



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

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Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime
Visit: <http://www.crcvc.ca>
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Major Human Trafficking Investigation Results in Mass Arrest

York Regional Police Inspector Thai Truong announced that a year-long investigation into a Canadian organized crime group has almost reached its conclusion this month. The announcement, made on October 16th, revealed that [thirty-one](#) people have been arrested and more than 300 charges have been laid as a result of the investigation. The investigation, named [Project Convalesce](#), involved four police agencies from Ontario (York, Toronto, Peel, and the Ontario Provincial Police) along with the Quebec integrated human trafficking task force led by the Montreal police.

[Truong disclosed](#) that the organized crime group was heavily involved in human trafficking and committed fraud to fund their criminal operation. It was also discussed that Project Convalesce began after two female victims contacted York Regional Police.

The two victims originally contacted police in 2018 about Jonathan Nyangwila, a suspected pimp at the time, after trying to escape from him. Truong acknowledged that the women were extremely courageous in calling the police, noting that they were [terrified](#) to make the call.

QUICK LINKS

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

Chat & Text Support

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

Text: Our number is 613-208-0747.

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

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

The [Winnipeg police](#) have stated that they will continue their Virtual Police Project after positive feedback.

Ontario mother seeks [justice](#) following son's homicide in Alberta and lack of victim support.

Here's [how](#) the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime can help victims.

A Quebec man has been [found guilty](#) of first-degree murder in the 2017 death of his ex-wife and of an elderly stranger.

The [case](#) against the OC Transpo driver charged for the January 2019 crash at



In the initial police inquiry into Nyangwila, police services discovered that he was the leader of a complicated criminal network, and is now facing 30 human-trafficking, firearm, harassment, and fraud related charges himself. Truong further noted the importance of Nyangwila's role in the organized crime group. Nyangwila would have been [overseeing](#) the work of a number of criminal figureheads, three of which were his brothers, that involved fraud and drug trafficking in order to produce revenue central to the maintenance of the organization's criminal human trafficking operations.

Another significant point made in Truong's announcement was that the investigation led to a [rare instance](#) where the police witnessed women being traded between the organization's figureheads in order to promote the organization's success. Furthermore, Truong says that police discovered that Nyangwila was able to direct these figureheads and other group members while previously under police custody in July.

As for those victimized by Nyangwila's group, Truong revealed that [12 victims](#) have been identified by the police, and another 33 women are being encouraged to come forward. These women are assumed to have been initially recruited into the organization in Aurora, Ontario, and were later transported throughout Ontario.

York police Deputy Chief Brian Bigras provided context to the severity of the organization by adding that "these victims [endured violent assaults](#), sexual assaults and other degrading circumstances as they were controlled by these violent criminals." Additionally, Truong notes the investigation is still ongoing and that police are encouraging anyone currently being subject to any kind of sexual abuse to speak out.

Clare's Law Introduced by Alberta to Combat Domestic Violence

The Disclosure to Protect Against Domestic Violence Act, or more commonly known as [Clare's Law](#), has been brought to the table for implementation into Alberta's provincial legislation in order to help victims

Westboro station has been adjourned until November.

A [mother](#), who's 8-year-old son was killed by her estranged husband on Coquitlam, said she had warned the RCMP about her sons father and his risk to their children.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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.

Please "like" the CRCVC [Facebook page](#) or email 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 November 2019.

Workshop on addressing violence in the workplace presented by Western University

Margaret Macpherson from Western University will be hosting a 2-day workshop on addressing violence in the workplace. HR and senior managers are encouraged to



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of domestic violence gain access to information on partners with the potential to be dangerous.

Community and Social Services Minister Rajan Sawhney and Premier Jason Kenney [announced the tabling of the legislation](#) at an Edmonton women's shelter in early October. The law will be focused on the right of victims or potential victims of domestic violence to ask and know whether a partner has a history of domestic violence upon a successful application for such information. Police will also be able to provide information to individuals that are at risk or vulnerable to domestic violence without an application.

With regard to the ability for police to disclose such information, [Premier Kenney explained](#) that if the police were to be called to a residence due to a domestic dispute, and the "police discover that the alleged abuser has a criminal record for assault or for other violent crimes", certain conditions within the law will allow the police to take the victim aside and inform them that they are living with somebody that has a violent criminal record. The victim can then make a decision on how to move forward, thereby helping to ensure their safety.

[Minister Sawhney](#) noted that the legislation's technical aspects are being developed in cooperation with a number of police agencies in order to correctly determine how the law will work in the future. It was also indicated that the role the police will play in the utilization of this law is being closely examined.

With Alberta having the [third highest rate](#) of intimate partner violence being reported to the police, the legislation has a huge potential to benefit victims and those at risk for domestic violence in the province.

Furthermore, the law will add to the future potential for domestic violence support in Alberta. Currently, Kenney's government is committed to providing rape crisis kits to police agencies, creating a helpline for sexual assault victims, and ensuring funding for women's shelters in Alberta is maintained.

Importantly, Marie Renaud of the NDP is [supportive](#) of Kenney's domestic violence initiative. [Renaud states](#) that "any steps to keep people safe in this province, to do anything we can to prevent domestic violence from

attend (**not for front line VAW workers*).

When: November 13-14 2019

Cost: \$35

Details: [here](#).

The 2019 Canadian Violence Link Conference

The Canadian Violence Link Conference by [Humane Canada](#) deals with bringing together different sectors (Social workers, police officers, animal cruelty enforcement personnel, anti-violence advocates, politicians, bureaucrats, crown prosecutors, animal welfare advocates, policy experts, veterinarians and RVTs) to learn and collaborate on the links between animals and people, how they affect all Canadians and how they support ending these crimes, and providing a solution to all victims.

When: November 20-22, 2019

Where: Toronto, Ontario

Learn more [here](#).

Register [here](#).

Ending Violence Association of British Columbia Annual Training Forum 2019

The forum will be examining the ways in which people experience gender-based violence and abuse throughout their lives. The types of perpetrators of crimes and the range of relations individuals have to criminals will also be discussed. There will be five keynote speakers and twelve



getting any worse, is a positive step. I think we would support any step that keeps people safe, particularly domestic violence is a tragedy and it's a preventable tragedy and we need to do everything we can." Additionally, Renaud ensures that the NDP will be involved throughout the legislation's development and is committed to ensuring details of the legislation are without concern.

Quebec victim compensation fund discriminates against women: Rights group

The Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations (CRARR) has taken on the case of [Melissa](#), a Quebec woman who discovered a number of hidden cameras placed around the house she shared with her boyfriend last December. Upon collecting all the cameras, Melissa found a USB key with contents containing illicit photos and videos of herself and her daughter dating back 8 years. Upon these findings, Melissa called the police and her boyfriend was subsequently [arrested](#) and charged with voyeurism, production of child pornography, and possession of child pornography.

As noted back in our [May 2019 newsletter](#), Quebec's victim compensation program, the Indemnisation des victimes d'actes criminels (IVAC), came under scrutiny for not providing an eligibility criteria list, and not recognizing the charges Melissa's ex-boyfriend is facing. As a result, the CRARR is helping Melissa in her [appeal](#) to the IVAC's rejection of her application. At the appeal Fo Niemi, executive director of the CRARR, will argue that the IVAC [discriminates](#) against women, and that by denying Melissa's application, she was subject to double discrimination since she was first a victim of crime, and then a victim of discrimination by the IVAC program.

The Regroupement québécois des centres d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel has previously urged the Quebec government to fix the issues found within the program. Stephanie Tremblay, a [spokesperson for the group stated](#) that "it's totally unacceptable that a whole host of sexual crimes are not covered by IVAC. It's discriminatory because we know that in a large majority of cases, these crimes are committed against women and children."

workshops at the forum. More information can be found [here](#)

When: November 28th and 29th, 2019

Where: Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, Richmond BC

SNAPSHOTS

Lack of standard definition of hate crime in Canada: A cause for concern

A CBC News investigation has revealed that Canadian police agencies have different definitions of what constitutes as a hate crime. As a result of this finding it is difficult to quantify the number of communities that are [struggling](#) with hate crimes. This issue also causes a difficulty in how crimes are identified as hate-motivated. Additionally, due to the fact that police services use different definitions, there is [no reliability](#) among hate crime investigations conducted by police officers, which could have a significant impact on those who are victims of hate crimes.

The investigation [found](#) that certain municipalities have comprehensive definitions of hate crimes, while in contrast others have very informal definitions. Stephen Camp, the President of the Alberta Human Rights Commission's hate crime committee, noted that the [lack of a standard](#) definition means the federal government does not have the correct data to determine where resources to handle hate crimes should be



Fortunately, Quebec Justice Minister Sonia Lebel indicated [she is planning](#) to reform the compensation program, but has not elaborated on when or how. With the IVAC program not being [updated](#) since its creation in 1972, it is time that victims of crime in Quebec see some positive actions being taken, and begin to have access to a compensation program that is accepting and applicable to modern understandings of justice and crime.

One of the sexual offenders in an Ontario case was removed from a healing lodge after negative responses to the transfer

A Hamilton man who repeatedly sexually assaulted a young girl and recruited others to sexually assault her, was recently [transferred](#) to a healing lodge in Quebec. The man, whose name is not being released to protect the identity of the victim, was previously in a medium security prison prior to the transfer. There had been a lot of [backlash](#) regarding the decision to transfer the offender to a healing lodge, which have lower security and subsequently this backlash has led to the offender being [transferred](#) back to a medium security prison. The original decision to transfer the offender to a healing lodge is now under review.

Among those who were outraged by the initial transfer is the aunt of the young victim. The [aunt](#) said that the transfer was “disgusting” and she was bothered by the fact that the family of the victim had not been consulted. Interim executive director of the CRCVC, [Aline Vlasceanu](#), called the move “unsettling and re-traumatizing.” According to Vlasceanu, “things need to be changed at a higher level.” Both the aunt and Vlasceanu believe that “victims should have a say” regarding transfers of offenders. The [aunt](#) reached out to the media to share the story, and shortly after doing this, she was informed that the offender had been returned to a medium security prison. The aunt believes that the reaction from corrections only happened because she decided to speak out about the transfer to the healing lodge, something a victim should not have to do.

On behalf of the victim’s aunt, the [CRCVC](#) sent letters of complaints to the Commissioner of the Correctional

allocated. Camp [advocates](#) that a national hate crime definition needs to be incorporated into the Criminal Code of Canada.

Another issue surrounding hate crimes is that they are only considered in [how](#) an offender is sentenced, the term does not impact the actual charge they face. Camp also noted that current statistics on hate crimes in Canada reflect to leaders “that the [problem](#) is not as bad as it sometimes is purported to be. Then that equals insufficient resourcing and insufficient policies and legislation.” This statement by Camp clearly demonstrates how influential statistics are informing governmental policy on crime.

Camp also spoke to the non-existence of a section dedicated to hate crimes in the law, claiming that it is a significant problem with the Criminal Code. Camp [advocates](#) that governments and police agencies owe it to the public to have an accurate representation of the location and prevalence of hate crimes in Ontario.

Glasgow is the first city in the world to consider violence a public health issue

[Glasgow](#), Scotland, was considered the murder capital of Europe by the World Health Organization in the early 2000s, but recent changes made by the city have made it “one of the safest places in the



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Service of Canada, the regional deputy commissioner and Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale. [Correctional Service Canada](#) informed The Spectator that it is “closely reviewing” the case. [Minister Goodale](#) has also responded to The Spectator, saying that he “welcomes” the review of the case and that he has asked the commissioner to “examine whether all relevant policies were properly followed and whether those policies are the right ones for inmate management and public safety.”

The [case](#) regarding this offender was called “an exceedingly dark chapter in the life of this community” by Ontario Court Justice George Gage. The offender sexually assaulted the young victim, which began when she was six years old and continued until she was nearly eight years old, at which time she confided in her dad about the abuse. The offender had recorded the abuse, as well as posted advertisements on Craigslist for other individuals to abuse the young girl. A total of five people were convicted in the case. For the [aunt](#) of the victim, this case “has been never-ending.” She has attended every court hearing for those involved, including parole hearings, all of which have been traumatic.

CBC has launched an investigation into violence in schools in Canada

[CBC News](#) has recently launched an investigative series on violence in schools in Canada. The series was prompted after journalists attempted to find a national database on student-on-student violence and discovered such a database did not exist. Unfortunately, school boards in Canada are collecting their data on the subject in different ways. Therefore, CBC News decided to ask students, through a national online survey, about violence in their schools. The survey included a total of 4,065 individuals between the ages of 14 and 21 across Canada. The survey asked questions about the participant’s school years from elementary to high school or CEGEP.

The [results](#) of the survey showed that “41 per cent of boys say they were physically assaulted at high school”, that “26 per cent of girls say they experienced unwanted sexual contact at school” and that “1 in 4 students first experienced sexual

U.K.”. The city used to have an alarmingly high amount of murders and violent assaults, but fortunately, the city of Glasgow began to look at the violence problem the same way it would look at any public health crisis. It started to focus on “prevention rather than punishment.”

[Karyn McCluskey](#), an analyst for the Glasgow City Police, was asked in 2004 to provide a report on how to reduce the street-level violence in the city. Her work led Scotland to become the “first jurisdiction in the world to list violence as a public health issue.” The [country](#) now views violent behaviour as a disease that can spread from one person to another, not unlike other public health issues like measles. The analyst’s work also led to the creation of the violence reduction unit (VRU), which is a “sprawling network of agencies and community programs tackling the root causes of violence.”

The city has [implemented](#) a variety of programs that work to prevent violence. One program is run by maxillofacial surgeon Christine Goodall and her colleagues, who attend local schools and talk with their students about violence and share stories of those who have been influenced by it. Another program is run by the Glasgow police and is called the Street & Arrow café, where officers and ex-convicts work together. The VRU also involves a program where reformed criminals talk to



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harassment or assault before grade 7". The survey also provided regional numbers that demonstrated that "71% of kids in rural schools in Atlantic Canada and 70% in the Prairies say they were called hateful names at school", which is significantly higher than the results of urban areas. In almost all of the categories examined through the survey, the results for Indigenous youth were higher. An important figure to note within the survey results is that almost 50 percent of high school's students do not report the violence they have either experienced or witnessed.

The series also looked at specific issues connected to violence in schools, such as [underreporting](#). An Ontario law that was passed eight years ago, after the death of an Ontario student, requires school boards to report incidents to the Education Ministry. Unfortunately, many incidents, such as a 14-year-old being attacked in a school hallway, are not being reported to the government. This issue of non-accurate reporting of violent incidents to the government is a common problem across school boards in Ontario. CBC conducted an [analysis](#) of the ministry's official school violence statistics and they discovered that "at least one-third of school boards in the province have important gaps or inconsistencies in the figures they have been submitting electronically to the ministry since 2011." The analysis showed that there seems to be a widespread under-reporting of violent incidents by school boards. One of the most notable inconsistencies found by CBC in their analysis, was that the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board "reported zero incidents between 2014-2017". This is an extremely concerning result, as this school board includes a school where 14-year-old [Devan Bracci-Selvey](#) was stabbed to death on October 7th. [Ontario](#) is one of only four Canadian provinces and territories that share this information with their ministries, the others are Nova Scotia, Nunavut and Yukon.

The CBC News series also looked at [peer-on-peer behaviour](#) at school. The survey conducted by CBC showed that "more than one-third of students between the ages of 14 and 21 say they were physically assaulted at least once before reaching high school." This was something that boys were even more likely to experience. According to the study "one in five boys surveyed say they were threatened with a weapon." It is important to note that some of these

patients who are being treated for violent injuries. These programs seem to be having a positive influence on the city. By [2016-2017](#), the number of violent crimes reported in Glasgow was down by 37 per cent.

[Peter Sloly](#), the new chief of police in Ottawa, has reportedly reached out to law enforcement in Glasgow to ask about "their unique approach to street-level violence." According to [McCluskey](#), a similar approach to the one in Glasgow could work in Canada if it is applied with care. She stated that although Canada has a lot of "excellent social programs" it would need to also find more "social workers who specialize in mental health."

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

Domestic violence study pursuing past victims and families for input

In order to fulfill the next step in the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative that is being conducted by Western University in partnership with the University of Guelph, the study is looking for input from victims and families impacted by domestic violence. The study is concerned with the fact that domestic violence has persisted over time, with more than [70 people](#) per year being victimized in domestic violence incidents, with 8% of those being children.



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assaults have led to the death of a student, including the incident where Devan Bracci-Selvey was fatally stabbed. With regard to female students, "one in four girls surveyed said they had personally faced unwanted sexual contact." Shockingly, some of these girls experienced this as early as kindergarten. As previously mentioned, many students said they did not report any of the incidents of violence they experienced. In cases where students do [report](#) an incident "they are often left unsatisfied by the response and unsure about their decision." According to one [respondent](#) of the survey, "the school did not set up or follow through with a safety plan" and the individual had to change schools.

The series also looked at school violence within [Indigenous schools](#). Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) oversees a total of seven schools across the country, including Oliver M. Smith Kawenni:io Elementary School in Six Nations. This school has had multiple bullying problems, and these have led to a human rights complaint and a "petition with more than 1,000 signatures calling for more community say over how the schools are run." CBC News [interviewed](#) different children who have attended this school, as well as their mothers. The children interviewed all said that they had been bullied by the same students. One of the mothers, Autumn Barnhart, said that "school administration and the federal bureaucrat who oversees the school have failed to deal with the bullying problem in the school."

The information provided above is some of the results published by CBC News. There are further articles with more information that continue to demonstrate the current problem of violence in schools. Unfortunately, we could not include all the information they have published in our newsletter. More articles can be found by searching for "school violence" on <https://www.cbc.ca/news>.

The first part of the study [involved](#) talking with experts about the issue of domestic violence, however the study is now determined to have a more micro-level analysis of the issue by speaking directly to victims or families. Myrna Dawson, a sociology professor at the University of Guelph, noted that [engaging](#) with victims is important because it allows the study to help positively guide policies and services keyed towards domestic violence.

Peter Jaffe, the Academic Director of the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children at Western University, explained that the study's [findings](#) will be shared with various levels of government and police agencies in order for them to work together in reducing the rate of domestic violence.

Of note, [over half](#) of the victims of domestic violence belong to the most vulnerable groups in society such as Indigenous peoples, children, immigrants and refugees that live in more rural areas of the country. Alison Irons, a victim of domestic assault and current advocate on issues surrounding the subject [claimed](#) that part of the reason such high levels of domestic violence occur in these rural and remote communities is due to the presence of guns and the violent culture that surrounds individuals in these communities.



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Irons insists on the need for studies like the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative, noting her experience working with women exposed to violence and at risk for victimization. [Irons](#) pointed to the fact that she was a member of a women's shelter board 40 years ago, and yet still, domestic violence is largely prevalent, showing just how imperatively domestic violence issues need to be addressed.