concerning, there have been issues in terms of certain demographics. One of the big problems within this report is the claim that Indigenous women are only 5 percent of the population but that they make up 36 percent of women and girls killed by violence.

These femicide statistics in 2018 included two tragic events: the van attack and the Krassimira Pejcinovski case, both occurring in Toronto, Ontario. Most Torontonians can easily recall the van attack that happened on April 23, 2018, where [Alek Minassian](#) ploughed through the busy sidewalks of downtown Toronto with his rental van. The 25 year-old was charged with 10 counts of first-degree murder and 13 counts of attempted murder. This attack is considered be one of the deadliest incidents of violence in Canada. The second femicide case was [Krassimira Pejcinovski](#) which involved a man named Cory Fenn who was charged with 3 counts of second degree murder. These counts comprised of the deaths of Pejcinovski, her 15-year-old son named Roy and her 13-year-old daughter named Vana. With this, it is important to consider that the two horrific femicide cases not only affected the families of these individuals, as the bystanders on the streets of the incidents and the coworkers of victims continue to commemorate the lives lost last year.

In response to the statistics, Myrna Dawson who is the observatory's director and professor at the University of Guelph, shares the intention of researchers. She says that they aspire to keep up to date with ongoing femicide cases throughout the criminal justice system

Strangulation Identification Training

About: This workshop will provide participants with a good understanding of strangulation and the process of identification, assessment, and care of strangulation victims.

When: March 18, 2019,
9am-12pm

Where: McKernan
Community League, 11341
78 Avenue Northwest
Edmonton, AB, T6G 0N1

Cost: \$20 (CIAFV Member)
and \$40 (Non-member)

[Register here.](#)

Sexual Assault 101 Workshop

About: One day workshop to discuss sexual assault from perspectives of diverse service providers

When: March 21, 2019,
8:30am-4:00pm

Where: Ramada Inn, 805
Brookdale Ave, Cornwall, ON

Cost: \$35 (plus a \$3.15
Eventbrite fee) for 1 staff
from CANAA member
agencies, or \$40 for non-
members and each additional
CANAA member agency staff.

[Register here.](#)

2 Days Community Building Human Trafficking Workshop

About: This mobilization workshop by a survivor and victim advocate provides knowledge on Human Trafficking for Service Providers.

When: March 26-27, 2019,
8:30am-3:30pm

Where: Delta Hotels, 208 St
Mary's River Dr. Sault Ste.



to gain further understanding on the factors that are involved within each case. Going forward, the goal is not only to prevent femicide in the future but also remember the lives lost of those women and girls.

MISTRUST IN OTTAWA POLICE REVEALED IN 2017 INTERNAL REPORT

"The vast majority of officers go out there every day with the idea that they're going to do the best job that they can," said [Insp. Isobel Granger](#), "So, when the community comes to you and says you're not treating us fairly, it leaves a questions mark and you wonder, 'What am I doing?'"

The [146-page final report](#) (after discussions with approximately 1,000 individuals and community groups) of the Ottawa police Outreach Liaison Team was completed more than a year ago, but was finally released to the public on the Ottawa police website. The Outreach Liaison Team was created in August 2016 following the death of Abdirahman Abdi to engage with the city's racialized community "and rebuild the community's trust and confidence in the Ottawa Police Service."

The final report identified (but not limited to) 32 issues, including everything from systemic barriers inside the police service (ie: women, minorities and LGBTQ+ officers), complaints about the Community and Police Action Committee as well as "attitudes surrounding black youth".

Chief Charles Bordeleau, the Ottawa Police Service, wrote in an email that some of the recommendations have resulted in change, which includes the creation of the community equity council, a new hiring effort focused on [visible minorities](#). Council member [Hodan Egale](#), president of the Somali Canadian Youth Centre, said she believes the new council can be a reset for the relationship between diverse communities and the police.

GROUP OF CANADIAN DOCTORS HAVE LAUNCHED NEW ORGANIZATION TO FIGHT FOR

Marie, ON, P695V4

Cost: Free

[Register here.](#)

SNAPSHOTS

Current investigation by the CBSA against border agents for harassment, sexual assault and misconduct

CBSA, also known as Canada Border Services Agency is in charge of detaining and searching Canadians and has the power to carry out deportations. However, from January 2016 to the middle of 2018, the CBSA investigated [1,200 allegations](#) against their own staff.

There has been concern regarding how these complaints are dealt with internally. In fact, the CBSA remains one of the major law enforcement bodies that is not overseen by another independent body in cases of misconduct. As immigration lawyer Joel Sandaluk explains "It's hard to imagine an organization with the size and the complexity and the amount of responsibility and authority of an agency like this would be completely without any kind of oversight".

Based on a CBC News analysis, there were 50 different types of offences ranging from neglect to duty, discreditable conduct as well as allegations of sexual assault and criminal



STRONGER GUN LAWS IN CANADA

The advocacy organization, [Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns \(CDPG\)](#), is mainly made up of family doctors, ER physicians, trauma surgeons and psychiatrists. Their message is for a ban on handguns and assault weapons, saying gun violence is a public health crisis, which should be treated like road safety and smoking. Their goal is specifically calling for swift passage of Bill C-71, An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms, and a ban on handguns and assault weapons.

Although much of [the discussion](#) around gun control in the United States and Canada has focused on assault-style rifles and semi-automatic weapons, handguns are responsible for the majority of gun-related homicides. As [Statistics Canada](#) has reported in their firearm-related violent crime, 2009 to 2017, guns represent a growing public health threat. Firearm-related violent crime has increased 42% since 2013, and Canada has the 5th highest rate of firearm mortality among 23 countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. In Canada, handguns account for 58% of all homicides involving firearms. In another report by [Stats Canada](#), gun deaths are also on the rise. In 2016, there were 223 firearm-related homicides in Canada, the highest it's been since 2005.

On Feb. 18 2019, the group was asked to speak before the Senate's standing committee on national security and defence, which is studying Bill C-71. On April 3rd, 2019, the group is expecting to hold a [national day of action](#) to back its call for stronger gun laws. During the national day of action, the CDPG will call upon the federal government to address this public health crisis by way of [two specific actions](#):

- The introduction of legislation and other tools to reduce the prevalence of firearms, such as restrictions on gun ownership, an amnesty program to recover firearms currently in circulation, and a strategic approach to reduce the illegal sale of guns and the importation of firearms from other jurisdictions;
- Funding and infrastructure for research on the

association. Based on past complaints, it appears that they are not always dealt with appropriately. Mary Foster from the group of Solidarity Across Borders explains, "we have enough experience to know that making a complaint to the CBSA about the CBSA doesn't really lead anywhere".

In response, the Liberal government has promised to create a legislation that would ensure an oversight process. With the number of complaints against CBSA, we hope that some form of policy be created to ensure accountability. As Sandaluk states "as long as you don't create this agency, misconduct or harassment can occur on an ongoing basis, essentially unanswered".

Investigation of Canadian Sport Coaches for Sexual Offences Against their Young Players

Within the last 20 years, it has been found that approximately 222 coaches in the Canadian amateur sports leagues have been convicted of sexual offences with an additional 34 accused coaches currently going in front of the courts. These incidents involved over [600 victims under the age of 18](#) years-old.

The findings, discovered by CBC, revealed that the convicted individuals were coaches of 36 different



epidemiology of firearm injury and death including the role of societal determinants such as poverty, mental illness, racial discrimination, and social isolation; as well as the effectiveness of strategies to reduce firearm related injuries and deaths.

Last November, the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and the Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction, [announced](#) an investment of \$86 million to help the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) combat gun and gang violence. Over five years, \$51.5 million will be provided to the CBSA to help prevent firearms from coming into the country illegally.

For more information on CDPG, please contact Christopher Holcroft, 416-996-0767 or christopherholcroft@hotmail.com

VATICAN SUMMIT ON SEX ABUSE CALLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

Pope Francis summoned bishops for a [four-day meeting](#) in the Vatican City to prevent sex abuse and protect children. The meeting included the heads of bishops' conferences, Eastern Catholic Churches, and religious communities. This follows the scandal that erupted last year in [Chile](#) and [the U.S.](#) While the Vatican for two decades has tried to crack down on the abusers themselves, it has largely given a pass to the bishops and superiors who moved the predators from parish to parish. This comes 30 years after [scandals](#) first erupted in Ireland and Australia, and 20 years after it hit the U.S., with bishops and Catholic officials in many parts of Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia.

On February 21st Pope Francis gave participants in a [Vatican summit](#) (on the protection of minors in the Church) a list of nearly two dozen discussion points for actions Catholic Church leaders could potentially take in the follow-up to the meeting. Included in the [suggestions](#) are periodic reviews of protocols on

sports. The sport with the highest number of sexual offences was hockey with 86 charged, 59 convicted and 8 awaiting trial followed by soccer with 40 charged, 27 convicted and 2 awaiting trial. The charges involved in these cases included sexual assault, sexual exploitation, child luring and making or possessing child pornography.

The problem with these results is that sexual abuse is one of the highest underreported crimes, meaning; there could be thousands more victims and calls for a reboot of policy for the system. Graham James, junior hockey coach who was convicted of abusing 6 of his players over 100 times, was a nation-wide wake up call for policy changes, to make it easier for players to report.

In turn, sport organizations in Canada are still struggling to uphold effective changes that will decrease abuse. Therefore, the sports system is calling for a massive reform with the implementation of screening processes and tracking policies of coaches. To address these issues the focus is now on prevention in order to reduce the number of offences by coaches and ensure the safety of all children.

[SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH](#)



safeguarding, handbooks of steps authorities should take in abuse cases, provisions for facilitating the participation of lay experts in investigations, and the direction to inform civil authorities and higher Church authorities in compliance with civil and canonical norms.

Cardinals attended Pope Francis' summit on preventing clergy sex abuse, in a new [culture of accountability](#) in the Catholic Church to punish bishops and religious superiors when they fail to protect their followers from predator priests. On the second day of the gathering, the focus shifted to how church leaders must acknowledge that decades of their own coverup, secrecy and fear of scandal had only worsened.

Other issues raised at the summit were to "accompany, protect and treat victims, offering them all the necessary support for a complete recovery" and to establish easily-accessible groups made up of experts, including both clerics and laypeople, to which victims can report crimes.

At the summit of church leaders heard five videotaped [testimonies](#) of victims about the trauma of their abuse and the cruel, additional pain the hierarchy's indifference caused them. One woman from Africa told the summit that the priest who began raping her at 15, forced her to have three abortions over the following 13 years.

"He gave me everything I wanted when I accepted to have sex; otherwise he would beat me," she said. A survivor from Chile told the churchmen they had inflicted even more pain on victims by discrediting them and protecting the priests who abused them.

The Vatican is not expecting any miracles or a final document to come out of the summit. But organizers say it marks a turning point in the way the Catholic Church has dealt with the problem, with Pope Francis' [own acknowledgment](#) of his mistakes in handling the Chile abuse case a key point of departure.

We hope that this public acknowledgement and work within this area of victimization will also have a positive impact for Canada.

THE PROCESS AND MEANING OF SEXUAL ASSAULT DISCLOSURE

[A study](#) aimed to clarify and expand our previous knowledge about disclosure of sexual assault by investigating the overall process. It was conducted with a diverse sample of women who were sexually victimized after age 12. Disclosure of sexual assault is a complicated process which depends upon a host of factors, such as assault characteristics, the victim's interpretation, and the level of distress she experiences. The comprehensive theories of adult sexual assault disclosure have not been proposed.

Findings from the study reveal the complex nature of disclosure and expand on previous conceptions of its process and behavioral manifestations such as evidence supporting a disclosure, a variety of motivations for disclosing and not disclosing, the roles of culture and parenting practices that may influence disclosure, and the interactive nature of disclosure and recovery. The results suggest that the disclosure process consists of the factors that contribute to whether a disclosure is made, the disclosure itself, and the aftereffects of the disclosure, a process which could be conceived as occurring in circular manner.

A MURDER VICTIM'S MOTHER ON GRIEF,



TRAUMA AND LIFE AFTER DEATH

On Feb. 8, 2017, [Bryer Prysiazniuk-Settee](#) was shot twice in the chest at a North End Winnipeg home and turned up dead in the snow blocks away. To this day, police have released very little information about the murder. In October 2018, a jury had convicted Christopher Brass of 2nd-degree murder. Brass has a lengthy criminal record and gang involvement, which may have triggered his confrontation with Prysiazniuk-Settee seven to 10 days before the killing. At the time, Prysiazniuk-Settee went to the Powers Street suite to buy drugs from friends who had known him for a decade, the court heard. Brass was there, and Prysiazniuk-Settee made a comment about one of his tattoos, jurors heard.

[Gina Settee](#), Bryer Prysiazniuk-Settee's mother stated that finding closure for his murder is a daily struggle. "When the homicide police contacted me on the day of the shooting, my whole being suffered the biggest loss of my life. When they delivered their news, I started to punch myself in the face and threw myself down, to see if what I was hearing was real. And each time I did something to myself, it was very real"

In January 2018, Gina went into a treatment centre for her PTSD. While in treatment, Gina started to heal by taking to elders through ceremony and allowed those feelings to surface. "No mother should ever have to bury one of her children — especially from the hands of a callous person who really has no visible emotion about what he did."