



National Justice Network Update



January 2018

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Happy New Year!

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/>.

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

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Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime
Visit: <http://www.crcvc.ca>
Email: crcvc@crcvc.ca
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On the anniversary of Quebec City mosque shooting; Widows, Children of men slain denied victims compensation

January 29th marked the anniversary of last year's devastating Quebec City mosque shooting. Six men lost their lives, and nineteen were injured. Commemorations and vigils began on the last weekend of the month.

The incident last year took place in the busiest mosque in the city after the evening prayer. Survivors recounted the cold calculation with which the shooter wrought devastation. The community sadly lost Azzeddine Soufiane, Mamadou Tanou Barry, Khaled Belkacemi, Aboubaker Thabti, Ibrahima Barry, and Abdelkrim Hassane.

Azzeddine Soufiane was a 57-year-old father of three. He owned the Boucherie Assalam near the Islamic cultural centre. He was well known and well respected

QUICK LINKS

Consider making a donation to the CRCVC through CanadaHelps, and make a difference that counts. [Click here](#) to donate.

Visit our [website](#) to access our live chat. A trained CRCVC staff member will be happy to help. Currently, regular support is available during these times:

Sundays 6 pm-1 am EST

Mondays 7 pm-1 am EST

Tuesdays 7 pm-1 am EST

Thursdays 7:30 pm-1 am EST

Fridays 8 am-4 pm EST

Kids Help Phone will be launching their [Crisis Text Line](#) later this year. In the meantime, take advantage of their 24/7, bilingual, and anonymous phone counselling, web counselling, and referral service for children and youth. Click [here](#) to visit their website.

January is Stalking Awareness Month. Julie Lalonde has developed a project on criminal harassment in Canada, titled "[Outside of the Shadows](#)", with the goal of giving victims and their allies practical advice.

Try out Andy Puddicombe's meditation and mindfulness app, "[Headspace](#)". [The New Yorker](#) notes the upcoming trend of "digital therapy".



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in the community. He is remembered as an approachable, kind, and patriotic man.

Mamadou Tanou Barry was a 42-year-old father of two who worked in information technology.

Khaled Belkacemi was a 60-year-old professor at Laval University. He taught soil and agri-food engineering. He is survived by three children, who say he was loved by all. He was successful in his field of work, and was an honourable man.

Aboubaker Thabti was 44, and had two children. He worked in a pharmacy and is remembered as a kind and loved member of the community.

Ibrahima Barry was 39 and had four children. He worked for Quebec's Revenue Ministry.

Abdelkrim Hassane was a 41-year-old father to three daughters. He worked as a programming analyst for the Quebec government.

To add insult to injury, the families of men who died don't have the right to financial assistance despite the loss of their breadwinners, according to Quebec's compensation board for victims of crime.

They are entitled to psychological services, but not financial compensation — which is reserved for victims injured at the scene — under the eligibility rules of the Indemnisation des victimes d'actes criminels (IVAC).

The widow of Aboubaker Thabti, one of six men killed in the shooting, applied for financial assistance through IVAC, claiming she, too, is a victim of trauma and has been unable to work since her husband's death.

Her application was denied.

Lawyer Marc Bellemare, who represents Thabti and the loved ones of other victims, is contesting IVAC's ruling at the Quebec administrative tribunal, which can overturn its decisions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Anticipatory Grief Facilitator Training

Experiential training that will provide you the opportunity to learn how to co-facilitate an Anticipatory Grief Circle of Support. Hosted by the BC Bereavement Helpline.

When: February 17th-24th, 2018

Where: Maple Ridge, BC
To apply, or for more information, contact Jessica Lowe at 604-738-9950, or email contact@bcbh.ca.

Traumatic Loss Facilitator Training

Two-day training session for individuals and professionals who wish to be trained to run an 8-week traumatic death grief support group. Hosted by the BC Bereavement Helpline. \$300 per attendee.

When: February 23rd & 24th, 2018

Where: 763 East Broadway, Vancouver, BC

For more information, [click here](#). To download the registration form, [click here](#).

Sexual Violence Forum: What Really Informs Consent?



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He said offering widows therapy isn't sufficient, as they now struggle to support themselves and their children.

Bellemare says he's confident the families will receive compensation in the end, but notes there is such a backlog of cases that the wait for an appeal hearing is 25 to 27 months. He says there's a precedent for compensating families of murder victims. In 2013, the tribunal ruled that his client, Patrick Desautels, who found his three children slain in 2012, was entitled to financial support through IVAC. That was the first time in four decades IVAC was forced to expand its definition of "victim."

Victim compensation is a form of victim assistance in meeting financial, physical, emotional and social needs of victims, and has played a vital role in victim recovery. The idea of providing reparations to victims of crime through civil redress – either through restitution from offenders to victims or state compensation programs – has a long history of support dating back to ancient Babylonia.

What sort of society are we, if we cannot commit to providing financial help to the family of innocent victims gunned down during prayer? We know that there are long-term negative effects of violence that have direct financial consequences. Compensation can help mitigate these negatives and/or pay other expenses. When victims feel supported and are satisfied with the supports they receive, they are much more likely to heal and move forward. CRCVC will follow up with the Minister responsible for IVAC.

Justice Canada calls for input to transform the Canadian justice system:
Lisa Freeman responds with the following letter

You have broken the law...

You have committed the most capital of offences – Murder.

You have been held accountable by a jury of your peers for your actions.

One-day forum presented by The Learning Network to discuss the role of marginalization, power imbalances, privilege and accompanying notions of entitlement, and the ways in which social disparities inform "consent" and patterns of sexual violence. Forum fee is \$50, which includes lunch and 2 nutrition breaks.

When: February 28th, 2018
8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Where: Hotel Novotel
Toronto Centre, Toronto, ON
Click [here](#) for more information and 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](#).

Victims and Survivors of Crime Week

This year's theme is "Transforming the Culture Together".

When: May 27th – June 2nd, 2018

Apply by February 12th for funding to host an event. More [here](#).

International Justice and Victims' Rights Summer School

A bilingual course led by several internationally renowned experts in the fields of criminology and law.

When: June 4th – June 9th, 2018



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You have been sentenced, punished, and put away.

But throughout your time in prison there will be programs for you. There will be help for you to battle your addictions and to silence your demons. You will be educated and able to make yourself stronger and given every opportunity for redemption. You will be offered services to rehabilitate yourself, with the goal of one day making you a more productive member of society – the very same society which you forfeited your right to be part of on the commission on your crime.

But what about me? Where is my place in all of this? I am on the outside left wondering what will become of my shattered life, and even if I manage to reconstruct it, it is forever altered. I was plunged un-asked into a never-ending nightmare, but for me there is no redemption, no opportunity, no recourse, and no parole. Instead, I find myself incarcerated in the nightmare of your crime.

Every opportunity that you have is an opportunity that I don't get. Every second chance that you get is my chance to be re-victimized all over again. Piece by piece your "rights" chip away at me, and little by little I break. There is nothing offered to me, so very little offered to help me re-build my life, so I, too, can be a more productive member of society. But there is no comparable response for me that equal every "right" that you, a convicted murderer, has.

Instead, I am left feeling that I come second to the offender who killed my loved one, and I am left to wonder why my voice is drowned out and why it is not heard as loud as yours. Why, why does no one listen?

WHAT ABOUT MY RIGHTS? I am shouting, screaming, but no one notices – except for those who have experienced what I have – only they can hear me.

Instead, I am left to find my own way, to make my own path. To make my voice heard. If I can, and only if I am strong enough, I will be my own survivor of YOUR crime. And I will spend the rest of my life trying not to become another one of your victims.

Have your say [here](#).

Where: Université de Montréal

Click [here](#) for more information, or [here](#) to register.

16th International Symposium of the World Society of Victimology

Victims and Victimization: Moving Towards an International Victimology

When: June 10th – 14th, 2018

Where: Hong Kong
Deadline for early-bird registration is March 31st.
Regular registration is from April 1st to June 9th. Click [here](#) to register.

Shelters of the Future: A National Conversation

**Make a submission to Women's Shelters Canada's call for presentation by February 15th by clicking [here](#)!

When: June 13th – 15th, 2018

Where: Ottawa, Ontario

National Organization for Victim Assistance 44th Annual Training Event

When: August 20th-23rd, 2018

Where: Jacksonville, Florida

Keep an eye on the [NOVA website](#) for event hotel reservation information and registration options coming soon.

SNAPSHOTS

Ottawa Legal Information Centre celebrates its third anniversary

The Legal Information Centre serves all of Ontario in every area of the law with no



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Culture of fear and harassment rampant in Edmonton Institution

Two correctional officers and two managers at the Edmonton Institution, a maximum-security prison, have been fired. Allegations of harassment, intimidation, bullying, and potentially indictable behaviour have resulted in the termination of four prison employees by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC). The inappropriate conduct was brought to light by staff and inmates, and was reported to the Commissioner of Corrections.

While the Commissioner and the CSC claim to be taking the allegations seriously, the national president of the Union of Safety and Justice Employees, Stan Stapleton, notes that there remains an underlying culture of intimidation and harassment that must still be addressed.

This most recent wave of firings follows the suspension of several employees at the end of 2017. A CBC investigation revealed that the suspensions were linked to allegations of sexual assault, assault, harassment, and employee misconduct on the part of correctional officers, managers, and acting managers. The anonymous interviewees of the CBC investigation spoke to the harmful and pervasive culture of the Edmonton Institution, stating that the inappropriate behaviour of male staff against female employees has been ongoing for years. In fact, harassment from male staff has come to be expected.

The women who experience harassment at the Institution are reluctant to come forward due to fear for their safety and a lack of confidence in the CSC's internal complaint process. It was found that, given the maximum-security nature of the prison, perpetrators of harassment will threaten to turn a blind eye if their victim is being assaulted by an inmate. In addition, the practice of 'double dooring' involves intentionally trapping a staff member in a confined space with potentially dangerous inmates.

An earlier third-party internal report commissioned by the head of the CSC proved to be damning as well, revealing that a small number of staff and managers were abusing their power within the institution, to take control of the facility and solidify their position at the top of the hierarchy.

admissibility criteria, making it the first of its kind in the province. The Centre offers bilingual legal information and referral services and, as of January 15th this year, has served over 5,400 Ontarians. The Centre's increasing number of service requests demonstrates the need for such a service. In 2016, the Centre served 1,632 individuals, and this number increased by 51% in 2017.

The Centre prides itself on being a point of access for individuals of all kinds. The wide reach of their services is attributed to partner referrals, word-of-mouth, and their new toll-free telephone line (**1-844-343-7462**). This helps to pave the way for vulnerable individuals to seek legal information.

They also offer a free 30-minute meeting with a lawyer to anyone facing a legal issue, which is of great use for those who do not know where to start in looking for justice. These meetings can be conducted in person or over the phone. Other services include referral to specialized resources, aid with legal forms, access to resources, and access to a computer for legal research.

The Centre is located at 85 Albert St., Suite 1400, Ottawa ON, K1P 6A4. In addition to their toll-free line, they can be reached at **613-842-7462**. You can contact them via e-mail (info@legalinfocentre.ca),





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A new Warden – Gary Sears – was appointed earlier this month, and the prison has stated that they will work toward improving working conditions. As part of this effort, the Institution has established a confidential tip line for employees to report incidents of harassment or assault, and they have introduced better training for staff.

B.C. girls' deaths lead to calls for better training of judges in family violence issues

The deaths of two sisters on Christmas Day 2017 have raised pressing questions about the identification of family violence patterns by judges. The sisters, six-year-old Chloe and four-year-old Aubrey, had been the subject of a custody dispute, and were later killed by their father, Andrew Berry.

In the 2016 custody dispute, the mother of the girls relayed Berry's threats to blow up their home, and his aggressive behavior toward her. A B.C. Supreme Court justice ruled that this did not justify limiting his time with the children in a significant way.

Angela Marie MacDougall, on behalf of the Battered Women's Support Services, noted that domestic homicide could be predicted and even prevented if the criminal justice system takes it seriously, and holds the abusive partner accountable. She states that there is an identifiable pattern of escalation in these cases, which can involve emotional, financial, and physical abuse. However, judges are not sensitive – or have not been trained to be sensitive – to this pattern. The mother's testimony to the court revealed such a pattern of escalation.

A Toronto study by Womenatthecentre monitored the city's Specialized Domestic Violence Courts for a year to examine their handling of such cases. The resulting [report](#) stated that "the courts appeared to be disorganized, under-resourced and lacking in their ability consistently hold perpetrators accountable for their criminal behaviour."

Other problems include poor sharing of information between family and criminal courts, a lack of mandatory domestic violence training in law schools,

although the Centre is not authorized to provide legal information through this medium.

Contention on practices of identifying homicide victims in Alberta

The Edmonton Police Service (EPS) is thought by some to be the most secretive in the country in terms of identifying homicide victims. In 2017, the EPS withheld the names of 17 of 42 homicide victims. While an effort was made to address this issue through a framework implemented by the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police that promised to consistently name homicide victims, little has changed. For context, while the Calgary Police and Alberta RCMP K Division released the names of 100% and 83% of homicide victims, respectively, the EPS identified only 60%.

A significant number of the unnamed homicide victims in Edmonton were victims of domestic violence. This contributes to the culture of refusing to acknowledge the problem of domestic violence, with the misguided assumption that it is a private issue, to be dealt with behind closed doors. By failing to name homicide victims who have been subject to domestic violence, the EPS effectively downplays the issue, and enables the community to turn a blind eye.





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and a lack of oversight. Survivors have expressed their disappointment in the criminal justice system, and have been re-victimized and re-traumatized by them.

The National Justice Institute was granted funding last year to develop training for judges on subjects including gender-based violence, sexual assault, and domestic violence. Federally appointed judges currently participate in two weeks of mandatory training at the beginning of their term, and training through their individual courts, as well.

Peter Jaffe from the University of Western Ontario believes that there should be specialized judges to focus on domestic violence. These judges can be trained to recognize well-known warning signs of domestic homicides, including a history of violence, separation, depression, stalking, prior threats, and alcohol or drug abuse.

In addition to training, domestic violence experts also suggest more funding to support victims navigating the criminal justice system.

Alarming number of shootings in Ottawa as 2018 begins

After a record number of shootings in Ottawa in 2017, the new year has already seen a disheartening number of shootings. In 2017, there were 69 shootings, demonstrating the increasing trend of violent crime in recent years. As of January 15th, 2018, Ottawa has had seven shootings. While some may be under the misconception that there is little gun violence in Canada because our gun laws are stricter than the U.S., it has been reported that in relation to countries in the E.U., Canada has the fourth-highest gun homicide rate.

A fatal shooting occurred on January 9th in south Ottawa, and was the first homicide of the year in the city. The victim, Tarek Dakhil, was only twenty-three years old. The incident involved multiple gunshots relatively early in the evening. It has caused grief and concern in the community, who are understandably worried about their neighbourhood, given that there was a shooting there in November 2017 as well.

Edmonton police Chief Rod Knecht attributed this pattern to sensitivity to the victims. He noted that the homicide officers would release the victim's name only if it is in the public interest. Here, he is met with criticism from Ryerson Journalism professor Lisa Taylor. She believes that such cases are inherently of public interest, and that they have a right to know about heinous crimes in the community.

Medicine Hat police Chief Andy McGrogan points to the "lawful expectation of privacy" for the deceased. He points to the delicate balance of transparency and respect for the victims. There is debate over whether this privacy actually outweighs public interest and accountability.

Femifesto guide encourages Canadian media to report sexual violence responsibly

In light of increasing media reporting on sexual violence, Femifesto's 2015 survivor-informed guide entitled "Use the Right Words: Media Reporting on Sexual Violence in Canada" is a helpful tool for both reporters and interviewees. The guide starts off by pointing out that the media "can impose a hierarchy that frames certain kinds of sexual violence – or certain kinds of survivors – as less legitimate than others" (p. 7).





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Another shooting occurred just four days later, in the west end. Although thankfully the incident resulted in no injuries, a vehicle was hit by the gunfire. Police are unsure about the target of the shots, and are conducting an investigation.

22-year-old Adam Perron was identified as a gun homicide victim in a shooting on January 18th. The incident took place in downtown Ottawa on McLeod Street. Again, the police are conducting an investigation.

The response by the City has been criticized for being reactive rather than proactive. Irvin Waller of the University of Ottawa has noted that the main response has been to hire more police officers. Rather, he says, the police should be taking a preventive approach, specifically by increasing funding for social programs.

Additionally, there is a crucial lack of national statistics. While individual police departments track gun violence, there is no standardization of collection methods, nor any effort to culminate these data sources. The jarring effect that these shootings have had on the Ottawa community demonstrates the need for better efforts to measure and prevent gun violence.

Number of staff who have left the MMIWG inquiry raises concerns

Debbie Reid, executive director of the national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, left her position in early January. Hired in October 2017, Ms. Reid had come across criticisms after her introductory email to staff was leaked, stating the need to protect the inquiry's commissioners. In the interim, director of operations Calvin Wong will be acting executive director.

In addition to Reid, the inquiry has lost several staff members, including a commissioner and a previous executive director, each a setback to the inquiry's work. In response to staffing issues, the Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Arlen Dumas, has called for a complete overhaul and re-staffing of the inquiry.

It encourages reporters to realize the implications behind the words and language they use. For example, using the word 'sex' rather than 'rape' has the effect of diminishing the gravity of the crime and the violation that has occurred. Similarly, excessive use of the words 'alleged' and 'claimed' can cultivate disbelief and skepticism of survivors.

Reporters should also be sensitive to how their interviewees wish to be described; 'victim,' 'survivor,' or 'person who experienced sexual assault,' are all valid terms, but may hold different meanings in the eyes of the interviewee. It is important to avoid the passive voice in describing sexual violence. Perpetrators of such crimes should be held accountable, and should not be represented as unknowing or inconsequential actors.

Given that sexual violence is already stigmatized and misunderstood, the media should use its voice to help viewers and readers to fight those stigmas and become more aware. The guide suggests an intersectional approach, advising the media to consider how multiple axes of oppression can make certain groups more vulnerable or marginalized.

Femifesto cautions against sensationalizing sexual assault, and emphasizes that; instead, news reports should contextualize sexual violence





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There have also been disconcerting reports out of Manitoba and the Yukon from former inquiry employees. In Manitoba, Morene Gabriel was fired last year from her position as community relations manager. Her sister, Eileen Mary Houle Roulette, was killed in 2001, which inspired Ms. Gabriel to work for the inquiry. She was unhappy with her experience of working there, though. She highlighted a “sick internal culture” of “nepotism and favouritism.”

Also worrisome was Ms. Gabriel’s allegations of a lack of after-care plans and follow-up for Indigenous family members who have testified. It can be extremely difficult to testify, and there should be support networks and policies in place to help those victims who have the courage to come forward. Often, reliving such traumatic experiences can result in re-victimization.

Ms. Gabriel also called out the poor information sharing practices within the inquiry. She felt that important information collected at the grassroots level was not being effectively communicated to the directors and commissioners. The inquiry is meant to shift the historic silencing of Indigenous communities. If their voices are not being heard, the inquiry is not doing its job. Ms. Gabriel herself was fired shortly after sending a list of recommendations for better serving the community to the commissioners. She believes this was the reason for her termination.

Saskatchewan families are upset by Ms. Gabriel’s departure, and feel that she understood the real issues given her experience with her sister’s death. They, too, worry that their voices are not being heard at the higher levels of the inquiry.

In Yukon, Melissa Carlick was fired under similarly ambiguous circumstances. She was terminated from her position as community liaison and health coordinator on November 7th, 2017. While surprised, she admitted feeling relieved, since the numerous roles she was expected to fill had taken a toll on her. Ms. Carlick, like Ms. Gabriel, has a personal connection to the inquiry. Two of her family members were murdered, and the cases remain unsolved.

Carlick also feels that the directors and commissioners are refusing to acknowledge the internal problems,

in the framework of the larger, far-reaching problem. They give practical advice both for the reporters who may be interviewing survivors of sexual assault, as well as those survivors who should engage in self-care if they choose to be interviewed.

The guide acknowledges the work-related sexual violence that journalists often face, and how this can be addressed on both the individual and organizational levels. It is of utmost importance, too, to be cognizant of, and actively resist, rape culture and sexual assault myths.

To read and share the guide, click [here](#).

Serial killer in Toronto: First-degree murder charges laid in case of five men

At first hesitant to use the term, police are now clearly calling the case of Toronto landscaper Bruce McArthur, who is charged with killing five men, a serial killer case while some crime experts are drawing parallels with notorious B.C. serial killer Robert Pickton.

Police had been leading an investigation into the disappearances of three men from Toronto's Gay Village between 2010 and 2012 but [had resisted calls](#) from some in the community to link the disappearances to a potential serial killer.





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since the inquiry is under scrutiny of the public eye. At this point, Indigenous peoples are concerned that the focus has shifted to the inquiry's dysfunction, rather than on the missing and murdered women and girls who are supposed to be at the centre. Families have said that the lack of progress by the inquiry has just added to their pain and suffering.

Indigenous communities have struggled to heal and attain justice for decades. Our country and government have failed them time and time again. The MMIWG inquiry must address its alarming internal issues, so as to honour "the lives and legacies of Indigenous women, girls and members of the LGBTQ2S community", as is their stated mission.

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

"Assessing and Treating Traumatic Stress in Crime Victims" – M. Leclerc, C. Delisle, J. Wemmers, & A. Brunet (2017)

The article, funded by the Victims Fund of the Department of Justice, is intended as a resource for victim services and victim support workers. It calls attention to the need for early detection and assessment of traumatic stress exposure in victims of crime to be proactive in addressing victims' needs. The psychological impact of violent crime experiences can be significant, leading to trauma-related disorders (such as post-traumatic stress disorder) in many cases.

Read the full article [here](#).

"Polyvictimization: What is it and how does it affect intervention?" – A. Lussier, J. Wemmers, K. Cyr (2016)

Polyvictimization is defined in the article as "having experienced a number of different types of victimization at a rate higher than the population average over the course of a given period of time." The research finds the importance of early intervention, and the effects of Polyvictimization experienced during childhood. The article urges victim services and victim support workers to be aware of the multiple victimizations that people can experience, rather than focusing only on once incident.

Investigators are scouring about 30 Toronto properties to which McArthur had access, believing more remains may be found. Our condolences to the families of the victims: Selim Esen, 44, and Andrew Kinsman 49, Majeed Kayhan, 58, Soroush Mahmudi, 50, and Dean Lisowick, 47.





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Read the full article [here](#).

**“Restitution in the context of criminal justice” -
Jo-Anne Wemmers, Marie Manikis & Diana
Sitoianu Translation by Marie-France Baveye
(June 2017)**

Restitution is an integral part of victim reparation, and its necessity is well recognized by the UN as well as in the Canadian Victims' Bill of Rights. In Canada, the Criminal Code highlights restitution orders and their application. However, before the introduction of the Victims' Bill of Rights, restitution orders were a seldom-used measure in the Canadian criminal justice system: Only 2.3% of cases where the offender was found guilty included a restitution order. In order to encourage and facilitate requests by victims for restitution, a standard form was introduced in 2015. Restitution includes numerous advantages, but also has important limitations. The article clearly points to a lack of data on the implementation and effectiveness of restitution orders.

Read the full article [here](#).

