



## Greetings!

Welcome to the **May** 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/>.

*This newsletter was written and compiled with the assistance of Amélie Samson; Victimology post graduate student at Algonquin College.*

Want to [print the newsletter](#)?

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

## The Northwest Territories are still waiting for their historical missing and murdered persons unit

In February of [2018](#), it was announced that the proposed Northwest Territories budget would include \$304,000 that would be placed towards an RCMP historical case unit specifically for missing and murdered persons. As of 2018, there were 71 unsolved historical cases of missing and murdered persons in the Northwest Territories, including 63 cases that are still open investigations.

The unit would be focused on these cases and would include organizing, cataloguing and investigating them. It would also include ensuring that the cases are documented in a current day standard. [One year after](#) the announcement of the funding, there have yet to be any staffing decisions. The RCMP has stated that this is due to the fact that those belonging to the unit will need to have special skills and the RCMP wants to ensure that they are hiring the right people for the unit, in order for it to work properly. In addition to the current lack of staffing, it was initially stated in 2018 that the new unit would be staffed by three members, but that has been changed to two. An RCMP spokesperson, Marie York-Condon, stated that not much information on the unit could be provided until

## QUICK LINKS

### 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!*

### Every dollar donated in June is a chance to win!

In June, donate to the CRCVC as part of the Great Canadian Giving Challenge and we will have a chance to win \$10,000 from Canada Helps. [Click here to donate](#).

[New documentary](#), *Because We Are Girls*, about four brave sisters victimized by their cousin, premiered in Toronto.

[Neurosurgeon](#) has been sentenced to life in prison for the murder of his wife- a well-respected family doctor.

[CALACS Ottawa](#) started an online campaign to bring awareness to the fact that the frequency of sexual assaults in Canada is one every 17 minutes. The campaign also had the goal to bring awareness to the lack of services for victims.

[Bill C-71](#), An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms, has been passed. More



# National Justice Network Update



the unit was operating and when there would be a better understanding of the complex cases involved.

In addition, RCMP spokesperson Tania Vaughn explained that this type of unit allows the RCMP to dedicate time and attention to cases in which every investigative avenue has seemingly been exhausted. Vaughn also explained that no unresolved missing persons or homicide cases are ever closed and that the RCMP works towards pursuing all investigative avenues to resolve these cases and bring justice and closure to the families of the victims, which is what makes these units so important.

There has been an overall general support for this unit, this includes Indigenous advocate [Gail Cyr](#), who stated that she thought it would be beneficial to the families to have a unit dedicated to investigating historical cases and once again conducting interviews. Cyr stated that she hopes that this unit will improve family contact with police and receiving updates, as families have often not had the best communication with police. Cyr said that she was excited for there to be a strong community liaison that would set expectations for interactions between families and the police, as well as provide an annual report on the files that have been opened and what actions have been taken. She had also mentioned that she had hoped the unit would have been staffed within six to nine months, but unfortunately this has evidently not been the case and thus, as of now, her hopes for this unit have yet to be fulfilled.

Other territories and provinces in Canada have already implemented historical case units, including [Yukon](#). This territory's unit, which was funded around the same time as the unit in the Northwest Territories, has completed its hiring process and is already operating. The investigation of unsolved murders is within its policing priorities for 2019. Additionally, the provinces of British-Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and New Brunswick all have historical homicide units.

We hope that the historical case unit for missing and murdered persons in the N.W.T. can start functioning sooner rather than later and bring some closure to the families and friends of the victims.

## **Ottawa to restore victim surcharge**

The victim surcharge that the Supreme Court of Canada struck down five months ago, will apparently

information on this bill can be found in our [February 2019](#) Newsletter.

A [serial rapist](#), who committed multiple crimes in the ByWard Market of Ottawa, has been branded a dangerous offender.

A [video](#) has recently emerged of a young woman being questionably interviewed by RCMP after reporting a sexual assault.

Alleged van killer appearing in Toronto court starting the last week of May. Details [here](#).

The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking has launched a [national hotline](#) for victims and survivors of human traffic. For more information visit the hotline [website](#).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

The drop-in support group will return in June for family members of homicide victims. This group addresses a gap in the community and offers a place for peers to support each other in healing. Please "like" the CRCVC on our [Facebook page](#) or email [crcvc@crcvc.ca](mailto: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:** Thursday June 27th, at 7:15pm to 9:15 pm

### **Celebrating 10 Year of CODA: Connection on Disability and Abuse**

This event will celebrate 10 years of CODA. The event will include Ruth Campbell, from the Office for Victims of Crime, as a keynote speaker. There will also be an overview of the



# National Justice Network Update



be restored. [The Trudeau government](#) is planning on restoring the victim surcharge- with a couple of amendments. The new version will give sentencing judges the discretion to waive the victim surcharge in some cases. This would include if the surcharge “would be disproportionate to the gravity of the offence and the degree of responsibility of the offender” or if imposing the surcharge would cause “undue hardship” to the offender.

The [victim surcharge](#) was listed under section 737 of the Canadian Criminal Code and was put into place by the previous Conservative government. As of December 14th, 2018, the victim surcharge is no longer being imposed. This is due to the fact that the Supreme Court declared that this law was “cruel and unusual punishment” for offenders that are impecunious, vulnerable and marginalized. It was decided that this was a violation of their section 12 rights, under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (R. v. Boudreault 2018 SCC 58). During their decision, the Supreme Court stated that the federal government could bring forward a new version of the surcharge, as long as it complied with the Charter.

According to [Justice Minister David Lametti](#), the government is going to propose amendments to the criminal procedure bill, Bill C-75. Lametti told the senators, who are currently reviewing the bill, that the victim surcharge situation needs to be fixed as the surcharge has an important role in making offenders accountable to victims. He also mentioned that there had been consultation on this matter with different individuals working in the field, and that together they will propose amendments that allow judges discretion in regard to the surcharge. The amendments that will be made will apparently align with the Boudreault decision.

The [amendments](#) would include that the judge would have judicial discretion to determine when and when not to impose the surcharge: “in cases where it would (a) cause undue hardship or (b) would be disproportionate to the gravity of the offence and the degree of responsibility of the offender” and judges will have to provide the reason for their decision to not impose the surcharge, according to Rachel Rappaport, Lametti’s press secretary. Rappaport also stated that the government is committed to making sure that the “criminal justice system meets the highest standards

history of CODA Accomplishments and will honour CODA Chairs and Memberships. There will be coffee and cake at 11:00 am.

**Where:** City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, ON

**When:** June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

**Cost:** Free

[Register here.](#)

## **Male Survivors of Domestic Abuse - 12 Week Support Group**

This is a support group that will focus on recognizing and recovering from codependent patterns of behaviour. This group will be a safe space for men to share their experiences and perspectives, as well as it will offer peer support and validation.

**Where:** Canadian Centre for Men and Families, 292 Montreal rd. Suite 302, Ottawa, ON, K1L 6B7

**When:** Every Monday from 7pm to 9pm

**Cost:** Free

[Register Here.](#)

## **Comedy Night Fundraiser: CRCVC**

A fun comedy night fundraiser in support of the CRCVC! In addition to the comedy show, there will also be a 50/50 draw. More information can be found on the CRCVC [website](#) or on the [Facebook event page](#). We hope to see you there!

**Where:** Absolute Comedy, 412 Preston St., Ottawa, ON, K1S 4M9

**When:** Thursday July 25<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30pm EST

**Cost:** \$20 for show tickets. 50/50 draw at show. Tickets can be bought at the CRCVC office located at 100-141 Catherine Street, Ottawa, K2P 1C3 (CASH ONLY).

## **SNAPSHOTS**

**More funding for Women’s Shelters Canada**



of equity and fairness, holds offenders to account, shows compassion to victims and upholds the Charter of Rights and Freedom”.

As of now, there are [thousands of offenders](#) who have not paid the victim surcharges they were supposed to and are out of the court system. Nothing has been said as to how the government will approach this issue. Defence counsel has argued that attorney generals of each province and territory have the duty to administratively obtain any outstanding victim surcharges. Failing to do this would potentially cause the governments to be faced with a constitutional challenge seeking a remedy on s.24(1) of the Charter. According to Micheal Bryant, executive director and general counsel of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the government should have made it so the outstanding victim surcharge would be cancelled, when the victim surcharge was eliminated.

---

### **Calgary man charged with murder of mother and toddler**

[On April 23th, 2019](#), a young mother, Jasmine Lovett, 25 and her daughter Aliyah Sanderson, 22 months, were reported missing. The disappearance of the two women was seen as a suspected homicide, since there was no evidence found to suggest the victims were still alive. After two weeks of thorough investigations, on May 6th, the young mother and child's bodies were found about 50 kilometres west of the city in Kananaskis Country, near Grizzly Creek.

Since then, Robert Leeming, Calgary resident, is now facing two charges of second-degree murder for their deaths. Leeming was in a domestic relationship with Jasmine which deteriorated over a period of time, and both Jasmine and Aliyah lived as tenants with him at his townhouse. Calgary police believe the murderer were motivated by domestic-related matters.

Sadly, femicide is not a rare phenomenon and has been around for centuries. According to the First Annual Report on National Femicide Rates released by the University of Guelph ([#CallItFemicide](#)), a woman or girl was killed every 2½ days on average in Canada last year. It appeared that generally women are still most at risk of violence by the men that they are intimate with. In contrast to femicide related cases, men are mostly killed by strangers or acquaintances.

The Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of International Development and Minister for Women and Gender Equality, has announced that the [Government of Canada](#) is planning on investing close to \$1.5 million in Women's Shelters Canada. This investment will be used to help increase the capacity of the network as well as the capacity, resilience and longevity of 14 provincial and territorial shelter associations. This will be done to advocate for ending violence against women and address the needs of women who are fleeing violent situations. In addition, the investments will be used to help the organization work towards bringing together service providers to create a survivor-led, customized safety and support plans for individuals who are affected by gender-based violence.

The Minister explained the importance of the shelter movement and the importance of supporting women's organizations to help advance gender equality. Lise Martin, the executive director of Women's Shelters Canada stated that this money will allow this organization to continue to develop, and to facilitate exchanges between shelter organizations and between different levels of shelters. She also explained that this funding will make a real difference in allowing them to help more women in need.

### **Mother shares the story of her daughter killed by her husband.**

[Lynne Rosyck](#) shared the story of her daughter, Jessica Martel. Jessica was murdered by her husband in 2009. Jessica's husband was abusive towards her and their three children. Before Jessica's murder, her parents were desperate, frustrated and scared, as they had nowhere in their





With this report, an attempt is made to acknowledge that the circumstances and motivations surrounding femicides are very different in comparison from those of murdered men. Raising awareness about femicide is important in order to better understand and prevent gender-based violence that at times can lead to horrific crimes such as the ones committed against Jasmine Lovett and her daughter Aliyah Sanderson.

A tragic [national example](#) of femicide would be the Toronto van attack from April 2018. In this attack, eight women were killed by a man who felt entitled to women's love and attention, regardless of their own feelings. The attack was seen as a femicide act because of the gender factor: the aim was to kill more women than men.

The highest femicide rates have been detected in Nunavut, Yukon, New Brunswick and Manitoba. Indigenous women and girls are significantly more likely to be killed by their male partners than non-indigenous women.

According to the [Canadian Femicide Observatory](#), similar numbers of women and girls have been killed in Kenya and in Canada in 2019 (according to media reports) yet in Kenya, women leaders have launched a campaign against femicide... This leaves us wondering about what Canadian leaders have planned against femicide, as it [is crucial](#) to address the factors that lead to this common vulnerability and to have proactive measures in place in order to prevent further victimization.

---

### **Ontario planning to drastically change the compensation scheme for victims of violent crime**

Presently, victims of violent crime can qualify for up to \$25,000 of compensation to cover medical bills, therapy, funeral expenses, lost wages etc. through the province's Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB). The province is planning to [cap the funding](#) for pain and suffering at \$5,000 for all victims, even if they have suffered extensive childhood abuse, sexual assault, or were the target of domestic violence. Compensation for pain and suffering accounted for 95% of the board's payments for 2017-18. The [advisory committee](#) for the CICB, which examines its effectiveness and efficiency, was apparently not consulted about the changes. In addition, when asked

region to take Jessica and her children for safety. They did not have enough space to accommodate them, and the shelters in Edmonton had waiting list of at least two months. The situation became more dangerous and so they created a safety plan that could help Jessica and the kids leave. Somehow, Jessica's husband discovered that Jessica was about to leave, and he lost control. Jessica's husband violently attacked her and strangled her to death.

After the homicide, Jessica's family was contacted many times by the media. At that time, Jessica's parents felt overwhelmed, but they agreed to do one interview. Lynne afterwards regretted doing said interview, after her grandchildren accidentally saw it and were further horrified. After this, the family decided not to do any more interviews, as they did not want to put their family through more. After 10 years, Lynne decided to share the story of her daughter because of what she saw on the news about women in domestic violence situations. She decided to share the story to the public, in order to finally see things changed. By sharing Jessica's story with others, Lynne began to heal and move forward. At this moment, Lynne is planning to open a safe haven for families fleeing domestic violence, which was a dream she shared with Jessica. The emergency center is called Jessie's House and will open in early 2020.

### **Calgary man convicted for the death of 18- year-old student**

[Nathan Gervais](#), has been found guilty of first-degree murder in the 2013 swarming death of Lukas Strasser-Hird. Strasser-Hird had spoken out at a nightclub after hearing a racist comment directed to an employee of the nightclub. The



about the funding cuts, Attorney General Caroline Mulroney stated that the program was ineffective and cited a 15-years-old ombudsman's report, which does not accurately reflect the current situation.

Many people have spoken out about this change in funding, including [Deirdre McDade](#), the co-Director of Legal Services at the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (CALC). For 30 years CALC has helped local victims, mostly women, to recover up to \$25,000 to help compensate for pain and suffering experienced at the hands of their abuser. McDade says the cuts are "regressive, draconian and an attack on the province's most vulnerable". She continued: "Under this new proposed system, victims will now get significantly less compensation and will no longer have an opportunity to have their case heard before an impartial adjudicator,". McDade also observed that hearings provide victims with a sense of justice that they have often been denied, noting these hearings help provide an opportunity for victims to heal.

In the meantime, Laura Bloom, who provides counselling and social-work services, has created a [petition](#) to send to the attorney general's office.

On April 29th, the CRCVC wrote a [letter](#) to the Attorney General, expressing its concern, and posing questions in regard to the proposed changes. As of right now, no answer has been given.

---

### **Sexual misconduct in the military seemingly persistent**

Statistics Canada released a [report](#) on "Sexual misconduct in the Canadian Armed Forces". [According to the report](#), there has only been a slight change in the number of military members who are reporting sexual assault and misconduct. The results of the report demonstrate the troubling social and legal issues within the ranks of the Canadian Armed Forces. The results of the report included that, in 2018, 900 members (1.6%) of the regular Canadian Armed Forces reported being victims of sexual assault. This can be compared to the results from two years earlier, which was 1.7% of the members of the regular Canadian Armed Forces. This demonstrates only a slight change in the reporting of sexual assaults in the military.

group of young men that Strasser-Hird had spoken out against, became angry and hostile. They proceeded to surround the victim and shove him around. Strasser-Hird was then brought into the nightclub by the bouncer. He was then led out the back door, where the same group of men were waiting, and they continued to attack Strasser-Hird. During the attack, Gervais went to get a knife and inflicted fatal wounds on the victim. After the attack, bystanders attempted to help Strasser-Hird, and he was taken to the hospital where his family were told to come and say their goodbyes.

In 2016, to avoid the trial, Gervais fled to Vietnam. Four other men were put on trial for the death of Strasser-Hird. During this trial, two of the men were found guilty of second-degree murder, one was found guilty of manslaughter and the fourth man was acquitted. The two men who were found guilty of second-degree murder have appealed their convictions and are awaiting the decision by the Alberta Court of Appeal. In 2018, Gervais was found and arrested in Vietnam where he was returned to Calgary, and eventually brought to trial, ending with a conviction of first-degree murder. Gervais showed no remorse for his actions but rather laughed when the judge delivered the decision and stormed out of the courtroom at the end of the trial.

The trial came the day before what would have been Strasser-Hird's 24th birthday. His father spoke about how they were planning on going to their son's grave site and bringing some of his favorite things, including root beer. They also expressed their plans on singing *Happy Birthday* to Strasser-Hird and remembering the good times they had together.



The [report](#) also stated that soldiers, sailors and air crew members who were women were more likely to be victims of sexual misconduct. In addition, women in regular forces were victimized at a higher rate than men. This is important to note, as it has been stated previously that women who are victims of sexual assault in the military can face many ramifications, some of which are extreme; [women](#) who are victims of sexual misconduct and who report the crime are often faced with fear, reprisals and blame for being victimized. According to Marie-Claude Gagnon, an advocate for women who have suffered sexual trauma in Canada's military, the consequences of these crimes can cause women to leave the military in order to avoid the stigma.

The persistent sexual misconduct in the military is still happening despite ongoing efforts to eliminate the problem. In [2015](#), the Canadian Armed Forces launched "Operation Honour", which included bringing in programs to help curb inappropriate behaviour and to help encourage reporting of sexual misconduct. Many individuals who reported in the survey stated that they believed Operation Honour was effective so far and would be effective going forward. Others connected to the military do not see this program as one that works. Retired Master Cpl. Stephanie Raymond, [stated](#): "What [the statistics] tell me is that maybe Operation Honour doesn't work [well] enough or target the real force of the problem,". Many alleged victims in the military, including Raymond, believe that the problem is actually connected to the military's macho culture and the training that keeps this culture going.

The military did [respond](#) to these results with Lt.-Gen. Paul Wynnyk, the military's second-in-command, stating that the number of members in the Forces who were still being impacted by the sexual misconduct in the military was "completely unacceptable". He also explained that the military knows that the sexual misconduct is a current problem and they are aware that they have not made much progress to eliminate it.

Due to the fact that not many changes have occurred, and the results of the report are not ideal, despite the military's attempt to make changes, some now believe that this issue should be given to Parliament to legislate.

## **SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH**

### **Hate Crimes in Canada on the Rise.**

Statistics Canada has released its [2017](#) version of the police-reported hate crime in Canada document, which shows an increase in these types of crime in Canada. According to Statistics Canada, in 2017, there have been a total of 2073 police-reported hate crimes in Canada, which is an increase of 47% from 2016.

Statistics Canada explained that the increase in these types of crimes was connected to different factors. The increase was mainly related to an increase of police-reported hate crimes that were motivated by hatred of religion or of a race or ethnicity. In addition, police-reported hate crimes connected to sexual orientation also rose in 2017. Police-reported hate crimes located in Ontario, Québec and specifically the census metropolitan areas of Toronto and Montréal, were connected to the increase as well. Another factor in the increase of these crimes was that more non-violent hate crimes were reported.

28% of these police-reported hate crimes were solved and of these, 17% were cleared with charges laid against one or more individuals. This was compared to all Criminal Code violations in Canada, which showed that there was a lower number of solved cases and cleared cases for police-reported hate crimes in comparison to all violations in Canada.



---

## **Voyeurism crime in Québec brings into question the provinces victim compensation program**

A [mother](#), Melissa, and her two children, had been living in a house with the Melissa's boyfriend, when one day they discovered that cameras had been placed throughout their house. The cameras belonged to her boyfriend, who had placed them all over their home, including in a bathroom, where the first camera was discovered. In total, the family found ten cameras in their home and also found a USB key containing edited videos. The family approached the police about the issue and the boyfriend was arrested. The boyfriend, who is no longer with Melissa, is currently awaiting trial on charges of voyeurism, possession of child pornography and production of child pornography.

[Melissa](#) believes that her and her family should be considered eligible for the victim compensation program in Québec, the Indemnisation des victimes d'actes criminels (IVAC), because they have experienced financial and psychological injuries as a direct result of the crime.

Each provincial compensation program has their own set of eligibility criteria, including a specific list of eligible offences. The IVAC does provide such a list and the crime Melissa and her family were victims to is not listed. Given the negative, widespread impact of the crime faced by the family, with the help from the Crime Victims Assistance Centre, Melissa applied for the IVAC compensation regardless if she knew her application may get dismissed, which happened eventually. Melissa feels strongly that even though she may not have received compensation, future victims of similar crimes should.

[IVAC](#) has not been updated since it was initially created, in 1972. Throughout the years there have been calls to reform the program and changes have been attempted but nothing went through. Many of those working in the victim services in Quebec have been vocal about wanting to see change to IVAC happen. [Arlène Gaudreault](#), the president of the Association Québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes, has spent a lot of time fighting for change to happen and states that "In the past 30 years, every successive government has said it would reform the law... It's part of every election platform, but it hasn't changed."

## **Challenges of federal parole officers brought to light in new report**

The Union of Safety and Justice Employees (NSJE) has published a [report](#) on the challenges faced by the federal parole officers in the criminal justice system. This was a [national survey](#) and it was done to look at the impact of budget cuts in 2012. According to the survey, the Canadian correctional system is near its breaking point. Many of those who responded to the survey answered saying that the working conditions were not ideal and impacted their ability to properly assess, supervise and prepare offenders for a safe release back into society.

The negative working conditions were stated to be linked to things such as high offender caseloads, chronic understaffing, and significant changes to correctional programs and services in federal institutions and in communities. Federal parole officers are aware that the impact of being overworked is affecting public safety and this is an issue they take seriously. In the survey, officers made suggestions about what changes they believed would help the situation. These included increased staffing and lower number of offenders assigned to each officer. Many of those who responded in the survey stated that the main reason for the increased workload is connected to the introduction of new policies that were made to accommodate high needs offenders, Indigenous offenders and their overrepresentation, and the intensification of their duties as parole officers. The NSJE president has explained that although the changes made to the correctional system are well-intended, the lack of resource in this area is causing





The [Québec Ombudsman](#) published a report in 2016 that essentially blasted the public compensation system. In the report, they spoke about how IVAC used a restrictive interpretation of the Crime Victims Compensation Act of Canada. The [Quebec government](#) has stated that they are reviewing the legislation that governs IVAC. Justice Minister Sonia LeBel agrees changes are necessary, according to Nicky Cayer, a spokesperson for the minister. "Although it's the most generous program throughout Canada, as an example, the list of crimes from which a victim can receive compensation hasn't been updated much since its creation in 1971 and doesn't reflect the evolution of criminality in the last 35 years," she wrote in an email.

Gaudreault does mention that she applauds the province for the program, in comparison to Ontario. Significantly fewer crimes are included in the Ontario program, which Premier Doug Ford's government said will be [scrapped altogether](#).

---

### **The Supreme Court of Canada has ordered a new manslaughter trial for the death of Cindy Gladue**

On May 24th a new [manslaughter trial](#) had been ordered for the accused, Bradley Barton, in the death of Cindy Gladue, an Indigenous woman who bled to death after having sexual relations with the accused. Bradley Barton had initially been acquitted of first-degree murder and manslaughter in 2015. This decision was later overturned by the Alberta Court of Appeal, and now Barton will be facing a new trial once again. It was a unanimous decision by the Supreme Court of Canada to order a new trial for Barton, although justices were split on whether it should be a trial for first-degree murder or manslaughter- the latter having been chosen. This new trial is set to happen in February 2020. The decision comes after there was [public outrage](#) related to how Gladue was treated by the Canadian justice system. The courts agreed that the justice system had failed to protect Gladue during the criminal process. They also found that the 'rape shield' laws were not followed during this trial, since evidence of Gladue's past sexual activities was heard by the jury. There was also outrage over Gladue's vaginal tissue being presented as evidence by the Crown. Including how Gladue was referenced throughout the trial as "native" and a "prostitute".

employees to be at the brink and creating potential risks in the community. He explained that for future changes and for systems already in place, there needs to be better funding, more resources and more staffing.



## National Justice Network Update



Many spoke in regards to the decision, including [Qajaq Robinson](#), a commissioner for the National Inquiry Into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, who called the decision by the Supreme Court a “tremendous step forward.” In addition, the [Alberta crown](#) also spoke out on the matter and thanked the Supreme Court for considering the matter. Although some stated positive things about the decision made by the Supreme Court, others were less pleased. [Beverly Jacobs](#), a University of Windsor law professor who acted as an intervener in the Supreme Court case, was angry about the decision to order a new manslaughter trial instead of a first-degree trial. Jacobs also felt that the presentation of Gladue’s vaginal tissue as evidence should have been addressed during the decision.

As previously mentioned, the court agreed that Gladue had been failed by the justice system. Their [decision](#) also made it clear that judges and lawyers need to have better training in regard to the law and sexual assault cases and victims. The Gladue case showcased the failures of the justice system and underlined the need to pass a bill that would implement mandatory sexual-assault law training for lawyers who want to become federal judges.

As of [2017](#), there has been a bill that would address those concerns. Bill C-337, introduced by Rona Ambrose, is also called the [JUST Act](#) (Judicial Accountability through Sexual Assault Training Act). This bill, if passed, would support the creation of seminars on different subjects, such as the law of sexual assault, principles of consents, and the myths and stereotypes associated with sexual assault complaints. The bill would also require that the Canadian Judicial Council keep track of those participating in the trainings and the types of training offered. The bill was [passed unanimously](#) by the House of Commons, but the Senate has not yet allowed it to be successful. It is necessary for the bill to be passed by this summer, if not, the bill will essentially disappear. The Gladue case demonstrates the enormous importance of Bill C-337 being passed.

The Canadian Women’s Foundation created a [petition](#) to support Bill C-337 to have it passed before it is too late. More information on this bill can be found in our [March 2019](#) Newsletter.



# National Justice Network Update



--	--