



Greetings!

Welcome to the **November** 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:
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What would a national violent crime strategy in Canada look like?

Ottawa Police Chief Peter Sloly [recently](#) spoke with officials in Glasgow, Scotland, about the implementation of a municipal strategy in Glasgow which views violent crime as both a social and health concern. The strategy [resulted](#) in a 37% decrease in violent crime between 2008 and 2017. Sloly's communication with officials comes at a time where Statistics Canada reports that violent police-reported crime in Canada has slightly [increased](#), leading to the idea that a national crime strategy in Canada may be highly beneficial.

Michael Kempa, a criminology professor at the University of Ottawa, believes that the strategy used in Glasgow could realistically be applied in Canada, but on a national basis. [Kempa notes](#) that with Glasgow's strategy involving a "huge amount of coordination", agencies involved in a program at a national level in Canada would need to be "making sure that all of those agencies are keeping track of what the others are doing and, critically, sharing information in a fair fashion."

One major difference between Glasgow's strategy and a potential national Canadian strategy would be the

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Text: Our number is 613-208-0747

Chat: Please access through our [website](#).

For **hours of operation** and other info, please click [here](#).
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[Ottawa police's](#) proposed 2020 budget places an emphasis on officer wellbeing and community policing.

Two [boys](#) from Brampton were killed, father has been charged with first-degree murder.

Judge strikes down mandatory minimum sentence for trafficking minors, reasoning that the accused's merely showed [preparatory conduct](#), and imposing the mandatory minimum "would outrage the standards of decency."



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strategy's structure. Kempa [describes](#) that the strategy would be overseen by the federal government by setting standards for provinces and their municipalities to follow in areas such as crime prevention and public safety. Independence would then be given to the provinces and municipalities to determine what programs they need. For example, the differing [issues](#) faced across provinces that range from opioid addiction to gang violence reflect a need for some autonomy to exist within a national violent crime strategy. Kempa also suggests that the federal government provide [additional strategies](#) or resources for these types of specific issues across the province.

Additionally, Kempa indicates that [funding](#) for the strategy could come from both the federal and provincial governments, who collect most of their funds for the criminal justice system through taxes. Municipal governments would bear the responsibility of actively working towards the strategy's success and in this way, efforts put toward the system would be shared.

By having the government and agencies focus on the actions of the implemented programs, a coordinated national violent crime strategy would have the ability to reduce violent crimes. Importantly, [Kempa](#) notes that the strategy does not simply eliminate the police and replace them with violent crime prevention initiatives. Instead, the strategy moves police resources away from ["background issues."](#) Kempa [states](#) that a national strategy "save[s] resources and energy for actually fighting crime where it's most severe."

Kempa's idea of a comprehensive crime prevention strategy that gives freedom to the provinces to allocate resources toward the issues they deem most urgent is also reflected to some extent by community advocates and residents in Winnipeg. Winnipeg has experienced an unprecedented amount of crime this past month, and [advocates](#) for the community have identified "poverty, social inequities and mental health issues" as factors putting their community at a greater risk for crime.

[Kate Kehler](#), the executive director of Winnipeg's Social Planning Council, believes that a reorganization of social support services and systems will be necessary in addressing and overall, inhibiting the

A [sex trafficking awareness course](#), aimed at students in Grades 7 and 8, created by the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region will be presented in some schools in Ontario.

[Thompson](#), Manitoba, has the worst violence crime problem in Canada. The mayor has spoken out saying they need more funding from governments to help with social problems.

Did you know... through [this link](#), you can find on-site and off-site housing for people and pets who need a safe escape from domestic violence? (Canada & USA)

[Quebec](#) takes action against drunk driving. Being convicted of the offence twice in ten years means a vehicle ignition breathalyser is required for life.

Five months after being acquitted of two rape cases, an [Ottawa man](#) is now facing six more counts of sexual assault.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ottawa Monthly Drop-in Support Group for "Loss to Violence" -> Back in 2020!

The drop-in support group for family members of homicide victims addresses the gap in support within the community and offers a place for peers to support each other in healing.

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crime issues from getting worse. Poverty in Manitoba is of major concern for Kehler as well, with [three](#) of Manitoba's federal ridings having some of the highest child poverty rates in Canada. Furthermore, the high poverty rates [contribute](#) to low community development which is conducive to a life of crime for many impoverished people. Without investment and support for community programs to curb the spike in crime, the level of crime is likely to continue to increase.

University of Winnipeg criminology professor Bronwyn [Dobchuk-Land](#) and independent advocates in Winnipeg also stress that support for community programs and social services should be prioritized. Dobchuk-Land further defends the notion that community programs should be utilized by explaining that policing alone is not able to effectively [address](#) the vast amount of violent crime occurring. Speaking with regard to community programs, Winnipeg Police Chief Danny [Smyth](#) notes that the programs and their staff are valuable because they develop a close relationship between the police and the community.

Regarding Winnipeg's plan to deal with crime, [Kehler](#) accepts that the strategies she and others have advocated for will take time to have a significant effect. However, while waiting for strategies to take effect, [Kehler](#) notes that increasing community policing measures would serve to promote a sense of overall safety in communities. The chair of Winnipeg's police board, [Kevin Klein](#) adds to Kehler's point that it will take time to solve the crime issue, but also emphasizes that the widespread nature of crime in Winnipeg means that each level of government should be involved in developing solutions to the various problems faced.

With [Klein's](#) call for greater government involvement in finding solutions to effectively address the crime issue in Winnipeg, one should consider the effect a national crime prevention strategy in Canada could have, as well as its applicability and value to the country as a whole. Would federal standards for provinces in the national crime prevention program deal with crime supporting factors such as poverty and mental health issues in Manitoba?

Regardless, the evidence brought about by [Glasgow's](#) national crime prevention strategy clearly shows that

crcvc@crcvc.ca in order to stay updated about the support group. We welcome all family and loved ones to join us!

Where: Room p107, P Building, Algonquin College, 1385 Woodroffe Ave, Nepean, ON K2G 1V8

When: Last Thursday of January 2020

From the Montreal Massacre to the "Incel" Movement: Exploring the current gender-based threat of violence

When: December 6th, 9am-11:30am

Where: Ben Franklin Place, Ottawa, ON

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SNAPSHOTS

A civilian review team is looking into missing persons cases and the lack of priority given to them

The Independent Civilian Review into Missing Person Investigations [team](#) was formed after the controversy regarding how the Toronto police has handled missing persons cases, including the cases relating to Toronto serial killer Bruce McArthur as well as other cases connected to the Gay Village in Toronto. Over the last 14 months, the [review team](#) led by retired Ontario Court of Appeal Justice



crime prevention strategies have a significant amount of merit, and certainly have the potential to address crime on a larger scale.

Overcoming the fear of deportation: Survivor of domestic violence and attempted murder speaks out

In summer 2013, Natalia Jiménez got into an [argument](#) with her boyfriend who threatened that if he were to be deported, she would face the same ordeal. This argument ended with Jiménez being assaulted, however she did not contact the police after taking the advice of her [neighbours](#) who told her not to, and who suggested that her boyfriend would be deported. Another influencing factor that silenced Jiménez was the fact that she had only just recently arrived in Canada, after leaving her home country of [Columbia](#) as a result of receiving threats for working as a social worker.

Another assault occurred in October 2013, and after contacting a friend about it, Jiménez was encouraged this time to report it to the police. As a result of her police report, her boyfriend spent time in [jail](#) for the October assault, but was shortly released. On January 2nd, 2014, Jiménez's boyfriend returned to her apartment disguised as a woman, entered her unit and proceeded to choke and stab her, leaving her [unconscious](#) and in serious medical condition.

When the January incident was addressed in court, the judge did not accept a plea deal for Jiménez's boyfriend, citing the violent nature of the act, and thereby passed a [ten year sentence](#) for attempted murder.

As a result of these events and her reporting of the assault to the police, Jiménez is now vocal about her experience, and wants to promote awareness of domestic violence, as she feels that her experience is being [repeated](#) and experienced by other domestic violence victims. Additionally, Jiménez's victimization is unique because she was a [refugee claimant](#) at the time, and while being treated in hospital for her injuries she found out that her refugee claim was denied. These circumstances reflect additional

Gloria Epstein has been "examining all aspects of how officers have, and should, tackle disappearance cases." The [mandate](#) for the review is "to probe an array of Toronto police policies and practices concerning missing persons investigations, determine if they were hindered by systemic bias or discrimination, and produce recommendations."

During the review, the members [heard](#) that "missing persons cases have been a chronically low priority for the police services tasked with such investigations." This low priority is something that was [seen](#) in the investigations of McArthur, who killed eight men. The fact that McArthur was able to commit these murders throughout multiple years led to criticism towards the Toronto police, who "failed to take the disappearances of racialized and vulnerable men seriously."

The [review](#) also included community outreach, which involved interviews with many individuals. Police officers involved in the McArthur case were among some of the people interviewed and one theme of the review is to determine whether police services are working well with other services that would be involved in such an investigation. The review also interviewed surviving victims and families of victims of McArthur, to see how their interactions with police went. People from many different



limitations on the accessibility to domestic violence support services.

Upon reflecting on these experiences, Jiménez indicates that accessing services is an extremely important [first step](#) for victims of domestic violence in Canada that come from other countries. However, most refugees that are victims of domestic violence understand that by addressing their domestic violence experience, their status in Canada is impacted. As such, this is an important dynamic to deal with, and organizations that provide communities with services and information in languages other than English and French are extremely [valuable](#). Unfortunately, these multi-linguistic services are currently poorly funded, which remains an issue and does not calm the fears many refugees have towards addressing the violent behaviour of their partners.

Cuts to Ontario victim compensation having significant impact on sexual abuse victims

The implementation of the Victim Quick Response Program Plus on October 1st was undoubtedly going to come with its fair share of criticism, but the impact it has had on victims of historical sexual abuse has been significant. Previously, through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, victims could be [eligible](#) for up to \$30,000 compensation in total, and \$5,000 for pain and suffering alone.

Ottawa Victim Services executive director Melissa [Heimerl](#) notes that under the VQRP+ program, survivors should only expect to receive around \$1,000 which amounts to approximately ten counselling sessions. Additionally, the victim only has six months from the date of disclosure of the crime (or since reporting to the police) to be eligible to apply and receive compensation through the VQRP+. As a result of this strict policy, numerous victims of past sexual abuse may not be eligible for compensation. Heimerl says that Ottawa Victim Services is experiencing first hand the complaints by victims, and states she had “been [receiving](#) a lot of phone calls from folks who are upset, validly, and are wanting their voices to be heard.”

demographics, including LGBTQ communities and homeless or under housed individuals, have been interviewed for the review. Their most recent venture to meant to gain a wider perspective on the situation is an anonymous online public [survey](#), which was launched in November.

The review is scheduled to end in January 2021. Follow this [link](#) for the reviews website.

Alberta looking to establish its own provincial police force

Premier Jason [Kenney](#) has proposed that Alberta establish its own provincial police force by ending the agreement between Alberta and the federal government that has contracted the RCMP to the province. [Kenney](#) has established a panel to examine the possibility of ending the Alberta Police Service Agreement, with his overall goal being to provide Alberta greater independence from Ottawa.

Michael [Kempa](#), a Professor at the University of Ottawa, notes that greater independence by the provinces is essential for more effective administration of justice in the provinces. Additionally, the RCMP has a large number of responsibilities, whereas a provincial police force can be given specialized tasks.

Criminology Professor Robert [Gordon](#), from Simon Fraser



Kelly Grenier, a survivor of historical sexual assault, is one victim [speaking out](#) about the VQRP+. She was expecting about 20 therapy sessions to be covered, but like many others, when the victim compensation changes took place, her coverage changed without warning. Furthermore, Grenier notes that without any grace period in the transition, other problems have occurred in her compensation experience. For example, her therapist is experiencing difficulty getting [reimbursed](#) for previous sessions, since the dissolution of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) by the provincial government.

A major reason changes in victim compensation occurred was so that large administrative savings could be made. The provincial government states that by 2021, [\\$23 million](#) could be saved annually, and each year \$6 million of that would be reinvested into victim services. Despite the system's revamp, Grenier believes "they've basically turned their backs on [victims](#) of crime."

Ontario Attorney General Doug Downey has [responded](#) to pushback from victims and MPPs by arguing that the Ontario provincial government changed the compensation program for victims in order to provide them with more resources, in a more direct manner.

Significant concern raised about issues of domestic violence in Manitoba and Vancouver

After a month of [increased violence](#) in Manitoba leading to domestic abuse becoming a major concern in the Province, The Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters is speaking up on the issue. [Deena Brock](#), the provincial coordinator for the association states that "provincially, what we are seeing is that the domestic abuse and family violence is not decreasing at all. We're still getting a tremendous number of calls requesting assistance or help in some manner." Brock also [reports](#) that the association's crisis lines have been called over 16,000 times and the shelter has been used almost 50,000 times this year.

Earlier this month, [Hunter Straight-Smith](#), 3-year-old son of Clarice Smith, was allegedly stabbed multiple times by his mother's on-and-off boyfriend Daniel

University, indicates that the transition would be expensive due to the need for new uniforms and vehicles. Additionally, the implementation of new administration and resource infrastructure would require some effort. However, the direct accountability that the provincial police force would have as a result of new administration is beneficial, and a worthy investment. Notably, [Gordon](#) notes that the police force would be "tailored to the preferences, needs and standards" of the territory.

Kenney's provincial police policy is one responsibility part of Alberta's new Fair Deal Panel, with the panel set to [publish](#) its report in March of next year.

Changes have been made to the legislation regarding drunk driving in Quebec

The Quebec government has put in place a [new regulation](#) in the province's Highway Safety Code which would require motorists in Quebec who have been convicted of drunk driver twice in 10 years to have to blow into an interlock device, which prevents a car from starting if the driver is under the influence, every time they start a car. With this new regulation, individuals convicted twice will also have their vehicles impounded, will be imprisoned and will have their license suspended for at least two years. The licenses of these motorists will also be



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Jensen, and later died due to his injuries. Clarice Smith had gotten into an argument with Jensen earlier that night which progressed into a [violent assault](#). Notably, Jensen had previously been charged with assault with a weapon and uttering threats against Hunter's mother. [Naomi Nicholas](#), a councillor with the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation speaking on behalf of Hunter's father, states that "It's been truly devastating to the family. It's devastation for the whole world."

[Constable Rob Carver](#) noted in a press conference that "People in the community may not even have known the individual but live there are traumatized when they know someone's been killed on their block or their street or their community." In [memory](#) of Hunter, Winnipeg held a pair of vigils in the week after his passing, and his family is planning on arranging a wake in the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation.

Brock notes that [Straight-Smith's](#) case is similar to other cases in the sense that it involved power and control. She notes that abusive partners have been known to take away children or pets from their victims, but has rarely seen such extreme violence against a [child](#).

Straight-Smith's case is one of a number of homicides that have occurred recently in Winnipeg, and this points to the need for increased awareness of the risk that victims of domestic violence face, as well as the need for greater accessibility to resources.

A recent [CBC News article](#) discussing the story of one female victim of domestic violence in British Columbia identified as Dawn C. (D.C.), who left her house to escape the violence, reflects the need for access to domestic violence resources. D.C. notes that for women who escape domestic violence, opportunities for accessible and affordable housing are [limited](#) because of long subsidized housing wait lists, and high rent prices. What aggravates victims' housing conflict is the fact that women's shelters in British Columbia are at [full](#) capacity. [D.C.](#) states, "every place, every shelter, every house had wait lists that just went on forever."

The Executive Director of Battered Women's Support Services, Angela Marie [MacDougall](#), notes that the lack of access to affordable housing contributes to

branded so that police officers are aware of the situation and that they need to check if there is a breathalyzer in the car. In cases where a driver with their licenses branded was found to be driving a car without a breathalyzer, their license would be suspended for three months and they would have to pay a \$1,500 fine, as well as the vehicle being driven would be impounded for 30 days or more.

[According](#) to the provinces Ministry of Transportation, between the years of 2013 to 2017 alcohol-related crashes killed an average of 100 people annually, caused 220 serious injuries and 1,800 injuries. The Minister of Transportation, [François Bonnardel](#), said that this new legislation sends the message that "driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs is unacceptable". The CEO of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), [Andrew Murie](#), has "commended the province for the change" and said that these interlock devices are "proven to be one of the best weapons against impaired driving". Murie has also mentioned that the next challenge for Quebec will be to "ensure the new legislation is enforced" and that they "have to have tactics to deal with those people who are noncompliant".

On the [website](#) for Quebec's automobile insurance board (SAAQ), there is a [service](#), with a fee of \$1.75, where an



domestic violence as it deters women from leaving the violent situation. MacDougall also [reports](#) that homeless shelters in British Columbia are forced to deny around 200 women each night.

D.C. was fortunate to find a temporary apartment in Vancouver, but will have to [move out](#) by the end of November as her current income is not sufficient to meet the rent. However, having to take care of her daughter and also overcoming being [laid off](#) from work, it will make it hard for D.C. to find new housing at the end of the month. One major issue that MacDougall highlights is that victims of domestic violence are often vulnerable to sexual violence approaches made by [predatory landlords](#).

[MacDougall](#) is calling for the government to take action and provide funding for sustainable affordable housing that resolves the barriers domestic violence victims currently face: choosing between life on the streets or the continued cohabitation with violent partners.

Supreme Court of Canada rules that youth criminal cases have time limits

The Supreme Court of Canada has [ruled](#) that the 18 month time limit applied to adult criminal cases will now also be applicable to youth criminal cases. The original ruling that limited the length of reasonable delay in adult criminal cases came in with the 2016 Jordan decision. In this decision, the Supreme Court ruled there to be an 18-month time limit on provincial court cases, and a 30-month time limit on challenging cases dealt with by the Supreme Court. The 2016 decision notably left prosecutors with numerous charges being dismissed.

With regard to the relation of Jordan to youth, Justice [Michael Moldaver](#) pointed to the fact that "unless and until it can be shown that Jordan is failing to adequately serve Canada's youth and society's broader interest in seeing youth matters tried expeditiously, there is in my view no need to consider, much less implement, a lower constitutional ceiling for youth matters." This decision also takes into account the "[youthfulness](#)" of an accused person.

individual can verify the license of someone who they might be lending a card to. The spokesperson for MADD Montreal, [Theresa-Anne Kramer](#), advises people to check people's licenses before lending them a car, even if it's someone they are close to.

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

Statistics reflect that significant spike in Winnipeg's crime

Recent [data](#) from Statistics Canada reflects that Winnipeg's violent crime rate has been increasing sharply since 2015, and has reached a rate similar to that of 2010. The data demonstrates that not only has crime in Winnipeg has taken a quick turn for the worse, but when [compared](#) to data from the past 20 years, the increase is quite unprecedented. Winnipeg Police Chief Danny [Smyth](#) has noted that the increase in crime has been caused by the growth of methamphetamine use, but this does not take away from the fact that Winnipeg has one of the highest crime rates of Canada's major cities.

The violent crime severity index in Winnipeg (a measure for reporting crime trends per capita by applying specific weights to certain crimes, with higher weighting for more violent crime, to determine a rating), in [2018](#) was reported to be 161.44. Compared to the



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One of the major considerations on this ruling was whether delays in court proceedings that were frequently observed in adult criminal courts, were reflected in youth criminal courts. The majority Justices on the issue did not believe so, and as such, did not find it to be [justifiable](#) to implement a stricter time limit for youth cases.

In contrast to the majority decision, [three](#) Justices believed that a stricter time frame of 15 months would have been suitable because of the prejudice youth are subject to when facing delays. The lawyer that brought the Jordan case to the Supreme Court notes the importance of a timely trial, particularly for youth, because of the impact a criminal trial can have on their future, and potential for successful rehabilitation, especially because children develop and mature quickly. Additionally, the [Criminal Lawyers Association](#) suggests that excessive delays are harmful to the public, and that justice should to some extent be expedited. Regardless of the debate over the time limit, the Supreme Court's ruling sets a precedence for youth justice in Canada, and the 18 month time limit to bring an accused youth to justice in Canada means that the criminal justice process for youth cases will be quicker not only for accused, but for victims, family members, and communities.

index rating for 2014, the year before Winnipeg's violent crime severity index began to increase, the rating has [grown](#) by 44.2 points. However, looking at the [trend](#) of Winnipeg's crime severity index since 1998, the first year the data is available, the current crime severity index rating is not as high.

In light of the notable amount of homicides in Winnipeg, Statistics Canada [data](#) shows that the number of homicides has been fairly stable, with anywhere from 20 to 30 occurring each year. However, the overall crime severity index data for Manitoba and greater Canada have shown that overall crime is [decreasing](#), which reflects that current concerns, although reasonable, may be caused by 2019 being an outlier year for crime in Winnipeg. That is not to note that concerns for the spike in violent crime do have merit. The concerns demonstrate that there is a need for social services and addiction issues to be addressed. Additionally, community leaders should have [regard](#) for Winnipeg's crime data, noting that despite the notably high violent crime severity index rates seen since 2014, the rates should be noted in relation to rates from the 1990s and early 2000s; therefore ensuring that policy decisions made on impulse do not occur.