



EMPOWER

A publication of the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime

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Dear *National Justice Network (NJN) Update* Reader,

Welcome to the first edition of our newly revamped newsletter: EMPOWER. Inside you will find stories, links and issues affecting Canadian crime victims.

We changed the name of our monthly newsletter from NJN Update to EMPOWER for two main reasons;

- All of our work is designed to EMPOWER victims as they work their way through Canada's criminal justice system
- The articles, links, events and stories you will read EMPOWER you with information and updates you need to join us as we continue using our collective voices to influence justice for victims.

I hope you enjoy our new format and I encourage you to share EMPOWER with your network.

Special Request: June is Great Canadian Giving Challenge month. Thanks to our partners at CanadaHelps, one Canadian charity will win a \$20,000 donation. It could be CRCVC but we need your help. All you need to do is [visit our site here](#) and make a donation. The amount of your donation doesn't matter. Anything from \$10, \$50 or \$100 improves our chances of winning the challenge...and your gift helps victims immediately.

Thank you for subscribing to EMPOWER!

Sincerely yours,

Aline Vlasceanu
Executive Director

In joining the Canada-wide and worldwide effort, the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC) staff is not in our office right now. However, we are still fully functioning remotely and ready to support victims of crime and their families.

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](#).

Hoping to connect with you soon!

Snapshots

Gun violence of growing concern in the Greater Toronto Area

Gun violence in the Toronto area continues to increase, with a [reported](#) 18 shootings in less than 6 days in May. At least 22 individuals were injured as a result of the shootings. Two of the victims, who sustained non-life threatening injuries as a result of a drive-by shooting were only [15 years old](#).

Chief Mark Saunders of the Toronto Police was [interviewed](#) following one of the most recent shootings and he described the situations as “targeted” and mentioned that they have the characteristics of gang activity.

Concerns have also been [raised](#) that the pandemic may lead to more gun-related bloodshed. While this type of violence has existed in the city long before the pandemic, it was [explained](#) by Sean Mauricette, a youth worker in the area, that the present situation has created “the perfect storm for a spike in violence.” This is partially explained by job loss, closure of community programs and domestic abuse.

While the police have been quick to label the recent shootings as largely gang-related, Mauricette [points](#) to the importance of understanding poverty as a factor involved in the violence.

Fraud experts pushing for disclosure of identity theft occurrences

Concerns were [raised](#) during a televised House Industry committee meeting on May 20th regarding the need for implementation of legislation that would oblige telecommunication and banking companies to disclose instances of identity theft with victims.

As it currently stands, these companies, who typically have fraud teams assigned to keep track of fraud incidents, have access to information regarding the occurrences but are not legally required to inform victims that their identity may have been compromised. This means that victims do not have the information they need to protect themselves. As well, because companies are not required to share this information, victims may not even suspect any reason for concern regarding their identity. Fraud examiner for Nuance Communications, Simon Marchand, [claimed](#): “...we are totally blind, we have no idea where our identity is being used.”

The increase in cybersecurity risks as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic was also highlighted by [Marchand](#). A 600 percent increase in phishing attacks has been reported, primarily due to the increase in individuals using remote methods of accessing these companies. It was also [noted](#) that the information collected by fraudulent attacks might not be used right away. In some instances, it may be held onto for over a year before it is used.

While data on identity theft is currently sitting idle, the good [news](#) is that it has already been collected and is ready to be used.

During a committee hearing in March, Marchand [explained](#) the importance of implementing the anti-spoofing protocol that goes by the name STIR/SHAKEN. He stressed that this should be done by the current Fall deadline to handle the spike in fraudulent activity we are seeing during the pandemic. [Spoofing](#) is used by

Many investigations are still ongoing, and police are asking the public for help in identifying key information. They ask that if anyone has information regarding the shootings that they contact Toronto Police or Toronto Crime Stoppers.

fraudsters to make their calls appear legitimate and trustworthy, such as having the calling number appear as a local phone number. Using the suggested anti-spoofing protocol would reassure consumers that their identity is not being compromised.

Ian Scott, chairperson for the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission explained, “STIR/SHAKEN works by authenticating and verifying a call in order to show consumers if a call is legitimate, or if it should be treated with suspicion.”

However it is only a partial solution, as it would currently only protect against fraudulent calls originating within Canada. Marchand [discussed](#) the fact that he is aware other solutions may be needed but emphasized that STIR/SHAKEN should still be used as part of the solution.

As it stands, plans for implementation continue to be worked on to ensure the system benefits the largest audience, and it is [expected](#) to be up and running by September.

New legal toolkit will support sexual assault victims in their fight for justice

Long-standing barriers faced by many sexual assault survivors within the legal and justice systems often lead to underreporting of assaults and can be seen as a direct result of the many flaws within these systems. Many victims feel that the disclosure of their sexual history, among other private personal records requested from them through the process of reporting their case, is an [intrusion](#) into their personal lives, and both unnecessary as well as extremely revictimizing. Not only does this make victims hesitant to report, it impacts their personal lives and mental health as well, as it often means they also do not seek out support services such as counselling for fear of the same revictimizing practices.



In an attempt to give lawyers and legal advisors the tools they need so that they can more effectively support victims of sexual assault, West Coast LEAF has developed a new [legal toolkit](#) in partnership with the YWCA-Metro Vancouver that would aim to serve victims dealing with this complex legal process. This toolkit is part of a larger [project](#) that is being developed by the YWCA-Metro Vancouver called Dismantling the Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault. The ultimate goal of the project is to establish a framework for the criminal justice system to overcome the issues it is currently riddled with, and thus to “[better respond to reports of sexual violence](#).”

West Coast LEAF’s toolkit is at the centre of this solution. A promising aspect of their [approach](#) relates to their emphasis on firsthand knowledge and experiences. Considering these firsthand accounts, West Coast LEAF, along with the YWCA, can address the matters that are at the top of victims’ concern. Among these concerns is the use of the victim’s history of sexual activity as evidence during legal proceedings. The toolkit that is now being [introduced](#) will help lawyers navigate the admissibility of evidence related to the victim’s sexual history. Another key aspect of this toolkit is its focus on building trauma-informed practices which [ultimately](#) “challenges the myths and stereotypes plaguing the legal system, and which safeguards survivors’ safety, privacy, confidentiality and access to justice.”

Elba Bendo, the lead on this project as well as the Director of Law Reform with West Coast LEAF, [shared](#) her concerns surrounding justice for survivors that the current laws intrude on. She stated that it is all too common that survivors are put in a place where they see it necessary to choose between healing and justice. This is a powerful sentiment that puts into perspective the absolute need for resources such as this new toolkit to guide the legal system and allow for justice to be truly felt by survivors.

Lawyer Gloria Ng, who is one of the co-authors of the toolkit, further [explained](#) the benefits that can come from this development, stating that “a toolkit that counsel can use as a reference and even build upon will hopefully mean we can better advocate for complainants and ensure their voices are heard in the courtroom.” As suggested by Ng, the toolkit brings the benefit of ensuring those working to counsel and advise on these highly sensitive matters are informed both of the rights of the victim as well as how to approach providing their counsel in a trauma-informed manner. These practices are [expected](#) to improve the experiences of all parties involved, as there is a reduced likelihood of retraumatizing survivors and witnesses and in turn, a reduction in the potential mental health implications on those such as lawyers working these sensitive and complex cases.

The Toolkit by West Coast LEAF can be downloaded by clicking [HERE](#)

New Bill introduced to ban "assault-style" firearms: A step in the right direction

Two weeks after the shooting massacre in Nova Scotia, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau [announced](#) new legislation that would ban “assault-style” firearms across Canada. The ban includes 1,500 types of firearms and was immediately put into effect on May 1, 2020. The news came with mixed reviews, from both gun control groups as well as opposition party leader Andrew Scheer.

The ban [means](#) that licenced gun owners will no longer be able to use, sell, import or transport any type of gun included in the list. Safety Minister Bill Blair spoke to these changes on Parliament Hill following the announcement and [shared](#) his belief that “banning these firearms will save Canadian lives.” While the changes were put into effect immediately, Trudeau assured that those individuals who currently own firearms that are now banned due to these changes will have a two-year period in which they can take the steps to legally relinquish said weapons. According to the Liberal Party, this will potentially [include](#) a buyback program, an idea which has been met with some resistance, as well as the possibility of having one's firearm grandfathered. However, regardless of the resistance that has been expressed Trudeau stands by the decisions that have been made thus far, [stating](#) that “there is no use and no place for such weapons in Canada.”

Conservative Party leader Andrew Scheer spoke out against the ban, [arguing](#) that it will do nothing to end the illegal smuggling of firearms, as well as dangerous modifications to firearms. This was a position shared by the CEO of the Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights, Rod Giltaca, who [claimed](#) “the only people that will lose their guns in this action are licensed gun owners. No criminals will register or turn in a single rifle.” It has also been [revealed](#) that in the case of the Nova Scotia shooting, the firearms used to carry out the attacks were obtained illegally and further, that the shooter was not licensed to own firearms.

In contrast, Heidi Rathjen who is the coordinator of Poly Remembers, a gun control group that was founded in response to the Montreal massacre at l'École Polytechnique, shared her support of the ban and [expressed](#) that reform such as this has been long-awaited. She did however, [explain](#) that this is only the first step and that it is imperative that the government now direct their focus on the “current flawed classification system to make such a ban permanent.” Another gun control advocate, Wendy Cukier President of the Coalition for Gun Control [agreed](#) that the wait for these changes was a long one and spoke to the unfortunate reality that in the time that it took to bring these changes to Canada, many Canadians have already lost their lives due to gun violence.

Heidi Illingworth, Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime, released a [statement](#) following the news of the ban in which she applauded the steps that have been taken thus far. In her statement she went on to outline the work that remains to be done to truly make an impact on the safety and wellbeing of Canadians. She first explained the importance of drawing attention to the fact that the majority of mass killings we have seen can be traced back to gender-based violence and misogynistic belief

patterns.

Illingworth also pointed to the need for more resources and support for victims of gun violence. The impacts of these traumatic events span far beyond a victim's physical recovery. Illingworth [attests](#) that "it is crucial to assist victims in the aftermath of a crime with their financial, mental health and ongoing medical needs." It is unarguable that obtaining support should not be an additional burden added to the challenges victims of gun violence already face.

The notion of gun violence as a public health crisis is another important comment made by Illingworth. She noted that "there were a record 490 shootings in Toronto in 2019 and the city set a record for shooting-related injuries, at 248." The intersection of race and unequal impact is another concern when discussing gun violence, as Illingworth pointed to in her [statement](#), with young Black men accounting for 45 percent of homicide victims in Toronto between 1995 to 2005. Considering these staggering figures, the overwhelming evidence and the fact that gun violence is largely, if not completely avoidable, it begs the question of why reform has moved so slowly.

To continue making progress, Illingworth [suggested](#) a holistic approach to violence prevention. This was [explained](#) as "coordinated efforts and significant investments across sectors, such as health, education, community organizations, as well as law enforcement." Following an approach such as this would ensure that communities can develop not only the capacity to deal with the aftermath of gun violence but also aim to eradicate it. This was further explained by Illingworth as a shift from a reactionary approach to gun violence to a preventative one.

Gendered impacts of the pandemic: Domestic homicides continue to rise

Between April 1st and May 4th, it has been [reported](#) that at least nine women and girls have been killed across Canada. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in many changes in the home lives of Canadians, with physical distancing and self-quarantining being extensively encouraged. For individuals facing domestic violence situations this most often means they are forced to stay at home with their abuser. This, in combination with the fact that in previous years it has been [reported](#) that at least eighty-four percent of intimate partner violence occurred in a private dwelling, points to a dangerous outlook and aids in explaining the devastating losses of life Canada has experienced in this short time.



The Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS) [explained](#) that not only have these rules made it more difficult for victims to seek out help, due to their continuous proximity to their abuser, but they have also intensified the "patterns, frequency, and degree of abuse." This situation, before, during and following the pandemic has been [described](#) as a pandemic in its own regard.

It has also been brought to [attention](#) that, while the nine cases previously mentioned have been confirmed, there are likely countless others that have occurred without recognition nor accountability. Professor of sociology at the University of New Brunswick, Carmen Gill, explained that there is no way of knowing how many women are truly affected by this type of violence. She [noted](#) that there is no federal system to track the murder of women by intimate partners and thus the true number of victims is hidden behind closed doors. We do [know](#) however, that "on average, one woman in Canada is killed by an intimate partner every six days."

The reason the public continues to be shocked by recurring news of intimate partner violence and the murder of women is [explained](#) by Gill as the result of a narrow understanding of what violence actually looks like. She [suggests](#) that we are "defining violence only through the prism of physical violence," meaning that when we don't see the physical marks of violence we assume it to be non-existent. This is a dangerous understanding because the failure to recognize violence in all of its forms, such as emotional abuse, coercion and threats, is what allows for the perpetuation of violence

against women. While the pandemic did not create the violent situations that many women are currently facing, it has most definitely magnified them. It has been [reported](#) that since the pandemic began, shelters have seen an increase of about twenty to thirty percent in domestic violence calls.

BWSS is said to have increased its scale of services to keep up with the spike in calls and demands for assistance from women and children experiencing domestic violence situations. As well, the federal government has recognized this large-scale safety concern and has allocated \$40 million to the Department for Women and Gender Inequality. This is part of the COVID-19 economic response plan and is intended to ease the financial strain on shelters and sexual assault centres. It is expected that \$10 million of the funding will reach organizations providing services for women in violent situations in the coming weeks.

It has also been brought to attention by BWSS, that while staying healthy during the pandemic is at the top of our priorities, so too, should be the safety in one's own home. They aim to spread the [message](#) expressed by Dr. Bonnie Henry that “your immediate safety is more important than physically distancing.”

Canada’s pandemic recovery strategy should include violence prevention

Heidi Illingworth, Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime, shared her [open letter](#) to



Canada's chief public health officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, where she addressed her concerns regarding the inclusion of violence prevention as part of Canada's pandemic response strategy. In her letter she highlighted the importance of both responses to, as well as prevention of, intimate partner violence and sexual violence.

Due to emergency measures enacted to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on Canadians’ health, it has been [found](#) that intimate partner violence and instances of child abuse have risen significantly.

Understanding the patterns that are occurring throughout this time is crucial, as facts and figures surrounding domestic violence may be dangerously misunderstood. Wendy Gillis of the Toronto Star [explained](#): "police and women's shelter workers have seen an increase in violence involving an intimate partner; others have reported a drop in calls for service, which experts in this violence say could signal an inability of the victims to call for help safely, not a decline in incidents." We know that this type of violence is not only happening but also on the rise and thus the suggestions made by Illingworth and other advocates must not be ignored.

Illingworth went on to explain some of the reasons we are seeing this dramatic increase in intimate partner violence and violence against children, [noting](#) “confinement to homes; financial stress and uncertainty; negative coping strategies such as increased alcohol and/or drug use; increased family care-giving responsibilities; and lack of access by victims of domestic violence and perpetrators to important coping mechanisms such as informal supports” are only some of the many contributing factors.

On the other end of this battle, shelters, support services and other places that may serve as refuge such as hotels, are [struggling](#) to keep up with this increase in demand. Thus, Illingworth [pointed](#) to the necessary implementation of an upstream approach to managing violence; meaning intervening before violence occurs or is elevated. Risk intervention and prevention are at the core of this approach.

Illingworth applauded the steps that have been taken up to this point to support response systems, specifically the \$50 million that has been allocated to women's shelters, sexual assault centres, and

other streams of support services. However, she urged the federal government to take the necessary actions to address the needs of women and children before they are forced into violent situations, to begin with. Ultimately, the goal is to end violence and femicides, something Illingworth [believes](#) to be fully possible.

In her [letter](#), Illingworth outlined some prevention strategies that she believes can make a meaningful impact if accepted and promoted by the Public Health Agency of Canada. It is [suggested](#) by Illingworth that “incorporat[ing] a national violence prevention strategy consistent with evidence shared by the WHO, the CDC and other prestigious organizations” is the best course of action. The Government of Canada has a responsibility to ensure the complete safety of Canadians during this time, and thus as part of their pandemic recovery plan, it is believed to be crucial to include violence prevention in this plan.

[Call for inquiry into the social context of the shooting that resulted in 22 dead in Nova Scotia](#)

It has been a little over a month since the mass shooting that took place in Nova Scotia and it is becoming increasingly evident that further inquiry should be placed into the events that took place. This idea is shared by over 30 law professors within Nova Scotia.

An open letter was sent to Premier Stephen McNeil by these law professors after he [claimed](#) that the RCMP does not have the authority to head the investigation and that, instead, it should be the federal government's responsibility. The response by police following the shooting was [referred](#) to by Elaine Craig of Dalhousie University as “an abdication of both moral and legal responsibility.”

Craig [explained](#) that following recent news surrounding the gunman's former neighbour, she and the other professors didn't feel a complete and thorough investigation had been fulfilled. It was [discovered](#) that the gunman's former neighbour had in fact noticed and reported his violent behaviour towards his partner in the past, however as a result of the flawed legal system that so many place their trust in, he despicably maintained his clean criminal record. [The Star](#) also reported that multiple witnesses claimed there were “many forms of intimate partner abuse before the night of the rampage.”

The call for an inquiry thus does not solely hope to explain the events that took place over the 13-hour manhunt, but rather to provide a “‘broad and transparent’ review that dives into the reality of domestic violence and violence against women in [the] province.”

Carmen Gill of the University of New Brunswick [shared](#) her belief that an inquiry into the shooting will likely illuminate the need for legal changes that would rule offences such as those previously inflicted by the gunman on his partner, as criminal offences. The United Kingdom's introduction of legislation that criminalized coercive control is an [example](#) given by Gill, of the benefits that this inquiry could bring. One key [element](#) of a legal framework such as the one in the UK is that it would mean that rather than locating specific details and evidence of a physical offence, police could look to reports of patterned behaviour made by victims and witnesses.

Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime, Heidi Illingworth, has also [expressed](#) her agreement with Gill. She stated that she is in favour of coercive control legislation and feels that such amendments to the Criminal Code in Canada will serve a larger population of victims.

[Victims continue to be left out of parole decisions: Justice system failing during the pandemic?](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic continues its exhaustive and varying impact on the lives of victims and their families. Two women, Lisa Freeman and Catherine Riddell [spoke out](#) about their experiences with

their respective cases and expressed their disappointment in the justice system.

The Parole Board of Canada has openly [affirmed](#) that reviews are carrying on and that decisions continue to be made during the pandemic. However, victims have, until [recently](#), been excluded from exercising their rights.

As a result of social-distancing rules, Freeman was not allowed to attend the parole hearing for the man who murdered her father 30 years ago. This news came after she had already made arrangements to fly across the country to deliver her victim impact statement in court. Even with the idea of attending virtually being supported by many, she was not permitted to do so. This event has been extremely retraumatizing for Freeman, as she had prepared herself for months in anticipation of facing her father's killer only to be denied. She [“feels she has been denied her statutory right to participate in the criminal justice process.”](#)

Catherine Riddell faced similar failures within the system as she anxiously awaited the trial of Alek Minassian, who killed 10 people and injured 16 after driving a van into a group of pedestrians. She had made great sacrifices including postponing surgeries she required as a result of the attack to ensure she would be available to attend the hearing. Due to the pandemic Minassian's trial has been postponed tentatively until November, 7 months later than the trial was set to begin. This comes as an added violation of trust, as the trial was initially scheduled a whole two years after the attack took place. Riddell was quoted as stating [“to me that alone is unacceptable.”](#)

Executive Director of the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime, Aline Vlasceanu, shared her [perspective](#), stating [“Victims have always been in this position, the pandemic is simply highlighting an imperfect system.”](#)

At the end of April the Parole Board of Canada announced that they would be introducing [“enhancements”](#) in order for victims to be present at hearings by telephone. The Parole Board noted that this was an action made in an attempt to ensure victims are being heard. However, Freeman has spoken out against these changes. She [highlighted](#) the fact that offenders are able to attend their hearings via video conferencing yet victims are not afforded that right and rather must connect through telephone. Similarly to how Freeman [felt](#) her voice was taken away from her in her pre-recorded victim impact statement, only permitting victims to participate through telephone removes an important human element from the decision-making process.

Spotlight on Research

Victim Services and Vicarious Resilience Project is a Go!

Excited to announce that the CRCVC will be collaborating on a new project entitled [“Victim Services and Vicarious Resilience”](#)! The team will include employees and students from the Police and Public Safety Institute and the Office of Applied Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, from Algonquin College, with support from the [Victim Justice Network](#) and the [Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime](#) (that's us!). This project will develop a questionnaire for victim services providers across Canada – to review best practices, identify systemic barriers and additional training needs, and provide a much-needed update on national data.

Read more [here](#).

Developing Police Expertise in Responding to Intimate Partner Violence

University of New Brunswick research team will help develop police expertise in responding to intimate partner violence.

Read more about their extremely useful research [here](#).

Public Safety Canada Portfolio Report: Victim Complaint Resolution Mechanism – Canadian Victims Bill of Rights

Public Safety Canada recently released its 2018-2019 Victim Complaint Resolution Mechanism report, which outlines the complaints received under the *Canada Victims Bill of Rights* (CVBR) by the National Office for Victims, Correctional Service of Canada, Parole Board of Canada, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and Canada Border Services Agency. The report outlines federal victim services, an overview of the complaints process, a profile of the CVBR-related complaints and resolutions, and policy and process considerations. Across these federal bodies a total of 27 complaints were received, 19 of which were determined to be admissible and 8 inadmissible. Of the admissible complaints, 11 related to the right to protection, 2 participation, 3 information, and 3 involved multiple rights. Upon review, no complaints were received by the RCMP and CBSA, 1 complaint was partly founded by CSC, and 1 founded and 1 partly founded by PBC which infringed on a victims' rights.

See the [report](#) for full details.

Quick Links

Issaiah Clachar, a slain Cornwall youth's mother, Caroline Letourneau, is decrying the decision by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) to allow of one of her son's killers to get full parole.

Read more [here](#).

Hate incidents in Vancouver, against East Asians, up sevenfold compared to 2019 due to cases related to COVID-19.

Read more [here](#).

The CRCVC is saddened to hear that Alberta's justice minister introduced a bill which would see the Victims of Crime Fund (the victim compensation in the province) broadened to include funding public safety initiatives, such as police and prosecutors.

Read more [here](#).

Fourteen women working for the Ottawa Police Service have come forward to report that they were sexual assaulted or harassed by male officers in the past three years. Police chief considering harsher penalties.

Read more [here](#).

Upcoming Events



VIRTUAL

MONTHLY “LOSS TO VIOLENCE” SUPPORT GROUP

Please RSVP at :
crcvc@crcvc.ca or
613-233-7614

CANADIAN RESOURCES
CENTRE FOR VICTIMS
OF CRIME

CENTRE CANADIEN DE
RESSOURCES POUR LES
VICTIMES DE CRIMES

Location: VIRTUAL

Trauma and Violence Intervention Research:

Promoting safety and well-being across the lifespan. Trauma is prevalent in our world and many of the people we work with live with its physical, mental and emotional impacts.

This conference aims to provide effective and compassionate support and this requires trauma-informed practise with a cultural and historical understanding of lived experiences.

When: Cancelled until further notice.

Where: RBC Place, London, ON

VIRTUAL 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 to stay updated about the support group dates. We welcome all family and loved ones to join us!

(Due to COVID-19, we will be meeting virtually; please email us at crcvc@crcvc.ca for more details)

Victim Support Europe 2020 Annual Conference "Celebrating our past. Creating hope for the future."

When: Cancelled until further notice.

Updates available [here](#).

Stonewall 50 Across Canada

When: Postponed until Fall 2020

Where: Various cities across Canada, [click here](#) to see where.

Strides for Change: MADD Canada

The annual 5km walk/run supports Chapters and Community Leaders in their efforts to educate the public about the dangers of impaired driving and to help victims in their communities. The campaign is also an opportunity to keep safe and sober driving top of mind during the spring and summer months when the rate of impaired-related crashes is typically higher. Events are held in communities across Canada over the late spring and early summer.

When: Postponed - Rescheduling due to COVID-19 will be announced soon.

Where: Mississauga, Ontario

Updates available [here](#).

National Conference for Victims of Impaired Driving

A variety of workshops are offered throughout the weekend. MADD Canada and local Chapters sponsor delegates will attend the conference. Priority for the conference is given to people who have never attended before and whose crash was recent. An important component of the conference is the *Reflection Sessions* which allow victims and survivors to meet with others who share similar experiences.

When: September 25-27, 2020

Where: Toronto, ON

Register By Phone or Email:

Call: 1-800-665-6233 or 905-829-8805

Email: info@madd.ca

Victimology, Victim Assistance, & Criminal Justice

For two weeks, international experts and students will congregate at Stockton University to share victimological research across multiple disciplines in an intensive short-course format.

When: CANCELLED for 2020

[Click here](#) for more info.



