



National Justice Network Update



March 2018

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Greetings!

Welcome to the **MARCH** 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: <https://crcvc.ca/en/newsletter/>.

This newsletter was written and compiled with the assistance of Carleton University Criminology and Gender Studies student, Mari-Lisa Mank, and KU Leuven Criminology student, Zoraya Van de Perre.

Want to [print the newsletter](#)?

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Visit: <http://www.crcvc.ca>
Email: crcvc@crcvc.ca
Phone: 1.877.232.2610

TORONTO POLICE BOARD APPROVES INVESTIGATION INTO HOW MISSING PERSONS CASES HANDLED

The Toronto police board voted unanimously this month to commission an external investigation into how the force conducts missing-persons probes, as members of the city's LGBTQ community detailed what they said is critically low trust in police.

The independent investigation, initiated by groups within the LGBTQ community and brought forward by Mayor John Tory, comes in the wake of escalating questions about police action — or inaction — in the disappearances of missing people from Toronto's Gay Village, six of whom are now alleged to be among the victims of alleged serial killer Bruce McArthur.

Sixty-six year-old Bruce McArthur has been charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of Andrew Kinsman, Selim Esen, Majeed Kayhan, Soroush Mahmudi, Dean Lisowick, and Skandaraj Navaratnam.

The review will not directly address police conduct connected to the ongoing McArthur investigation or

QUICK LINKS

Visit our [website](#) to access our live chat service. 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

March was Fraud Prevention Month. Check out the Competition Bureau's [anti-fraud toolbox](#) to protect yourself.

Read What's Your Grief's [blog post](#) on the experience of posttraumatic growth (PTG).

Check out Naomi Sayers [HuffPost blog post](#), entitled "The Stories of Women That White Feminism Forgot".

Jessica Eaton's [blog post](#), "Are women victims, survivors, none or both...and does that rape really make us stronger?" takes a look at the challenging linguistics of rape and sexual violence.

"What to do if you're sexually harassed." Find out more in CRCVC's new [tip sheet](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Resiliency in Trauma Exposed Work Environments



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any past police contacts with the accused killer, due to the ongoing investigation and future trial.

Tory's motion called for an examination of past and current policies around investigations into missing persons, reviewing best practices at other services, and looking at issues of systemic bias. The next step is to form a working group that comprises one member of the board and three community members.

Advocates note an external review of missing-persons cases could nonetheless examine some aspects of missing-persons cases now connected to McArthur. Most notably, that could include Project Houston — the Toronto police investigation into three men who went missing between 2010 and 2012 — Skandaraj "Skanda" Navaratnam, Abdulbasir Faizi, and Majeed Kayhan. That probe ended after 18 months when police could find "no evidence to suggest criminal activity." McArthur is now accused in the deaths of Navaratnam and Kayhan.

An update on the external investigation is expected next month.

GENDER EQUALITY IN 2018 FEDERAL BUDGET

[Budget 2018](#) strives for all Canadians to be equal partners in society, and to share equally in the benefits that come from their hard work. One of the most important themes in this year's Federal Budget is to boost participation of women in the workplace, since Canada's economic future depends on people having equal opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of gender.

A Gender-Based Analysis Plus was completed. The GBA+ enables the Government to make evidence-based policy decisions that benefit all Canadians. Furthermore a Gender Results Framework was made to help assess the impact this and future budgets will have on the greater goal of improving equality. The framework reflects this government's priorities for gender equality, highlighting the key issues that matter most. The framework consists of six pillars.

This presentation will discuss trauma, tools to achieve optimal resiliency in a trauma-exposed environment, and mental health and addiction informed approaches.

When: 12 pm – 2 pm EDT, April 11th, 2018

Where: Quinte West, ON
Click [here](#) for more information or to register.

Human Trafficking: A Survivor's Story

An open-minded experience from a survivor of human trafficking

When: April 24th, 2018

Where: Timmins, ON
Click [here](#) for more information or to register.

Police Victim Services of BC Symposium 2018

Foundation of Excellence ~ Learning Today for a Successful Tomorrow

When: April 26 – 28, 2018

Where: Delta Burnaby Hotel and Conference Centre
4311 Dominion Street, Burnaby, BC

[Registration & info.](#)

Victims and Survivors of Crime Week

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

When: May 27th – June 2nd, 2018

International Justice and Victims' Rights Summer School

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



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The first three pillars are equal opportunities and diversified paths in education and skills development, equal and full participation in the economy and gender equality in leadership roles and at all levels of decision-making. Therefore one of the actions is to better support Status of Woman Canada. This organisation has been striving to implement a feminist agenda. They promote equality for women and their full participation in the economic, social and democratic life of Canada. The Agency is funded by the annual budget. For 2018, the funding for Status of Women Canada will be improved. An extra \$100 million over five years is provided to expand a grants program for projects aimed at advancing gender equality and \$1.8 million over two years to develop a strategy to engage men and boys with the issue.

The fourth pillar is to eliminate gender-based violence and harassment, and to promote security of the person and access to justice. The focus points of this pillar are: a. workplaces are harassment free; b. fewer women are victims of intimate partner violence and sexual assault; c. fewer victims of childhood maltreatment; d. fewer women killed by an intimate partner; e. increased police reporting of violent crimes; f. fewer Indigenous women and girls are victims of violence and g. increased accountability and responsiveness of the Canadian justice system. Furthermore the Federal Budget set \$187 million aside over the next five years to combat gender-based violence, harassment and discrimination. For instance, the RCMP is getting \$10 million to re-activate 'unfounded' sexual assault cases. In the 2018 Budget, special attention is also given to sexual assault on campus. The government will consider withdrawing federal funding for Canadian universities if they fail to adequately address reports of sexual assault on campus. Even more, a \$5.5 million is invested over five years to develop a national framework aimed at addressing gender-based violence at universities and colleges.

The fifth pillar strives for reduced poverty and improved health outcomes. At last the Budget of 2018 hopes by promoting gender-equality, a more peaceful, inclusive, rules-based and prosperous world lies ahead. This sixth pillar made the government commit

When: June 4th – June 9th, 2018

Where: Université de Montréal

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

16th Asian Postgraduate Course on Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice (APGC)

When: June 4th – 14th, 2018

Where: City University of Hong Kong

Deadline for registration is May 1st. Click [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

Hosted by Women's Shelters Canada, this will be a unique opportunity for shelter and transition house (TH) workers to share and learn from their peers.

When: June 13th – 15th, 2018

Where: Ottawa, Ontario

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

National Organization for Victim Assistance 44th Annual Training Event

When: August 20th-23rd, 2018

Where: Jacksonville, Florida





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to increase its overseas humanitarian aid budget by \$2 billion over five years, which the Budget says will be focused on supporting women and girls through its feminist international development policy. The Budget also includes \$20.3 million over five years to settle 1,000 more refugee women and girls from conflict zones around the globe.

ONTARIO LAUNCHES NEW GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE STRATEGY

Called "It's Never Okay: Ontario's Gender-based Violence Strategy" provides up to \$242-million to help support survivors and address the root causes of violence. The strategy will include:

1. Improving Services and Supports
 - Up to \$84.2 million over three years to increase the number of people served through direct services such as community based counselling, provincial and regional crisis telephone lines, emergency shelters, transitional housing supports, Sexual Assault Centres and legal supports. Service access for targeted diverse populations including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex and Two Spirit (LGBTQI2S) and other marginalized communities will also be expanded.
 - Up to \$22.8 million over three years for Victim Services Programs that provide trauma-informed supports and crisis response to victims of crime, including domestic violence, assault and human trafficking.
 - Up to \$52.2 million over three years in capital investments to meet the needs of new service delivery models, including addressing significant accessibility renovations or leading to the creation of more culturally appropriate space at Indigenous shelters.
 - Up to \$14.8 million over three years to increase the capacity of Sexual Assault Centres and the Support Services for Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse programs, to meet the growing demand for services and help more vulnerable populations, such as mature minors. The

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

SNAPSHOTS

Think-tank publishes justice system report card
Macdonald-Laurier Institute, an Ottawa-based think-tank, has published its second annual justice system report card. The Institute tracks justice system metrics to evaluate provinces on their fairness, efficiency, cost, public safety, and access to justice.

Ontario was the most improved province in the past year, while Quebec and British Columbia diminished in quality. At the forefront was Prince Edward Island, and Manitoba was the lowest-ranked province.

Manitoba's low grade is due to low victim restitution rates and large numbers of accused offenders on remand while awaiting trial in the province. Manitoba, as well as B.C. and Quebec, residents had the lowest public confidence in their respective justice systems. On the other end, New Brunswick and Ontario have the highest levels of public confidence in the justice system. B.C. had the lowest rates of resolving crimes, both violent and non-violent.

Overall, the Macdonald-Laurier Institute





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increased investment will also help increase access to services for survivors in rural communities.

Ontario will also invest in enhancing access to safe spaces for women and children, counselling, services in rural/remote communities, and innovation initiatives. This will mean:

- Up to 1,000 more women and children will be provided with a safe bed.
- At least 600 women will get housing supports through the Transitional Housing Support Program.
- More individuals from diverse populations will be provided inclusive, culturally-appropriate and safe services within shelters and culturally-accessible counselling (e.g. LGBTQI2S, Indigenous, Francophone, immigrant and racialized)
- 2,000 more women and children will get counselling they need along with long-term counselling to support transitions from crisis to stability.
- Up to \$7.8 million over three years to expand the Language Interpreter Services (LIS) Program. LIS provides spoken and sign language interpreter services 24 hours a day 7 days a week for victims of domestic and/or sexual violence. The program enables survivors of gender-based violence to access the broader service system.

Intervening Early and Effectively

Children who have seen or experienced violence are twice as likely to be at risk of violence and victimization. Ontario is investing up to \$29.7 million over three years to ensure children will have access to the services they need to help them deal with trauma. Investments will provide preventative and early interventions for children and youth to prevent the cycle of violence, including:

- Expanding the Child Witness Program to offer individual counselling, in addition to the existing group counselling delivery model, and

noted the slight drop in crime rates and improvements in legal aids funding since last year. However, general areas of concern included the increase in costs, lengthier court delays, and disproportionate incarceration of Indigenous peoples. The latter problem is especially pronounced in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, B.C., and Alberta.

Moving forward, [the report indicates](#) that the government should invest more in data collection and assessment of weaknesses in the system. More research is also needed to understand public perception of the justice system and police to be able to meet the needs of those the system is meant to serve. Finally, better data collection is needed with regards to victims of crime, and how best to carry out victim services.

Nowhere to Turn

A secretive government service was supposed to protect an abused mom. A judge undid it all.

J.S.V. had a history of domestic violence with previous partners and his relationship with B.A.J. was turbulent and far from violence-free. After a few incidents of abuse, B.A.J. was issued an emergency protection order against her partner and went in hiding through a federal service provided for victims of serious abuse.





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to increase supports to Indigenous-led preventative services. New investments will support the hiring of child and youth workers or early childhood educators to work on site at violence against women emergency shelters.

- Family breakdowns are a time when violence is most likely to occur. The strategy will provide supports to survivors navigating the family court process who may be at heightened risk of violence with increased funding to the Family Court Support Worker Program.
- Enhancing support for the Supervised Access Program with new funding of \$2.3 million over three years to address services pressures and help keep children safe from violence during family separation.

Changing Attitudes and Norms

With an investment of up to \$12.9 million, the government will focus on professional development and innovation expansion through new bystander and community training, including:

- providing more professionals in a wider range of sectors with the tools to recognize and intervene in situations of violence in their workplaces and with their clients
- supporting evidence-based/tested approaches to prevent violence and serve more survivors aiming to challenge the underlying conditions, attitudes, behaviours and values that lead to violence.

Investments of up to \$2.3 million over three years to extend the Creative Engagement Fund

- Fund will support artistic projects that raise awareness and provoke discussions about sexual violence and harassment. Additional funding will also support the continued valuable advice of the Roundtable on Violence Against Women.

Improving Justice System Responses

- Ontario will extend and expand free independent legal advice for survivors of sexual

Research has proven how hard it is to leave an abusive relationship. On average, women left and returned five times before permanently leaving^[1]. In fact, leaving may provoke some abusers to kill their partner and children. For this reason, many women don't leave their partner. They believe staying will save their own life and their child's life. Furthermore, victims often stay because of financial dependence.

B.A.J. made the brave decision to leave her abuser, but she was still afraid and feared for her child's safety, so she made the difficult decision to go into hiding. Since going into hiding, J.S.V. has done everything in his power to try and locate B.A.J. and the child. He has used the police and family court system to track her down and harass her. Under the guise of being a concerned father, he's been fighting for access to his child. J.S.V. first appeared before Associate Chief Justice O'Neil on April 19, 2016. The case was adjourned a few times until this decision was made on April 11, 2017 where O'Neil authorizing an arrest warrant for this abused women meaning she would no longer qualify for the federal program.

Read the full [story here](#).

Winnipeg's 24-hour safe place for youth to be named after Tina Fontaine





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assault province-wide so survivors can get advice on their options at any point after a sexual assault has occurred.

- Piloting Canada's first ever, dedicated LGBTQ+ Community Legal Clinic and facilitate training on safer and inclusive spaces for the over 70 community legal clinics across Ontario.
- Up to \$10.5 million over three years to support the Partner Assault Response (PAR) program to provide specialized group education and counselling for domestic violence offenders. This will help increase victim safety by providing additional capacity and allow for the development of differential program options to help reduce re-offence rates.
- Developing new policing standards on sexual assault and domestic violence investigations.
- Working with justice and community partners to explore innovative and alternative justice approaches to enhance the choices available to survivors of sexual violence.

At-risk youth in Winnipeg will soon have a 24-hour safe place to go, seven days a week, and it will be named after Tina Fontaine.

Federal Indigenous Services Minister Jane Philpott announced that Ottawa would spend close to \$350,000 to expand the Ndinawe Youth Resource Centre's services this year and then another \$280,000 in annual ongoing funding. "It's a little bit more this year to get some of the initial pieces set up for the program. But it will provide the ability to have people here, to make sure the doors are always open," she said.

"There are trained staff that can be here to greet young people to help them find their way through whatever issues they may be facing." The centre will provide a safe alternative to the streets for youth who are in need of immediate support and resources, a release from the federal government states.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: VICTIMS OF THEIR CAREGIVERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

More and more stories of disabled people being killed by their caregiver or family members are being told. It is an issue that sadly gets little attention. The University of Winnipeg organises an annual vigil to honour those people. Across Canada and the United States, similar events are held. However, the events in honour of the disabled people who become victims of crime often only attract a handful of people.

According to [Statistics of Canada](#), a disabled person is twice more likely to become a victim of a violent crime than anyone else. 83 per cent of disabled women become victim of sexual assault. Even more terrifying is to know that someone known to the victim commits two-thirds of violent crimes against people with a disability. People with an intellectual disability are four times more likely to be victims of violent crimes.

'What I did is unforgivable,' Quebec mosque shooter says after pleading guilty

Alexandre Bissonnette says he doesn't know why he killed six people in cold blood in a Quebec City mosque last year but he says he's not a terrorist or Islamophobe. Saying he's ashamed of what he did, Bissonnette said he thinks every moment of the day about "the lives I destroyed, the immense pain





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Cynara was a 16-year old disabled girl who supposedly died during a home invasion. However the police have doubts about this cause. They have laid seven charges against the disabled girl's mother, including manslaughter in connection with the death, fabricating evidence and failure to provide the necessities of life. Although the cause of her death has not been made public, Cynara's story is not one of a kind. Lydia Whitford became a victim of violence as well. The 18-year old teen lived with autism and epilepsy and was non-verbal. She was in the care of Sandy Bay Child and Family Services at the time of her death and had been in care for 10 years. At first her death was ruled not suspicious, but after a few months the RCMP investigated it as a homicide. In December 2017 her foster mother was charged with manslaughter in connection with her death. Lydia's sister wasn't astonished by this news: "I didn't even get stunned to find out it was her foster mom — didn't surprise me at all."

These two tragic cases illustrate people with disabilities being victimized by their caregivers. The high occurrence of this type of victimization can be explained by multiple factors. People with disabilities appear to be easy targets, unable to protect themselves. Furthermore, they're taught compliance from an early age. Lastly they are often viewed as less credible by authorities and others, and/or experience challenges in communicating and thus be discounted.

COMPLETE OVERHAUL OF VICTIM SERVICES IN ALBERTA

Alberta is pledging to change its policies toward victims of crime in light of a [critical report](#) that looked into the treatment of a homeless Indigenous woman.

The report, commissioned by the provincial Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General (JSG) and released Feb. 23, flows from a review into the treatment of a woman identified only as "Angela Cardinal." In 2015, Cardinal was incarcerated for five days to ensure she would testify against the man who was charged with sexually assaulting her (*R. v. Blanchard* 2016 ABQB 706).

that I caused to so many people, including members of my own family."

Bissonnette, 28, pleaded guilty to six counts of first-degree murder and six more of attempted murder on Wednesday morning — two days after he had pleaded not guilty to the same charges, then told the judge hours later that he wanted to plead guilty.

Six men died in the Jan. 29, 2017 shooting spree: Azzedine Soufiane, Khaled Belkacemi, Abdelkrim Hassane, Aboubaker Thabti, Abdelkrim Hassane, Mamadou Tanou Barry and Ibrahima Barry. Dozens of Muslim community members were in attendance at the Quebec City courthouse, where Bissonnette's hearing was held in the biggest courtroom, seating about 200 people. Security was tight.

Bissonnette was asked if he understood that he could be facing up to 150 years in jail if he pleaded guilty. Bissonnette said he understood. He is to return to court on April 10, when arguments on his sentence will begin.

Trudeau appoints RCMP's first permanent female commissioner.

Brenda Lucki has been named the 24th commissioner of the RCMP. Lucki joined the RCMP in 1986 at 20 years old and has since then done remarkable work in different



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During her testimony at a preliminary hearing, she was held in shackles, which led to the trial judge, Justice E.F. Macklin, to say her treatment was "appalling." Seven months after her testimony, Cardinal was shot and killed in what was described as an accidental shooting.

The report, which was written by prominent Winnipeg criminal defence lawyer Roberta Campbell, said Cardinal's treatment was a result of systemic bias and "a complete breakdown of legal protections," and says the province's current model is inadequate to address the needs of victims.

The report makes several recommendations to address how victims of crime are treated, such as the creation of dedicated court workers to help victims navigate the justice system, updating sheriff and Crown prosecution policies, and changes to the co-ordination, transportation and housing of witnesses who may have to testify in court. It also calls for cultural competency training for Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General staff, specifically when dealing with the province's Indigenous population.

Lisa Silver, who teaches criminal law and evidence at the University of Calgary's faculty of law, said the report was "powerful" and an overhaul was important to ensure strengthened services for victims and ensured there was a "non-siloed approach" when victims, police and the justice system interact with one another. "The one [recommendation] that stood out to me is to mandate pre-trial contact with all complainants in serious and violent cases," she said.

Silver is in favour of having court workers help victims in the province, but also noted victims should be given the opportunity to have their own legal counsel and have it funded through legal aid.

"I think this kind of raises the issue in serious and violent cases where someone is homeless, may have some mental health issues, may have trouble understanding, a social worker may not be enough and a lawyer may be required," she said.

areas. When working in Manitoba, she was recognized for her efforts to improve relations with First Nations. She has also been awarded the United National Force Commander's commendation for bravery, two UN protection forces medals and the Canadian peacekeeping service medal.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale announced Lucki's new role at a ceremony in Regina. Trudeau stated that Lucki is "absolutely the best person for the job, who just happens to be a woman."

Lucki herself said, "no stone will be left unturned. And if what we find works, then we carry on until we unearth the issues that need addressing." She is expected play a vital role in advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, promoting gender equality, addressing workplace harassment and protecting the civil liberties of Canadians.

If The Media Calls: A Guide For Crime Victims And Survivors

****NOW SHIPPING****

This bilingual publication was revised in December 2016 and is now available for FREE shipping across Canada to police and victim services agencies. The guide provides victims with information about the focus of media; the impact of media on victims; the risks/benefits of speaking



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SUMMIT ON GANG AND GUN VIOLENCE IN OTTAWA

The Summit on Gun and Gang Violence took place in Ottawa earlier this month. Hosted by Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale, the Summit brought law enforcement, politicians, academics, and community members together.

The Liberal government's recent federal budget promised an investment of \$327.6 million over the next five years on anti-gun and -gang initiatives, signifying the need for concrete solutions to this growing problem.

Major Canadian cities have all seen a spike in shootings and gang-related violence. 2016 statistics indicate that firearm homicides increased for the third year in a row ([Statistics Canada](#)). Nationwide, there were 44 more firearm-related homicides reported in 2016 than the 179 reported the year before.

These homicides are also increasingly related to gang activity, at a rate of 54% in 2016. There were 141 gang-related homicides reported that year, as opposed to the 96 the year before. Increases in gang-related homicides in Toronto, Vancouver, and Ottawa accounted for 42% of all such incidents in 2016 (Statistics Canada).

By the end of 2017, Ottawa police's "Project Sabotage" resulted in the arrest of 13 individuals, and the seizure of narcotics and two-dozen firearms in collaboration with Gatineau police, Sûreté du Québec, and the RCMP. One of the weapons seized in the undercover operation had a bump stock, an illegal modification that enhances the firing ability such that it is similar to an automatic weapon.

The availability of illegal guns can have profound effects on Canadian communities. With increasing rates of gun- and gang-related violence, communities have found themselves fearing for their own safety. People can be randomly victimized, instilling a sense of national unrest. Liberal MP Bill Blair, a former Toronto Police Chief, said that "community-based interventions involving different social service

to the media etc. [Read more](#) & [order copies here](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

"Domestic Violence in Immigrant and Refugee Populations: Culturally-Informed Risk and Safety Strategies"

By: K.R. Rossiter, S. Yercich, M. Baobaid, A. Al Jamal, R. David, J. Fairbairn, M. Dawson, P. Jaffe. (2018)

This article is part of a series developed by the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations. It notes, "immigrant and refugee women experiencing domestic violence face numerous barriers to disclosing and reporting violence and abuse, accessing support services, and navigating intersecting legal processes and social support systems" (p. 3). The authors call for more culturally informed responses to immigrant and refugee domestic violence victims.

The research points to the beneficial potential of support groups, especially to enhance social connection for immigrant and refugee women. Other areas of support that can be helpful if bolstered and culturally flexible are:

- legal assistance;





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providers, educators, and community members can also play a significant role” in addressing the problem.

Government action is also necessary. The Summit was just one step in tackling the issue. Legislation is expected to be tabled this year that would institute more in-depth background checks for those seeking to buy firearms. There is also indication that such legislation may introduce an improved mechanism to reassess the license eligibility of those who are already gun owners.

- health care;
- English language proficiency; and
- safe housing.

Read the article [here](#).

