



EMPOWER

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CRCVC Participates in Victims and Survivors of Crime Week 2020

In November, as part of Victims and Survivors of Crime Week, the CRCVC partnered with the Algonquin College Victimology Research Centre, Crime Prevention Ottawa, and the Ottawa Police Service on an event titled “Community Responses to Homicide”.

The event welcomed victim service providers, survivors, counsellors, crisis workers, staff from community health and resource centers, victimology students, police, and more to learn about the impacts of homicide and how the community is responding to individual survivors as well as entire neighbourhoods after critical incidents.

The CRCVC shared stories about its monthly “Loss to Violence Support Group” which meets on the last Thursday of the month. This is a peer support group for victims/survivors of homicide and violent crime.

The event also shared interesting updates taking place in and around Ottawa including:

- The newly established Victimology Research Centre at Algonquin College will partner with the Ottawa Police Service to analyze the homicide trends in Ottawa over the past 5 years. This information will fill a critical gap in local knowledge and lead to better planning around responses to homicide and prevention. (see article below)
- Crime Prevention Ottawa has partnered with the coalition of community health and resource centres to develop the Post-Incident Neighbourhood Support (PINS) framework to deliver a neighbourhood-based response to traumatic incidents.

The CRCVC is proud to partner and work with leaders in our community to make a difference in the lives of people who become victims of crime.

Police Associations Support CRCVC in 2020

Special thanks to several police associations who supported victims of crime through amazing gifts to the

CRCVC. A total of \$13,000 was donated.

“This support is vital for the work we do,” says CRCVC Board Member and Canada Police Association President, Tom Stamatakis. “On behalf of CRCVC and the victims we support I’d like to thank the London Police Association, the Ottawa Police Association, the Manitoba Police Association, and the Montreal Police Association for their generous support.”

“These donations go directly to support victims across Canada,” says Mr. Stamatakis. “I encourage and invite all police associations to consider getting involved.”

Setting Boundaries for the Holidays During a Pandemic

An article posted by the National Sexual Violence Resource Centre (NSVRC) explains the sometimes uncomfortable, but necessary choice to set boundaries this holiday season.

When the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic became a reality for all of us, it was an opportunity to practice setting personal boundaries while respecting the boundaries of others.



“The pandemic has made the role of boundaries in our daily lives and relationships more tangible than ever,” says writer Laura Palumbo from the NSVRC. “Properly wearing a mask, maintaining a six-foot distance from others, canceling in-person activities, and avoiding groups and public places. Each of us is making decisions daily to protect ourselves and our families, but none of us has total control of our own safety since we must rely on those around us to help keep us safe.”

Our choices impact others. This is true in physical boundaries during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is true every day for our mental, emotional, and psychological well-being.

The NSVRC explains the importance of consent. Consent is not only concerning sex, but consent is informed and freely communicating a willingness to participate. We see consent and the lack thereof displayed in social media posts, hugging friends, and asking permission to participate in activities. As the NSVRC shared “As the pandemic continues to intensify as we near the holiday season, it’s an opportunity to bring the lens of everyday consent to the choices and limits we must make clear to protect ourselves and others.”

Giving yourself what we all deserve is important! When consent and respect are at the heart of our relationships, you can let grandma know you love her very much but don’t have any hugs left today. You can let your friend know that you had a great time seeing them but that you prefer not to have the pictures you took together posted on social media.

Setting boundaries isn’t always easy, but it is worth it!

[Click here to read the full article.](#)

CRCVC In the News and On the News – The Year in Review

Like every organization in Canada and around the world, the CRCVC had to quickly change course to ensure clients still had access to the life-changing support they need.



22 UP NEXT:

CRCVC In the News and On the News
The year in review.

“It was a challenging year for everyone in Canada and around the world,” says Aline Vlasceanu, Executive Director. “But this did not stop us from working with legislators, stakeholders, and of course victims of crime.”

Following are some items that show how important it is to keep awareness of victims and victims’ rights in the news during a pandemic and beyond.

Rehabilitation from a Victims Point of View: Does it Work?

“I didn’t think about who it affected.” – convicted killer Philip Pynn in the CBC Documentary “Killing Time.”

In response to this documentary, CBC radio interviewed CRCVC Executive Director, Aline Vlasceanu to ask how victims feel about criminal rehabilitation.

"I think most victims are pretty cognizant of the fact that even when offenders do go to prison the rehabilitation aspect," says Vlasceanu. "While corrections and parole say they're rehabilitating offenders — I don't think victims feel as though offenders are rehabilitated when they come out."

[Read the full article here.](#)

[Watch the documentary here.](#)





YES!
I WANT TO HELP
VICTIMS OF
CRIME!

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CRCVC Pressures Parole Board of Canada to Adapt to COVID Restrictions to Better Serve Victims

The pandemic created an instant challenge for victims of crime when the Parole Board of Canada stopped allowing victims to attend parole board hearings for offenders.

The CRCVC immediately went to work to help right this wrong. In this Global News article, Aline Vlasceanu says, *"I am really pleased that they heard the voices of victims, and the CRCVC, alongside the many other advocates that strived to make this happen."*

"I hope they are able to implement this immediately throughout Canada so that no more victims are further traumatized by the system and that they can meaningfully participate as is their right within the Canadian Victim Bill of Rights."

[Read the full article here.](#)

Canadian Victims Bill of Rights Needs an Overhaul; Victim's Rights Reduced Due to Pandemic, CRCVC Steps up on their Behalf

A woman's father's killer got parole in the pandemic. She says it's 'unfair' she was denied her chance to face

him, even remotely.

“Victims have always been in this position, the pandemic is simply highlighting an imperfect system,” says Aline Vlasceanu in a Toronto Star article. And although the 2015 Canadian Victims Bill of Rights is a great start, Vlasceanu goes on to say the bill lacks ‘teeth’; “This creates an imbalance as offenders have very real, legislated, enforceable rights.”

[Read the Toronto Star article here.](#)

National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terror

June 23rd, 2020 marked 35 years since the deadliest terror attack in Canadian history. It was also the National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terror.

Although the pandemic caused the cancellation of any remembrance ceremony, Aline Vlasceanu recorded a heartfelt message to the surviving families of the Air India attack and all victims of terror.

[Watch Aline’s message here.](#)

Victims of Mass Shooting in Nova Scotia Search for Information



The thirteen-hour crime spree between April 18-19 in Nova Scotia will reverberate for the survivors of the victims for years to come. One of the challenges faced by the surviving families is access to information.

In August, Aline Vlasceanu spoke to Global News about the effect the lack of information has on the people left behind. “One of the most frustrating things for victims is balancing the desire to know everything about an investigation with the reality that police work often moves slowly and secretly.”

[Read the article and watch news reports here.](#)

New Research Centre at Algonquin College Helps Support Victims of Violence

A new research centre at Ottawa’s Algonquin College will leverage community partnerships and develop training, service standards and continuing education for professionals working with and for victims and survivors of crime.

The CRCVC supports this ground-breaking research centre; “I think victims of homicide—all victims, in general, really—should be empowered, says Aline Vlasceanu. “All research and all resources should be victim-centred, victim-led and trauma informed.”

[Read more about the Centre in this CTV news article](#)

Ongoing Case Shows Gaps in Support of Victims: Aunt of Victim in Horrific Child Sexual Assault Case Speaks Out

“I’m almost dead from it,” the aunt says. “It’s been (almost) five years now...it’s been exhausting after the fact, now three of the five of them are out.”

This article in the Hamilton Spectator outlines the very real and emotional consequences of a horrific trial and the effect parole board hearings can have on victims.

Learn how the CRCVC fought for compensation for this loving aunt.

[Read the article here.](#)

Virtual Ceremony Marks 31st Anniversary of Montreal Massacre at École Polytechnique

The CRCVC, along with a handful of supporters braved the bitter cold to attend the ceremony in remembrance of the fourteen women killed at Ecole Polytechnique on December 6, 1989.

“Although the ceremony was virtual, we were happy to see some supporters brave the cold to commemorate this tragedy,” says Aline Vlasceanu. “It is important for us to remember and keep our voices strong.”

[To read the article about the event, click here.](#)



Supporters gather at the Ottawa Women’s Monument on December 6 to remember the women killed in the Montreal massacre. Aline Vlasceanu, far left, reads a declaration including the names of the women who were senselessly murdered.

Before You Go!

Thank you for reading this newsletter. If you've come this far, you have a deep interest in the rights of crime victims in Canada. Thank you.

Today we ask you to consider supporting them through your donation to CRCVC. Our clients – victims of crime – depend on us in many ways.

We provide our support absolutely free of charge, relying on donations from caring Canadians like you.

If you can, please take a moment and consider a gift.

Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime | Charity Registration #13552 8701 RR0001.

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Upcoming Events

CRCVC's Monthly Drop-In Support Group for "Loss to Violence"

The drop-in support group is for family members, friends and close loved ones of homicide victims, and is intended to offer peer support to those dealing with violent loss.

Last Thursday of every month.

Please note, we have gone VIRTUAL.

To RSVP please email us at crcvc@crcvc.ca

