



EMPOWER

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In joining the Canada and worldwide effort to fight COVID-19, the CRCVC staff is working remotely.

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](#).

For hours of operation and other info, please click [here](#).

Hoping to connect with you soon!



Phone scam robs two Nanaimo victims

The [Nanaimo RCMP](#) warns the public of an increase in phone-related scams following two incidents in the community. These separate incidents were both linked to unsolicited calls from individuals stating they were affiliated with Government agencies.

Cst. [Gary O'Brien](#) stated that recently, an international student lost thousands of dollars to this scam. The student believed that the call was real due to the differences in other [Canada Revenue Agency \(CRA\) scams](#). In this instance, a second call was made where an individual claimed to be an officer from the CRA. The secondary phone call increased the depth of the scam and made it appear legitimate to the victim. Approximately \$4,500 was transferred through [Bitcoin](#).

The second incident was similar but from a caller claiming that the victim's SIN was compromised and that they were from [Service Canada](#).

According to O'Brien, "The commonalities are all the same: fear, intimidation and threats. The reality is it's a scam, stop for a second, take a deep breath and hang up the phone."



Increase in untraceable 'ghost guns' in Canada

In Winnipeg, a recent investigation identified a 3D-printed "ghost gun" operation. There has been an increase in these kinds of untraceable firearms across Canada as well.

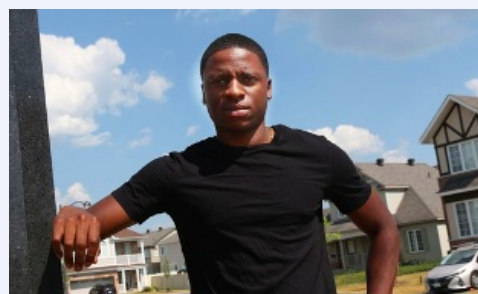
In early [June 2020](#), 28 weapons with no serial numbers or markings were seized from a 31-year-old man's home. These weapons were made using a 3-D printer.

[Max Waddell](#), Winnipeg Insp. believes that the only reason that these guns are created is "to circumvent the laws that are in place to protect us all."

Police were made aware in mid-May after a man attempted to buy a prohibited component of an [AR-15 semiautomatic rifle](#) after the ban was in place. There have been other instances of "ghost guns" in Canada and arrests made in connection in December of 2019, as well as May 2020. 3D printers have become a common source for manufacturing as the instructions can be found online or purchased illegally.

The CEO and ED of the Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights, [Rod Giltaca](#) explained that a violation of weapon laws could result in a prison sentence of up to 10 years in Canada.

The RCMP released a statement saying that they are going to continue to "monitor developments with regard to 3D-printed firearms but warned such guns do not change current weapons laws."



Thousands sign petition demanding consequences for racially motivated 911 calls in Ottawa

An [online petition](#) has been created in hopes of resulting in consequences for 911 calls that are racially motivated. The petition addresses the need for [municipal and provincial leaders](#) to create change.

[Tasia Brown](#), a 35-year-old Black woman living in Barrhaven where [Natwali Bashizi](#) was the subject of a 911 call. He states that he was racially profiled by a passerby. Another incident in Barrhaven included a 17-year-old Black teenager who was out playing basketball in a park that was closed.

[Brown](#) states that these incidents have "hit home." Also stating her disappointment in the fact that she thought she was raising her Black children in an area that she believed was inclusive of all.

Brown stated, "It's incredibly discouraging when you work hard, buy a home, raise your kids in a good neighbourhood, and do everything 'right', only to have someone send the message that you are somehow less deserving to be here because of the colour of your skin."

Brown's husband has also been subjected to racially driven 911 calls including one instance where the officer claimed that he and his friends looked "intimidating."

As of Wednesday, July 22nd, over 5,700 people signed the petition. The petition argues for an end to the "misuse of emergency services as a weapon against Black, Indigenous and other marginalized communities." As well as safer community spaces and anti-bias police training.

Brown has discussed the petition with MPP Joel Harden and is scheduled to do so with Nepean MPP, Lisa MacLeod as well.

Bill 16: More enforcement, less victim-focused service

Public concerns have emerged after the proposed amendment to the Victims of Crime Act (now known as the Victims of Crime and Public Safety Act). This amendment could result in a reduction of services for victims and an increase in enforcement measures, including an increase in policing, as well as a larger number of Crown prosecutors.



Tracy Allard, Grande Prairie, and Angela Pitt are MLAs with the Victims of Crime task force who will be a part of the bill's consultation phases with victim service units and victims to fine-tune the bill until the end of September. During the consultation phases, the team will be relying on various organizations "to be the voice for victims." However, others are also being encouraged to share their experiences. Furthermore, according to Allard and Pitt, Bill 16 would expand the Victims of Crime Fund's scope to add additional preventive measures. Allard stated that the "goal is to develop a system where victims receive the services and supports they need when and where they need them."

The preventive measures that would be implemented include the Rural Alberta Provincial Integrated Defence (RAPID) Force. This force would allow peace officers to assist the RCMP to improve response times in rural areas. Allard believes that if criminals realize there are increased patrols in the area, they would be less likely to engage in a criminal act. "There's a lot of prevention that the police do in our rural communities, prior to these kinds of things happening, [like] working with families before an incident," said Pitt.

Increasing the number of Crown prosecutors would help to alleviate some of the challenges surrounding court time availability needed to prosecute. This would help with delays, thus providing victims with justice promptly.

In contrast, victim services have seen a reduction in grants where instead of receiving three years of funding, victim services will now only receive one year of funding. Subsequently, victim service organizations have had trouble planning given these changes. Pitt stated that this is something they are trying to bring back and the hope is that the three-year term could be reinstated to help with the planning challenges being faced across the region.

The Jasper Victim Services coordinator and newly appointed treasurer of the Alberta Police Based Victim Services Association (APBVSA), Paul Schmidt relayed these challenges in an email conversation with Allard and Pitt. Due to the cuts that have been made and the one-year grant limits, volunteers are not able to be rewarded and training is expected to be severely impacted. According to Schmidt, "the act was scheduled to change and add funds to support programs, instead, we are now looking at further cuts and possibly funding agencies that are not victim-centred."

Schmidt went on to explain that rural areas have not seen an increase that exceeds the \$150,000 cap in over

12 years. Caps for larger municipalities have increased since 2008, however, this was due in part to the increased budget requirements. Pitt believes this reveals the imbalance in victim services between rural and urban areas. This is not equitable, as it does not account for population growth nor cultural components. While changes commence, there will be uncertainty going forward with Bill 16 in terms of funding.

With regards to Victim of Crime funding, Pitt claimed [“There was a certain dollar amount attached to a certain crime in Alberta. Bill 16 needs some changes; with lesser crimes, there’s no longer compensation to victims.”](#) Pitt also stated that there are concerns about who handles the fund and the importance of recognizing how each situation is unique.

Schmidt went on to discuss the fact that he has been actively involved in public consultations yet his input was not considered. He was assured that the engagement team would review his concerns to help inform the leadership involved in decision making. His recommendations were not reflected in the changes and he explained that [“victims will pay the price.”](#) Schmidt's claims of the lack of consideration have been confirmed by the Solicitor General staff.

The APBVSA president, Brain Turpin explained that Bill 16 takes away the firewall that protects victims. More specifically, there was a [“protected fund that could only be used to support victims of crime. That fund has always been protected. Currently, we are the only province in Canada to not have that firewall. It gives sweeping powers to the government to funnel money wherever they want to.”](#)

[Turpin](#) continued to relay the notion that increased policing may result in a reduction of rural and property crime, but will not impact the overall types of crimes that victim services units typically encounter. For example, the APBVSA handles a large number of sexual assault and domestic violence cases, a type of crime that increased policing will not impact. He believes that increasing patrolling numbers will not impact these cases, as well as other types of crimes such as child abuse, since they most often occur behind closed doors. Turpin and the association are looking forward to working with the team of MLA’s to share input and foster change.

Turpin also discussed a letter sent by the [Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime, Heidi Illingworth, to premier Jason Kenney](#). The letter addressed concerns around the impact that Bill 16 would have, such as the fact that the amendment would diversify funds that help victims' services. Illingworth stated that there is value in well-funded programs that emphasize that victim services make a difference in the experiences that victims have with the criminal justice system. The result could be the difference between a positive or traumatic experience.

Despite these changes, [Schmidt noted](#) the strength of Jasper Victim Services and that a financial reserve will help the organization get through these uncertain times. The organization has 12 advocates who are on-call, have diverse backgrounds and understand the needs of the community. The community has helped Jasper Victim Services with financial support through events such as the Golf Tournament Fundraiser which raises over \$30,000 annually.

If you are interested in helping Canadian victims of crime today, follow [this link](#). Every dollar you give goes directly to help victims.

Red flags raised over the Nova Scotia killer before April’s massacre



In June 2010, a reunion took place in a beachside community located in Portapique, Nova Scotia. [Gabriel Wortman](#), a dentist residing in Dartmouth invited Jeff Samuelson. Jeff was Gabriel's biological brother and had been given up for adoption in 1970. He was invited to a cottage in Nova Scotia so he could get to know his biological family. At the cottage, a birthday celebration for his father, Paul Wortman was held.

However, this celebration turned into a fight between Wortman and his father over property titles. As a result, the police were called when Wortman threatened to kill both of his parents. According to a former neighbour, Brenda Forbes, "It went sideways. Jeff saw how messed up things were, and he said, 'I don't want any part of that family.'"

It was reported that Wortman had a "complicated personality." At times he was happy and charming, but would also drink excessively and become violent towards others. Almost 10 years after the initial incident, On April 18th, he assaulted his common-law wife. He subsequently burned down their home and murdered 13 neighbours in Portapique. In the process, he attempted to burn down many of their homes. While trying to get away, he managed to evade the police by disguising himself in an RCMP cruiser. As he travelled across rural parts of Nova Scotia, he murdered 9 more people.

The following morning, he was shot and killed by police. A total of 22 people were killed making it the deadliest mass killing that has taken place in Canada. This devastating crime spanned over 13 hours and police say they may never know the motive behind his actions.

Over the last two months, dozens of people spoke out about how a police investigation should have occurred much earlier due to previous encounters Wortman had with the police. In 2001 reports for an assault that occurred on a 15-year-old male were made, death threats against his family in 2010, warnings from a police safety bulletin that he had access to numerous guns and stated he wanted to kill a police officer, and in 2013 he attacked his common-law partner. An additional weapons complaint had also been made to the RCMP. For the incident in 2001, a conditional discharge was given, however, none of the other complaints resulted in charges.

Friends and family tried to stay away from Wortman, as "he was the kind of man who made people nervous, bragged about knowing how to dispose of bodies and built miniature coffins as a hobby." As a result of his behaviour, family and friends were fearful to go to the police for help.

Wortman did not know he had a brother until he became an adult. His family frequently moved due to his father's occupation. He grew up in Moncton in a very violent and dysfunctional household. In an interview with Frank Magazine, his father stated that he was heartbroken and that the event could have been prevented if the RCMP had obtained a search warrant to remove the guns.

Reports about his character reveal that he once had ambitions to become an RCMP officer, yet he continuously acted outside of the law; Wortman would engage in criminal activity according to his uncle. Reports state that he was happy about the illegal cigarette business he ran, along with speeding, shooting guns in community areas, and stealing. He was friends with people who took part in similar activities and it has been noted that he enjoyed spending time with people with criminal records and became obsessed with "deceiving people out of money." According to Steven Zinck, his family lost their home after Wortman deceived him to change the property title.

To avoid taxes, the jobs that Wortman completed were often done in cash resulting in his estate being worth over \$1.2 million. He often hid his money and would argue with his family over money. This money was used to upkeep an expensive lifestyle, buying luxury cars and boats, vacations, jewelry, and buying various properties. With these funds, he collected decommissioned police cars and other police equipment.

In 2010, Wortman purchased an RCMP vehicle from a man named Kipling Scott MacKenzie who had a long criminal history linked to a company called Berkshire Broman Corporation. This corporation did not require background checks and thus allowed Wortman to purchase look-alike police equipment which he later used to evade police and flee Portapique.

Owner of a surplus store in Moncton, Bernard Cain had an encounter with Wortman after he inquired about buying a police car to protect his property from break-ins. However, a price was not agreed upon and thus

nothing was purchased in that instance. Wortman blamed the police for not investigating a break-in complaint in 2011, this was what resulted in him professing that he wanted to kill a police officer. As the COVID-19 pandemic began, his assets were liquidated. The RCMP speculated this was due to the financial crisis the pandemic was causing, and that he was claimed to be a "survivalist." Thousands of dollars were located in his home after he was killed.

Wortman had a history of abuse and violence towards his common-law partner. Some who knew Wortman and his partner claimed "he controlled her movements and income and abused her in front of a crowd on several occasions."

He was also explained as being "verbally and physically abusive to her, and jealous of any attention she received, despite his own string of affairs." Wortman's uncle has said he had witnessed the abuse a few years ago, he explained the scenario where Wortman was straddling and choking her after accusing her of cheating on him. Similar incidents were common when he was drinking. In 2013, she sought help from a neighbour, however, she was too afraid to leave him, fearing for her life. Calls were made during the violent assaults of his partner and the RCMP were aware of the unregistered guns in his possession, but no charges resulted. Around town, he was known as a womanizer and people would often try to stay away from him.

A denture client, [Angela Saumure](#), spoke out how she felt uncomfortable during an appointment with Wortman. She stated he would flirt with her, give her unwanted attention and ask her to go places with him. Crude sexual comments were also made. She then began living in fear after he started stalking her. She and her husband moved to get away from Wortman. The couple that purchased the property Saumure lived in were killed in the massacre, and the property burned down.

There is speculation that the attack had been planned methodically for years. Wortman paid close attention to detail and had been accumulating weapons and police equipment for years. According to a neighbour, [Ms. Starratt](#), he was a perfectionist and was very proud of his possessions.

According to former RCMP officer, [Mike Gregory](#), he should have been deemed a threat to public safety after the warnings began in 2011. In response to a bulletin, an investigation occurred. However, nothing was found and it was dismissed from the RCMP records; no further investigation ever occurred. Gregory expressed his concerns, explaining that Wortman "had a history of violence, it was known that he wanted to kill a police officer, he is still alive and living in the area and the bulletin is destroyed after two years? Something wrong with this picture. It's very disturbing."

The RCMP has attempted to understand the motive behind the mass shooting with the help of forensic psychologists. They have called him an "injustice collector," someone who holds grudges and believes that everyone is against them.

Neighbours continuously watched out for him, they were scared of him. [Leon Joudry](#), a neighbour of Wortman, stated that the gunman's partner came to his house and said she had been put in handcuffs by Wortman in his fake police car and tried to drive away. She managed to escape and hide in the woods. Once news of the shootings emerged, Mr. Joudry expressed that he was angered by the police response to not officially alert the community and evacuate the area, resulting in a complaint being filed.

The RCMP believes some victims were targeted and others may have just been in his path during the 13-hour massacre. A public inquiry has been requested and the families of the victims hope that this will also assess the RCMP's response and involvement in the case that could have prevented this tragedy.

[Inquiry into N.S. mass shooting to go ahead, public safety minister says](#)

According to Bill Blair, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Minister, "[Canadians deserve answers to how](#)

such a tragedy could occur," in a statement released on July 28th, 2020.

The federal government has announced that a public inquiry will take place in response to the Nova Scotia mass shooting. Initially, a panel review was decided upon until the government received significant criticism regarding this decision. Blair states that there has been pressure from members of Parliament, the family members of victims, and the public after the review panel was announced. He went on to state that all levels of government will need to work together with diligence to make sure that something like this never happens again.



On April 18th and 19th of 2020, a total of 22 people were murdered in the community of Portapique, Nova Scotia and the surrounding area. Initiating a public inquiry will result in witnesses being called upon to give evidence, produce documents and other relevant materials that will assist in a full investigation.

According to Blair, those who were selected for the review panel will be involved in the public inquiry. J. Michael MacDonald, Anne McLellan and Leanne Fitch will assist with this, as well as act as commissioners during the inquiry.

On July 28th, 2020, Premier Stephen McNeil participated in an interview with Tom Murphy at CBC Nova Scotia News at Six, at which time an apology was issued. McNeil stated that the intent was not to cause further harm to the families but as an attempt to gain answers for these individuals through a panel review. McNeil went on to state that, "Clearly, they did not agree with that. They felt that the inquiry was the only way that they would achieve the answers they were looking for. We've delivered that today, and for them, I would say I'm sorry if the process created more anguish for you."

Representing 21 families in the class-action lawsuit against the province, Lawyer Robert Pineo conveyed that he is happy that all levels of government were able to come to an agreement and change the panel review into a public inquiry. The primary decision caused additional turmoil for the families but Pineo believes that the government has made the right decision. He claims that one of the families he spoke to was happy to hear that the public inquiry will commence.

Relief and happiness have resulted in response to the change for a public inquiry, as families were prepared to march for change on July 29th, 2020. However, they still plan to do so to show support for the families and what is yet to come. Early on July 28th, Mark Furey, Nova Scotia's Justice Minister said he would support the public inquiry if the federal government agreed. This statement came after the decision to appoint a review panel was met with resistance. The panel was announced the following week by the federal government jointly with the Nova Scotia government. With a panel review, witnesses cannot be subpoenaed and documents would be kept confidential with unclear guidelines as to whether the hearings would be publicly open, which has caused several concerns.

The MP for Kings-Hants, Kody Blois sent out a letter on behalf of all MPs in the province. On the announcement date, Blois stated in the letter, "The Nova Scotia Federal Liberal Caucus welcomes the announcement of a joint-review into the Nova Scotia mass shooting."

Subsequently, MP for Central Nova and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance, Sean Fraser expressed that he was upset that a review would take place rather than a public inquiry. Fraser went on to state that now is the time to listen to the public and to reconsider the decision, according to the needs of Nova Scotians. He has claimed that in the letter, his name was mentioned as a misunderstanding and that he should have been more clear of his opposition to being mentioned in the letter due to his conflicting views on the decision.

MP for Dartmouth-Cole Harbour, Darren Fisher expressed that he has been advocating for the inquiry to occur. Fisher proclaims that the joint review had good intentions, however, due to how severe this tragedy is, a

greater response is needed. [MP for Halifax, Andy Filmore](#) was also in agreement that an inquiry would be the best measure to move forward and assist in providing the families with much-needed answers and closure.

[MP for Cape Breton-Canso, Mike Kelloway](#) stated that he had heard the disappointment in the joint-review from his constituents. Kelloway stated that the families need and deserve an inquiry and that it is "the government's duty 'to uphold the values' of Nova Scotians and honour the families of the victims by moving forward with a full public inquiry and not a joint review."

[MP for Cumberland-Colchester, Lenore Zann](#) further stated that she is upset there was no consultation with her as many of the families were in her riding.

Furthermore, a public inquiry has been requested for several months by the family members of the victims. On July 27th, rallies were held in Halifax and Bridgewater to express these concerns.

[Nova Scotia's Finance Minister and MLA, Karen Casey](#) stated that there are many questions to answer and that she is in support of whatever means that will provide the families with answers. Casey also mentioned that she has been primarily concerned with the grieving process for the community and the need for answers. However, she believes these answers need to be given "in a way that provides confidence to the public."

[MP Chris d'Entremont](#) asserted that the inquiry is welcomed but also that there are questions that go along with it. These questions include why the inquiry was not called upon in the previous week, why the family members have had to fight for something should have been given as a right, as well as the question of how the process will be trusted as it has already had a flawed start.

[Tim Houston, Progressive Conservative Leader](#) made a final point, stating that he had called for a public inquiry and that "a review panel instead of a public inquiry was 'a slap in the face to the victims' families and all Nova Scotians."

New RISE program will offer free legal resources for sexual violence victims in PEI



A five-year funding agreement with Justice Canada, along with an additional \$200,000 funding agreement spanning two years offered by the PEI Department of Justice and Public Safety has allowed for the introduction of the new RISE program for victims of sexual violence. This program is being offered through a PEI based organization called [Community Legal Information \(CLI\)](#).

A key element of the program includes access to legal assistance, wherein individuals using the program can receive up to 4 hours of legal advice from lawyers who have been specially trained in trauma-informed practices. This is an important step on the path to supporting victims, as PEI's minister of justice and public safety, Bloyce Thompson, explained "these complex crimes have traumatic and long-lasting effects on the survivors." Thus it is of paramount importance that individuals receive support that is tailored to their specific needs while navigating these very complex matters.

Along with legal advice, RISE also aims to provide survivors with "additional educational, emotional and community supports to help them deal with the trauma of sexual violence." In order to aid in this holistic approach, the program staff will continuously work with "Rape and Sexual Assault Services, Victim Services of the Department of Justice and Public Safety and the legal community."

This program has been [framed](#) as a tool that can be used to navigate the justice system and ensure victims have all the information they need regarding their legal options. It is [available](#) to any individual living in PEI, as well as those who have experienced workplace sexual harassment or sexual violence while on PEI.

CLI has [explained](#) that this program is accessible to individuals 16 years old or over, however, they urge anyone

under this age who requires legal support to contact them, as they will provide help in finding support services tailored to those under 16 years old. Their contact page can be found [here](#).

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the RISE program you can by emailing info@legalinfopei.ca or calling **902-218-6143**.

Spotlight on Research

Progress report on the Canadian Victim Bill of Rights (CVBR) from the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime (OFOVC) set to be released in the Fall

Office of the
Federal Ombudsman
for Victims of Crime

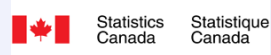


In a [statement released by the OFOVC](#) on July 23rd, the office is preparing a progress report on the CVBR to strengthen victims' rights. The report will detail recommendations so that legislation aligns with the needs of victims of crime.

The statement declares that "despite the CVBR, victims and survivors still feel that their rights are secondary to the constitutionally protected rights of the accused. Many survivors remain unaware of their rights or support services to help them recover."

In doing so, the OFOVC has launched a survey to seek feedback from victims and survivors across Canada about their experiences with the CVBR. The feedback will assist in informing various aspects of the report.

If you wish to participate, you can access the survey [here](#).



Perceptions of personal safety among population groups designated as visible minorities in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic

On July 8th, [Statistics Canada](#) published a report detailing aspects of personal safety for visible minorities since the COVID-19 pandemic began. According to the report, 14% of visibility minority respondents reported a perceived increase in neighbourhood crime. When compared to the rest of the population at 11%, this statistic suggests an increase in the visibility of minority respondents.

Additionally, 27% of visibility minority respondents reported that they "felt very or somewhat unsafe" walking home alone at night. Whereas only 15% of the rest of the population felt this way.

2017/18 study on shelters for victims of abuse with ties to Indigenous communities or organizations in Canada



On July 22nd, Statistics Canada released a study detailing the findings from a [2017-2018 Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse \(SRFVA\)](#).

Some of the findings include:

- On April 18th, 2018, 344 Indigenous women and 288 children reported accessing shelter services as a result of experiencing abuse.
- 72% of women in Indigenous shelters reported that their abuser was a current intimate partner and 9% by a former intimate partner. Emotional or psychological abuse and physical abuse were commonly reported (86% and 74% respectively)
- 65% of women in non-Indigenous shelters reported that their abuser was a current intimate partner and 19% by a former partner.
- For those who had to leave the shelter, 34% reported that they returned to live with their abuser, 26% went to live with friends/relatives, 20% went to another shelter, and 11% to the home where the abuser was no longer occupying.
- Reaching maximum capacity was reported as a primary contributing factor for Indigenous and non-Indigenous

shelters turning away victims of abuse.

- In 2017 and 2018, 962 beds were funded, 79 short-term beds were funded specifically in Indigenous shelters.
- Additionally, a lack of permanent housing was noted to be the most common challenge faced by Indigenous and non-Indigenous shelters.

To read the detailed report, click [here](#).



The COVID-19 pandemic: Impacts on Canadian victim services

Results of a survey that was conducted by Statistics Canada over June and July on the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on victim services have been released.

The survey aimed to gather information on the number of victims that victim services have been able to reach if there have been any changes in volume and any other notable impacts since the onset of the pandemic and as a result of the stay at home measures that have been taken.

Victim services across Canada have had to follow public health guidelines, and as a result, many have adjusted operations by closing physical offices and working from home where possible. By working from home and adapting to the changing nature of the pandemic, victim services were able to continue supporting their communities. When asked about changes made to their practices, 88% said they were able to shift to a work from home format. One positive change that has come from this situation relates to the use of new technologies to reach clients, with 62% of victim services responding that they have implemented some kind of new technology to communicate with clients. Some of these technologies included phone and/or video conferencing, online chat, and text messaging.

However, the victim service providers that were surveyed also highlighted key factors that hindered their ability to help clients. Difficulties in communicating with clients (38%) and lack of access to personal protective equipment (38%) made supporting clients difficult to a moderate or great extent.

While it was noted that the sample used in this survey was small and thus cannot speak to the experiences of all victim service providers, the findings point to various impacts that *may* be felt by others across the country.

When asked about changes to the number of victims reaching out for help and support, the results were quite evenly spread. It was found that among those surveyed, half saw no change in volume, 31% found there was an increase in victims served and the remaining 19% saw a decrease.

The response was quite different when asked specifically about domestic violence. In this case, 54% saw an increase, 29% said there was no increase, and the remaining 17% reported a decrease in domestic violence victims served. These mixed results point to important factors that have been intensified as a result of the pandemic and the measures that have been put into place due to it.

Those who saw an increase in victims seeking support point to the increased risk of violence when victims are forced to stay at home due to COVID-19 regulations. Others who saw a decrease, point to the fact that some victims may have diminished opportunity to report incidents or seek help due to the regulations.

Overall there have been notable changes in the way victim services are able to support clients, and while these findings only represent the experiences of those surveyed, it suggests that further research may be beneficial in order to understand the impact of COVID-19 on victim services across all of Canada.

To read the full report, click [here](#).

Quick Links

See what the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime has been up to. Read their Spring 2020 Newsletter [here](#).

21-year-old Mohamed Sow dies of injuries in the hospital after being shot in a brazen Toronto drive-by shooting. He is one of five people shot. The other four victims are expected to make full recoveries. Read more [here](#).

Manhunt for father in Quebec where two missing girls were found dead comes to an end as his body was found after police received a tip from a nearby resident. Read more [here](#).

'Joyful' and 'wise' eight-year-old who died in crash remembered. Read more [here](#).

Sudbury mom shares story of when her child was trafficked, stating that it can happen to anyone. Read more [here](#).

Upcoming Events



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.

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

You can also "like" the [CRCVC Facebook page](#) or follow on [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) to stay updated about the support group dates. We welcome all family and loved ones to join us!



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

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

Email: info@madd.ca



