



Greetings!

Welcome to the **September** 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>
Email: crcvc@crcvc.ca
Phone: 1.877.232.2610



It is with the heaviest of hearts that we must share that our dear board member and friend, Elaine Orr, passed away on August 9, 2019.

Elaine is taken from us unexpectedly and far too soon. A survivor and fierce advocate for women everywhere, she will be dearly missed by so many. From her hilarious tweets, to her tireless effort and work in regard to domestic violence, to her love for numbers

QUICK LINKS

WE ARE HIRING!!!

**WE ARE
HIRING!**

The CRCVC is looking for a
qualified Director of
Development!

For more details, please check out our
website at CRCVC.CA

For qualified, interested candidates please email us at
crcvc@crcvc.ca

Find more details [here](#).

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!

An [inquest](#) is being completed in regards to the deaths of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam, all killed by the same man. These deaths are considered one of the worst



and bookkeeping (not percentages though!) ...our world won't be quite the same without her.

Our deepest sympathies and thoughts are with her friends and family during this difficult time.

At Elaine's request, no service will be held.

A new OPP policy regarding gender is causing concern for researchers and advocates

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has created a [new policy](#), which states that the OPP will no longer disclose the gender of the victims or alleged perpetrators of crime. The OPP will continue to release the names, ages, hometowns and court dates of people charged with crimes. This decision was made after a review of the Police Services Acts, which showed that there was no legal obligation to release the gender of victims. [According](#) to Staff Sgt. Dionne, this change was made in an effort to reflect "the change of times."

This new policy has been criticized by many people and is [considered](#) a "move away from public transparency." Researchers and anti-violence advocates have raised concerns about it. [They](#) have a fear that "this move will blur the public's understanding of the realities of violence against women and intimate partner violence." The manager of Consent Comes First at Ryerson University, [Farrah Khan](#), stated that she thinks "this is not a move forward", explaining that they "won't know the breadth and depth of an issue unless it's reported accurately and we need that so that we can take action with our policies, with our procedures, and with our services that we provide." [Khan](#) also explained that she felt that the OPP was doing "an overcorrection" with this policy.

Myrna Dawson, director of the Canadian Femicide Observatory and the Domestic Homicide Prevention initiative, also spoke out on the issue. She [explained](#) that this change in policy was concerning and that it would make it harder to track violence against women by men and transphobic violence. The Canadian Femicide Observatory, which Dawson is the director

cases of domestic violence in Canada.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

The drop-in support group for family members of homicide victims addresses a gap in 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 keep 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: October 30, 2019.

Ottawa Police Service's Violence Against Women Advisory Committee: Community Consultation

Save the Date: November 5th, 2019

The Ottawa Police Service's Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women is hosting an all-day community consultation to update the community on work that has taken place over the last 5 years and solicit input for moving forward. Details to come.

Workshop on addressing violence in the workplace presented by Western



of, relies on media coverage of violence against women to track femicide in Canada. Holly Johnson, a criminologist and retired criminology professor from the University of Ottawa, [explained](#) that this felt like “one step forward and two steps back.”

Another concern on this new policy is that it seems to ignore the gender implications in crimes committed. Marina Adshade, a professor at the University of British Columbia’s Vancouver School of Economics and the School of Public Policy at Simon Fraser University, [agreed](#) with the idea that “gender is not an irrelevant factor.” Adshade [stated](#) that “statistically, this is actually a factor in crime. It’s not independent of the crime, it didn’t have nothing to do with the crime, it is a factor in the crime.”

There is also concern from Indigenous activists. Pam Palmater, a lawyer and Associate Professor and Chair in Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University, [tweeted](#) about the change by saying “after police agencies exposed for being part of #genocide in Canada against Indigenous women & girls, they will now literally white wash the data to erase the racism & sexism embedded in the #OPP This will contribute to ongoing violence. #mmiwg #humanrights.”

ONTARIO VICTIM COMPENSATION AND ITS CHANGES: WHAT WILL IT DO FOR VICTIMS?

After major changes to the compensation program in Ontario in May 2019, there will be a complete [overhaul](#) in financial assistance for victims of crime as of October 1st, 2019, with the implementation of the Victim Quick Response Program Plus (VQRP+). The new program hopes to provide victims of crime with efficient and effective service. This new program will be run by the [government](#), whereas the current program was independent from the government.

The current compensation program for victims of crime is done through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB). The current total amount

Margaret Macpherson from Western, will be hosting a 2-day workshop on addressing violence in the workplace. HR and senior managers are encouraged to 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 is about 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](#).

Trauma, violence and its effect on children in our community

Far too many children in Ottawa are affected by violence within their families and in their neighbourhoods. Dr. Elisa Romano will be presenting some of the research exploring the prevalence and types of



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a single victim of violent crime can claim in financial support to cover costs such as medical and funeral expenses is \$30,000 per incident, while the pain and suffering amount maximum that can be awarded is \$5,000 (following the changes from [May 2019](#)).

The CICB, which will continue to distribute the funding until the new program begins, provided a total of \$33 million in pain and suffering funding over 3,569 cases from 2017 to 2018. With the current \$5,000 limitation, that total will be reduced to less than \$18 million. This large decrease in available compensation was concerning due to the fact that "compensation for pain and suffering [accounted](#) for 95 percent of the board's payments in 2017-18." The pain and suffering award will cease to exist as a claim altogether, in the new VQRP+.

The removal of the pain and suffering award in the new program is one of the many changes and differences between the two programs. One change is the [list](#) that the programs have that outline the different violent crimes that victims of which may qualify for financial assistance. CICB had a broader definition of violent crimes than the VQRP+. The crimes that qualify as violent crimes under the VQRP+ are the following: serious assaults, sexual abuse, homicide and attempted murder, intimate partner violence, human trafficking and hate crimes.

The new program also has different [qualifications](#) that victims are required to have in order to qualify for financial assistance. To get the most help from VQRP+, a victim must be able to show that they do not have any other financial resources to help them pay the victim related expenses and that there are no publicly funded programs that can meet their needs, as this is a "last resort" program for victims. Neither of these were qualifications needed in order to apply for CICB, as victims could apply regardless of their income. [Reporting](#) the crime is also a new qualification required to apply for financial assistance for victims of crime. To apply to the new program, a victim must report the crime to the police, or depending on the

childhood trauma, as well as its impact on children's development. Find out how and what community members and service providers can do to help. Hear important perspectives of how race and gender impact how people experience trauma.

When: Friday, October 4, 2019 from 8:30 to 11:00am
Where: Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepoint Drive - The Chamber

Sign Up & Learn More [here](#)

[SNAPSHOTS](#)

The federal government has given the Ontario government \$54 million to help address its problem with guns and gangs

The [federal government](#) has made an announcement that it intends to provide the Ontario provincial government a total of \$54 million over the course of three years to help the province address its problems with gun violence and gang activity. The announcement was made by the Federal Crime Reduction Minister, Bill Blair. During the announcement, he [said](#) that "the funding is aimed at preventing further violence." Speaking on this violence, he also stated that "it is affecting our communities and it is affecting how Canadians live their lives." The [funding](#) will be used to "expand a dedicated team of firearms bail prosecutors in the Peel Region, west of Toronto, and to



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situation, they must report it to a domestic violence shelter, a sexual assault centre, a child protection authority, a hospital, an Indigenous social service provider, or a community agency providing services to victims in Ontario.

Previously, with the CICB program, victims had a [2 year deadline](#) to apply for financial assistance. The program also allowed extensions to this deadline if there was a good reason for the delay in applying. In addition, after some [positive changes](#) in 2016 after Bill 132 received Royal Assent, CICB claims based on sexual assault, misconduct of a sexual nature, or physical assaults with an intimate relationship/relationship of dependence had their time limits for applying removed. However, the new administrative model may present some difficulties for victims of sexual assault or violence. The [new program](#) now has a deadline of 45 days if the victim wants to receive financial assistance for immediate needs, including emergency expenses for practical needs or crime scene cleanup. If the individual accused of the crime is released on bail, the 45 days start from when the individual is released. The deadline to apply for financial assistance to help pay for short-term counselling is usually 6 months from the time of the crime. This can vary depending on the situation, and some victims may have up to one year to apply to the VQRP+, such as in cases of support for serious injuries. Due to the [fact](#) that sexual assault victims and victims of violence do not always report incidents to police in this time frame, the new system will potentially neglect to support certain victims. Making sure the public is aware of victim services will be essential for the new system's success.

The programs also differ in terms of what victims can get financial assistance for. CICB [offered](#) funds for things such as medical and dental treatment, counselling, loss of income, funeral and burial expenses, etc. As previously mentioned, in total, CICB could award a maximum lump sum of \$30 000, with a maximum of \$5 000 for pain and suffering, as well as monthly payments up to \$1 000 to a maximum of

establish a guns and gangs fund for policing projects in the Greater Toronto Area and the Greater Golden Horseshoe region", according to the province.

[In addition](#), part of the funding will go towards having a guns and gangs team of four assistant Crown attorneys working with the Ottawa police and to increase intelligence-gathering in the jails.

[According](#) to Ontario Attorney General Doug Downey, it will also be used to help support victims of human trafficking. Downey stated that this funding will widen the benefits available to this specific type of survivor, which will ensure "their unique and most urgent needs are met."

Toronto police expand 'neighbourhood officers' program across the city

Toronto police will be expanding a pilot project that will see [more](#) police officers working in Toronto neighbourhoods.

The pilot project involved 44 officers "[engaging](#) with community members and local organizations." Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders says that the program was successful, and as a result will be introduced into more neighbourhoods around the city. This expansion [means](#) that almost 130 officers will be working in 35 neighbourhoods.

The program first began in 2013. With the help of



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\$365 000. The new program [offers](#) funds for different things, each with their own maximum amounts. The VQRP+ program will pay for funeral expenses (up to \$5 000), crime scene cleanup (up to \$1 500), some emergency expenses such as home safety repairs (up to \$1 000) and counselling or traditional Indigenous healing that are immediate and short-term (approximately 10 sessions or up to \$1 000).

A major change for financial assistance for victims is the [new timeline](#) to process applications. CICB applications could take up to a year or more, to be processed. The new program has the goal of processing requests within 3 business days for emergency and funeral expenses, within 5 business days for counselling service expenses, and within 10 business days for homicide survivor support and serious injury support.

[To apply](#) to the new program, victims will need to be referred to their local VQRP+ service delivery organization. Victims will be referred to these services by the police or community agency when they report the crime. Most of the services they will be referred to deliver Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Services, and help victims apply to the VQRP. To find the closest VQRP service delivery organization in their community, people can search the [Victim Services Directory](#) or call the Victim Support Line at 1-888-579-2888 or 416-314-2447.

The change to financial support services also includes a switch from an adjudicative model in victim compensation, to an administrative model.

[Supposedly](#), an administrative model will increase victim services' efficiency, allowing victims to receive funding quicker and with ease through the utilization of electronic or written forms. Currently, it can take up to [11 months](#) to have a compensation hearing but lawyer [Gillian Hnatiw](#) says that having a hearing can give victims a sense that some form of justice and recognition is occurring.

community consultation and a research partnership with Humber college, the [program](#) has further developed its approach and aims to put forward their best practices in this Fall's expansion of the program.

Edmonton soldier charged with arson, attempted murder of 3 children

Chantal Condie, an Edmonton mother of three and a corporal at CFB Edmonton has been [charged](#) with the attempted murder of her three children, as well as two counts of arson, after allegedly setting her house on fire in 2015.

Drew Condie, Chantal's ex-husband, is suing Chantal on behalf of his children. He claims that Chantal was motivated to commit these crimes after not being granted primary custody of the children after their divorce. Drew had to persist that his claims are true after an initial investigation by the military concluded that the fire was an accident. He says that the incident "should have been [thoroughly](#) investigated at the time."

Allegedly, Chantal cancelled their children's camp registration, took them to a hotel for the weekend, and upon returning to their house gave the children NyQuil and put them to sleep. She then set the house on fire, intending to kill both herself and her children. However, the oldest child woke up and



The new program begins on October 1st, 2019. As this is a new program, there is still a lot of uncertainty as to how the program will work. The CRCVC is hopeful that VQRP+ will be a positive change so that more victims can access funding for counselling or other needs more rapidly than ever before, but given that the pain and suffering award has been abolished and the overall budget has been severely cut (from approximately \$36 million to \$12 million), we are worried about the impact it will have for victims of crime in Ontario. The province has essentially cut all direct financial support (maximum award now \$5,000) and is instead focused on paying for limited amounts of counselling or other expenses as a result of being victimized (such as funeral costs, crime scene clean up, etc.). This is a drastic change that puts Ontario in the basement of Canadian jurisdictions in terms of recognizing the right of victims to state compensation in the aftermath of violent victimization. We will share more information on the program may be available at a later date.

THE CITY OF TORONTO IS CONCERNED AFTER HIGH NUMBER OF SHOOTINGS DURING LONG WEEKEND

The Civic Holiday long weekend saw a [total](#) of 17 people shot and injured in Toronto, with no fatalities reported. Of those who were shot, 7 of the 17 occurred at shooting in a nightclub early that Monday morning. Shootings are currently an ongoing problem in Toronto. Although the [total number](#) of people (130) killed or injured in a shooting to date in 2019 is slightly lower than last year's number at this time (135 people), it is notably higher than that of five years ago, with 65 people by this time of year.

The Toronto police Chief Mark Saunders spoke on the issue, [stating](#) that more resources would be put forward "in specific places that we think will help deter and reduce the gun violence that's occurring in the city right now." The mayor of Toronto, [Mayor John Tory](#), called the weekend shootings "unacceptable" and the president of the Toronto Police Association, [Mike McCormack](#), called them "brazen and offensive."

helped his two younger siblings escape.

Furthermore, Drew [claimed](#) that his ex-wife disabled three smoke detectors; which were later found in the basement of the house.

Chantal has denied the claims made by her ex-husband, and instead [claims](#) that he has a "history of mental illness, alcohol dependency and violence towards her and the children."

With these charges coming to light, the military police has spoken out, [stating](#) that "if one of our members is convicted of a serious crime, that person will be held accountable for their actions."

Drew's lawyer, Catherine Christensen, feels that she has lost some of her confidence in the military police, and [believes](#) that this could very well be another case that gets brushed over by them.

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

Femicide Volume VIII: Abuse and Femicide of the Older Woman

The violence and murder of older women is an issue faced around the world, but despite its prevalence, it receives little attention. As a result of women's longer lifespan, the number of years they spend living alone tend to be higher than men, and thus consequently they are at a



McCormack agreed with Saunders about the need to have more resources in the community, however he also mentioned that the Toronto Police Service is “tapped out”, saying that they “need to get more people in as quick as we can to get the resources that we need.”

The high number of shootings in a single weekend has caused communities in Toronto to voice concern on the issue. One member in particular, [Amy Hayley](#), voiced her belief that having more officers patrolling neighbourhoods and connecting more with the community would make a difference. Another community member, [Vernett Richards](#), spoke to her concerns that Canada is becoming more like the United States.

DEFENCE AND CROWN DISAGREE OVER BISSONNETTE’S SENTENCE, APPEAL DEFENCE IN PROGRESS

The defence lawyer for Alexandre [Bissonnette](#), the [Quebec City mosque shooter](#) is arguing that Bissonnette’s sentence of 40 years without parole is unconstitutionally long, but the Crown refutes his lawyer’s argument and claims that the sentence is not long enough. Both parties appealed the decision, with the deadline to submit their reasons for appeal the week of September 9th.

The defence was delayed with filing their reasons for appeal until September 18th. The defence argued that a law passed in 2011 allowing judges to sentence offenders to back-to-back sentences without eligibility for parole is [unconstitutional](#). As well, the defence states that re-assessing prisoners every 25 years for parole does not work. Furthermore, the [defence](#) claims that “the judge exaggerated the hateful nature of the crime.”

In their appeal, the defence requested Bissonnette’s sentence to be reduced to a minimum of 25 years served before parole. This request is significantly less than the 40 years before being eligible for parole that the judge originally sentenced Bissonnette to.

In contrast to the defence, the Crown [argued](#) that the judge assumed Bissonnette would die in prison if

greater risk of being victims for a number of crimes such as fraud and robbery. It has been discussed that, “the [abuse and femicide](#) of older women is one of the most widespread unpunished crimes.”

In June of 2017 a former Ontario nurse received a life sentence for the [murder](#) of 8 elderly nursing home residents. This case emphasized how the elderly are vulnerable to victimization, and how victimization research does not focus on the elderly population as much as it does on other age groups.

The most extreme violence women are subject to is femicide, but there is little research on femicide in relation to older women.

Most current research on the characteristics of femicide show that most victims are alone at home at the time of the offence. Furthermore, research shows that femicide is most typically carried out by a lone perpetrator and victims tend to be the only individual pursued by their perpetrator. Only about 7% of femicides against older women go [unsolved](#), with the average sentence length given in the other 93% of cases being [12 years](#).

In order to better understand this topic, researchers need to focus on the patterns present in the [victimization](#) of older women, in addition to the differing characteristics in femicide deaths.



Bissonnette was sentenced to 50 years before being eligible for parole. If the judge had agreed with the Crown's recommendation, the sentence would have been the longest given to an offender in [Canadian history](#). The judge believed a sentence of more than 50 years would be considered as cruel and unusual punishment.

When the judge made his decision in Bissonnette's case, he [indicated](#) that any type of sentence that would exceed the life expectancy of the offender does not have regard for human dignity and is disproportionate.

With both legal teams filing appeals and their reasons for appeal, a decision will now have to be made as to whether they will be granted or denied.

B.C FATHER SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR MURDER OF WIFE AND TWO DAUGHTERS

Jacob Forman pled guilty to the [murders](#) of his wife Clara, 33, and two daughters, aged seven and eight, on Monday, September 16th 2019, and received a sentence of life in prison with no chance of parole for 35 years.

The murders occurred in December 2017 in Forman's Kelowna area home. [Forman](#) stated that he had been put into a rage after his wife confronted him about his drinking habits, then struck her multiple times in the head with a sledgehammer.

Shockingly, Forman proceeded to shovel snow outside with his daughters and then took them to church. Upon returning home, he killed his both of his daughters by pretending that they were going to play a childhood game of his, in which they would pass out, telling them it would be fun.

When Clara's co-workers had not seen her at work, they called her home. Forman answered the phone and stated that Clara was not feeling well. When a colleague of Clara's went to her home, but no one

Millennials are more afraid of being victims of crime than baby boomers, new survey says

A recent poll from Research Co. found that young adults between the ages of 18 to 34 in British Columbia are more likely to [worry](#) about being a victim of crime than older adults.

Older adults are more likely to say that crime is increasing in their [community](#). Overall, about two in five residents in British Columbia [believe](#) that crime has increased in their community in the last four years, with one in five saying they have been a victim of crime where the police became involved over the past few years.

Surprisingly, around 31% of British Columbia residents feel very or moderately [unsafe](#) walking in their community at night.

Half of British Columbia residents [reported](#) that addiction and mental health issues are a factor that they blame for causing crime and increasing safety concerns, and a third of residents blame gangs and illegal drug trade.



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came to the door, she called Forman, who told her that Clara had left him.

Finding Forman's response strange considering that Clara's car was still in the house's driveway, the colleague called the police. When the police first arrived, Forman refused to let them in, however when more police arrived later, they found the bodies and subsequently arrested Forman.

In confessing to the murders of his children, Forman [stated](#) that he "killed his daughters because it would be better for them to go to heaven, than live knowing their father killed their mother."

In an [interview](#) about the murders, Clara's sister said that she and her parents still care about Forman, and that they view him as someone going through the traumatic experience with them. Clara's sister and parents "trust that justice will prevail."



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