



National Justice Network Update



OCTOBER 2017

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Greetings!

Welcome to the **OCTOBER** 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 Mari-Lisa Mank.

Want to [print the newsletter?](#)

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

The CRCVC has launched its live chat service!

Thanks to funding from the Department of Justice Canada Victims Fund, we are proud to announce that we launched our live chat service earlier this month. On our website <https://crcvc.ca/> click the **Chat with us** icon in the bottom right corner of the screen.

This is a quick and easy way to get in touch with us, and make use of our services. For a multitude of reasons, victims of crime and violence may want to reach out for help, but they will never pick up the telephone to call. They may be too embarrassed, afraid, or ashamed about their situation to talk about it. Perhaps they are introverted or experience social anxiety, which makes phone contact very uncomfortable. They may avoid phone conversations because of insecurities about their speech or cognitive abilities. Or, they may lack the privacy or safety

QUICK LINKS

Marital [rape myths](#) have no place in Canadian law

Federal government removing hurdles to [missing persons DNA data bank](#)

WNBA star Breanna Stewart shares her [#MeToo](#) story

Femifesto has published a [French version](#) of their guide to media reporting of sexual violence in Canada. Read the [English version](#) here.

Vancouver Police Victim Services Unit wins 2017 [International Association of Chiefs of Police \(IACP\) Leadership in Victim Services Award](#)

The Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative has published a brief on *Children and Domestic Homicide: Understanding the Risks*. [Click here](#) to read the full report.

"If the Media calls" - The CRCVC is now shipping its bilingual guide for victims with information about the focus of media; the impact of media on victims; the risks/benefits of speaking to the media; tips for interacting with the media; and more. You can order this CRCVC publication, entitled "If the



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needed to speak to our staff. Some will prefer to reach out during the evenings or on the weekends.

As a national agency, we are thrilled to offer this new service to accommodate younger clients and those living in different time zones. Typed communication systems are becoming increasingly popular in order to accommodate for privacy, preference, and safety concerns. We are grateful for the opportunity to meet the changing needs and preferences of our clients. We also plan to add SMS feature to our services in the coming months.

Mourning the victims of the Las Vegas shooting

On October 1st, the world was shocked by yet another act of horrific gun violence as Stephen Paddock shot at a crowd of music festival-goers from his hotel room. Almost 500 people were injured, and 58 were killed, including four Canadians.

Survivors are facing hefty medical bills, and concerns about victim support and insurance coverage are growing, as public attacks with mass casualties seem to be increasingly common. The need for victim assistance both at home, and for those victimized abroad, is evident.

Amidst this violence, Canada's first trauma dog, Caber, was a beacon of hope and joy. Caber and his handler, Kim Gramlich from Delta Police Victim Services, were invited by the FBI to help support victims, injured survivors and law enforcement in the wake of the mass shooting.

Caber joined the Delta Police Victim Services ranks in 2010, and is a well-trained Canine Assisted Intervention (CAI) dog. Caber, along with seven other therapy dogs, has been visiting hospitals and a family assistance centre. His calm demeanour has helped victims and their families to cope with their trauma. Kim Gramlich, his handler, says that Trauma K9's can have the effect of reducing blood pressure, lowering heart rate, and fostering better communication. Well-done Kim & Caber!



Media Calls" by clicking [this link](#).

The stigma of mental health in the workplace can be stifling and debilitating. Steps should be taken to ensure that workplaces are understanding of workers' mental health needs. [Click here](#) to read a report on this topic from the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

The Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity has launched their Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Program. Read more [here](#).

[Police add resources, expand search area](#) after human remains found on rural B.C. farm

UPCOMING EVENTS

39th Annual Training Symposium – Crime Prevention in Changing Times

When: November 2nd-4th, 2017

Where: Delta Burnaby Hotel and Conference Centre, Burnaby, BC

For more information and to find the registration form, [click here](#).

National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims

When: November 15th, 2017
Remember and honour the victims and families of road crash victims. [Click here](#) for more information.



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The FBI Victim Services Division is offering aid to those affected by the massacre. They will arrange and pay for victims to return home from Las Vegas, and are handling the return of personal effects. Victims can contact the FBI at LVFestivalAssist@fbi.gov or [click this link](#).

The Nevada Department of Administration Victims of Crime Program is also offering financial assistance. Victims can seek assistance by [clicking this link](#).

For Canadians who may have been affected by this incident, they can apply for Emergency Financial Assistance for Canadians Victimized Abroad. The Department of Justice Canada fund can help cover expenses if a victim has no other source of financial assistance, up to \$10,000. [Click here](#) to apply or call 1-888-606-5111 or [email](#).

Gun violence in Canada

Gun violence is a hot topic in recent years, especially in the United States. However, in Canada the issue remains under many people's radar because of the misconception that there is little or no gun violence because our gun laws are stricter than the U.S.

A recent publication in MacLean's by Angela Wright following the Las Vegas massacre asserted that gun violence is not exclusively an American problem. In fact, more attention should be paid to the increasing amount of gun violence in Canada. Wright identifies the lack of data and statistical information, as well as the lack of political action (both federally and provincially) as major obstacles to tackling the issue of gun violence on home soil.

While gun homicides occur significantly less often in Canada in comparison to the U.S., on a global scale the picture is quite different. Canada – in relation to the countries in the EU – has the fourth-highest gun homicide rate.

Here are some of the numbers. Statistics Canada reported a 3% increase in the use, discharge, or pointing of firearms in 2016. In Toronto alone, shootings increased by a whopping 41% between 2015 and 2016. A study by doctors from the Hospital

2017 National Restorative Justice Symposium

"Global Innovation – Local (R)Evolution"

When: November 19th-21st, 2017

Where: Ottawa, Ontario, at the Westin Hotel

Registration: Until October 1, 2017 \$325. [Click here](#) to register.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

When: November 25th

Where: Worldwide

[Click here](#) for more information.

Giving Tuesday

When: November 28th, 2017

Giving Tuesday is a new Canadian national movement following Black Friday and Cyber Monday. It will be a day to support charities like CRCVC in an effort to give back to the community. [Click here](#) for more information or to become a partner.

2017 CHFS Canadian Link Conference

On the link between violence against human beings and animals.

When: December 4th-6th, 2017

Where: Ottawa Conference and Event Centre

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

SNAPSHOTS

The trial of Basil Borutski reminds us of systemic



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for Sick Children and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences between 2008 and 2012 found that every day, someone under 25 years old is shot in Ontario, with approximately three-quarters of these incidents being accidental. Local law enforcement in Surrey, Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Ottawa, and Halifax have all attempted to call attention to the rise of gun violence in their cities, but have not seen the federal and provincial support needed to implement effective initiatives. In Regina, there has been a 163% increase in the number of victims of firearms offences between 2015 and 2016.

Despite such alarming statistics in various cities, there is a crucial lack of national statistics. While individual police departments track gun violence, there is no standardization of collection methods or any effort to culminate these data sources.

There may be change on the horizon, though. Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale has assembled an advisory committee on Canadian firearms to inform on potential security policy changes as part of the department's 2017-18 strategies. Unfortunately, information about this committee is sparse. The committee is only mandated to meet in-person once a year, and the majority of the fifteen seats have been filled without representation of those with direct knowledge of, or directly impacted by, gun violence.

Wright believes that the answer to the rising gun violence in Canada lies within federal and provincial governments supporting municipal programs. Programs could include education, job training, and community support to break the incarceration cycle, and put offenders (especially young offenders) back on the right track. Additionally, an effort should be made to track gun violence on a national scale and to ensure that collection of data is uniform throughout regional police departments.

Remembering the history of residential schools

Residential schools were the 19th Century effort by the Canadian government to assimilate Aboriginal peoples. The federal government felt they needed to enforce the English language, Christianity, and Canadian customs upon these peoples and made attendance mandatory in many communities. This forced

problem of violence against women

On September 22nd, 2015, three women were killed in Wilno, Ontario, and Basil Borutski was arrested in connection to the murders. The small community is struggling to heal from the murders of Anastasia Kuzyk, Nathalie Warmerdam, and Carol Culleton.

The beginning of the trial of Borutski in Ottawa saw women's rights groups gather outside the courthouse in a rally to call attention to the systemic issues of gender-based violence.

Holly Campbell, organizer of the 'Because Wilno' group, noted that violence often goes ignored or undocumented if an accused is not charged or if the charges are stayed. In the case of the three women murdered in Wilno, Borutski had a history of violence, but those charges were stayed. He had also been granted reduced prison sentences. There was awareness amongst police that Borutski could pose a potential threat, but there was no action taken to address this.

The women's rights groups present at the rally – including Harmony House and the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women – called for stricter laws with regards to gender-based violence, and better victim support.



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integration resulted in approximately 150,000 First Nation, Inuit, and Métis children being removed from their homes/families/communities.

The implementation of the residential school system was built upon the assumption that Aboriginal communities needed to be 'civilized', and that it was the responsibility of the Canadian government to make this happen. As a result, students' own cultural heritage was suppressed and shunned. Children would be punished if they were caught speaking their first language or engaging in Indigenous traditions. The conditions of these schools were substandard to say the least, and numerous reports of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse came to light in later years.

It was only decades later in 2007 that the federal government instituted a \$1.9 Billion compensation package for the students of residential schools. In 2008, Prime Minister Stephen Harper made an official apology to the students, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established to address the lasting experiences of those who attended residential schools.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court of Canada released its judgment that thousands of the records detailing abuses at these residential schools are confidential and can potentially be destroyed. These records are vast: there are 38,000 accounts that will be retained for 15 years. Survivors can choose to preserve those records during the 15-year period, but if they fail to do so, the documents will be destroyed.

There has been confusion surrounding this decision in the past weeks, as residential school survivors try to figure out how to initiate the process of preserving their records. The Independent Assessment Process (IAP) – who collected these records – have started their work in alerting survivors of this new judgment. Mike Cachagee, a residential school survivor now working with the Ontario Indian Residential School Support Services, expressed that "our children are entitled to learn what happened to us".

In Saskatoon, SK, the family of Ted Quewezance hope that most of the 37,000 survivors who testified to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will choose to

Sisters in Spirit Vigil in PEI aims to raise awareness of a national problem

Sisters in Spirit Vigils took place across Canada on October 4th to honour the many missing and murdered Indigenous women. The president of the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI noted that attendance has increased over the years at the vigils.

This year, at the Charlottetown Sisters in Spirit vigil, Brian Francis, Chief of Abegweit First Nation expressed the importance of educating younger generations of the community and raising awareness. The vigil is a source of support for victims of violence and their families. By shining a light on the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women, these vigils bring communities together.

Vancouver Police work to promote online dating safety

Earlier this month, the Vancouver Police Department launched a campaign to promote safety when engaging in the growing trend of online dating. Detective Const. Michelle Grandbois stated that, "in recent years, we've seen an increase in reports of sexual assault that initiated with contact on an online dating site or social media".

The anonymous nature of the Internet makes it easier for perpetrators to find



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preserve the history of residential schools. Mr. Quewezance himself was a victim of physical and sexual abuse in the schools, and was one of the first to come forward publicly with his story. He and his daughter understand the importance of allowing survivors the choice as to whether their testimony is kept or destroyed but believe that sharing and truth telling are important steps to healing. The CRCVC agrees that we should allow survivors the choice when it comes to sharing their personal stories, but it is also crucial that future generations of Canadians learn about the history of these schools and the intergenerational harms they caused thousands of Indigenous peoples.

New Montreal-area sexual assault reporting hotline

Montreal police set up a new sexual assault reporting hotline on October 19th and have received 253 calls in approximately two business days (the hotline is closed on weekends). The new hotline comes amidst a growing number of high-profile sexual assault and harassment claims, such as the accusations against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, and against Quebec media personality Éric Salvail, and against Just For Laughs founder and president Gilbert Rozon.

This wave of allegations was accompanied by a number of individuals coming forth with their own stories of sexual assault and harassment using the hashtag #MeToo. The movement works to break the silence around sexual victimization and raise awareness as to the extent of the problem.

In Canada, there have been low numbers of reporting of sexual assaults to the police. A Statistics Canada report published this year examined changes in self-reported sexual assault in 2014. The report found that the likelihood of being sexually assaulted has remained steady since 2004, and that victims are just as unlikely to report the incident to police. The report also identified at-risk groups: those who were women, young, Aboriginal, single, homosexual/bisexual, or of poor mental health.

The lack of reporting of sexual assaults raises the question of why individuals are reluctant to come forward. An Ipsos Reid poll found that some of the barriers to coming forward include feelings of

vulnerable victims who are willing to give them personal information. Crimes that can result from over-sharing on these mediums include sexual assaults, violent crime, and fraud. Women are at higher risk of being victimized in this way. While the number of crimes associated with online dating and social media is growing, such crimes remain under-reported.

Some of the tips from the VPD include limiting the personal information you make available on dating profiles and social media; Google searching the individual if you are planning to meet up; alerting a trusted individual if you are meeting up with a date and keep them informed as to who and where. More tips can be found on the VPD website by clicking [here](#).

Addressing the needs of domestic and sexual violence survivors in the workplace

A [news release](#) from the Ontario Ministry of Labour early in October outlined their changes to worker protections for victims of domestic or sexual violence. In particular, the proposal focuses on allowing workers a job-protected leave of absence if they have, or their child has, had an experience of domestic or sexual violence. The provisions of such a change would allow workers to take up to 17 weeks off with job security. This time would allow workers



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powerlessness, shame, self-blame, desire to move on, fear of re-victimization by their attacker, fear of the toll of the legal process, etc. The poll also found that only 22% of those who *did* report the sexual assault felt satisfied. 71% of those who reported had a negative experience. Evidently, there are systemic barriers and stigma preventing individuals from coming forward. Hopefully, Montreal's new hotline will provide a better forum for victims to report sexual victimization.

Nineteen investigators, who work to ensure that victims' voices are heard, man the hotline. The hotline number is **1-514-280-2079** and is available from 7 am to 10 pm during week. Those who wish to report victimization that did not take place on the island of Montreal are encouraged to report to their local police station or provincial police.

Mark Edward Grant acquitted in retrial of murder of Candace Derksen in Winnipeg

The retrial of Mark Edward Grant found him not guilty earlier this month, almost 33 years after the death of Candace Derksen. In 1984, Derksen had gone missing on her way home from school at the age of 13. Her body was found several weeks later in an industrial storage shed, where she had been tied up and left to freeze to death.

While 2001 DNA tests conducted on evidence from the crime scene by the RCMP were inconclusive, six years later a private lab tested the same evidence with greater success. Grant, who had a criminal record and was known to the police, was charged in 2007 with first-degree murder based on the new DNA evidence. Grant's murder trial, in 2011, found him guilty of second-degree murder.

In 2013, the Manitoba Court of Appeal overturned this conviction, due to the lack of consideration of another possible killer. Later, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the Appeal Court's ruling. The Crown announced its intention to seek a new trial against Grant in 2015.

The retrial, for second-degree murder, began in January 2017. Justice Karen Simonsen found Grant not guilty on October 18th, 2017, citing the flawed DNA

to participate in legal processes and seek victim support. Ten days of leave would be allotted for medical appointments, and the like, and 15 weeks will be allotted for other issues that take longer to address.

This proposal, if accepted, will come into force at the beginning of 2018. It is part of the plan for Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs ([Ontario Bill 148](#)), dedicated to improving workers' benefits and lives. While the overall response to this proposal has been positive, there is the concern about financial support. The leave that is to be offered would be unpaid, so the Ministry of Labour and the province of Ontario should consider how victims could receive financial aid.

Inuit women in Labrador share stories of abuse in campaign to curb domestic violence

A women's group from Nunatsiavut has produced two videos as part of a campaign to end domestic violence in Inuit communities.

The [AnânauKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women's Association](#) Inc. (ATRIWAI) reached out to women in the community of every age group to record their stories of domestic abuse and detail how they overcame their struggles.



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evidence and its failure to prove Grant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Candace's parents, Wilma and Cliff Derksen, were disappointed in this decision, as they still believe that Grant is responsible for their daughter's death. However, they are relieved that the legal process has come to an end after so many decades. Wilma Derksen lit 33 candles on the night the verdict was reached to represent the 33 years of "grief, loss, fear and loneliness" that they have had to face. Like many others, the CRCVC was astonished and disheartened by this verdict. We offer our love, support and deep respect to the Derksen family after so many years of seeking justice for their daughter.

The association's executive director, Kim Campbell-McLean, said domestic violence in her community is highly stigmatized, and far too common.

"We wanted everybody to be involved in this project because it takes a whole community to make a change," she said.

The videos feature powerful and inspiring accounts from survivors of domestic abuse, according to Campbell-McLean.

Her group sent them to women's shelters in Nain, Hopedale, and Rigolet. They will soon also be available on the association's website.

Campbell-McLean hopes women who see the videos will realize they are not alone and that there are supports available to help them leave abusive homes.

"I hope they get encouragement from it, and I hope they get love and support from all the women that were involved in the project, because we all support them and we all have their back."