



[How We Help](#)

[About Us](#)

[Resources](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Donate Now](#)



EMPOWER

Please **share our free newsletter** with your colleagues and friends or sign up to receive it directly by clicking [here](#).

We respectfully acknowledge the CRCVC office is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Omàmiwininiwag (Algonquin peoples) Nation.

Text: Our number is 613-208-0747

Chat: Please access through our [website](#).

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

[Donate Now](#)

Rather than celebrating, we are observing this Canada Day. We are acknowledging the dark history of colonization within this country. We are reflecting on Canada's role in the legacy of residential schools. Our hearts go out to all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. Our hearts are heavy thinking of the pain Indigenous peoples are experiencing as unmarked mass graves of children continue being found.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada outlined 94 Calls to Action meant to advance reconciliation and bridge the systemic gaps faced by Indigenous peoples.

In the seven years since the report was published, there has been very little progress.

Reconciliation before celebration.

[#DecolonizeNOW](#)



Changes are Coming! CRCVC is Updating its Publications!

The field of victimology and victim services is always changing. Victims are facing new issues every day and may not know where to turn for help. CRCVC is always here to provide emotional and practical support for those affected by crime. As such, we are making changes and updating our publications so

that victims can get the most up-to-date information available.

You might have noticed on our website that we have published a number of updated publications including [Resiliency](#), [Victim Blaming in Canada](#), [Elder Abuse](#), [Homicide Loss: Dealing with Grief for Survivors](#), and [How to Talk to Children about Murder/Homicide](#). Keep an eye out as we continue to update our publications for victims!

National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism



June 23rd 2022 marked the 37th anniversary of when many lost their loved ones to the 1985 terrorist attack on Air India flight 182. This appalling act left families and friends grieving the loss of their loved ones and shook our country to its core.

Thus, June 23rd now marks the National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism in Canada, where all lives lost to terrorist attacks are remembered and honoured at ceremonies all over the country.

The inspiring story of Susheel Gupta is one that the CRCVC team will never forget and continue to share. Susheel lost his mother to the attack on Air India flight 182. This tragedy motivated Susheel to help victims of terrorism and crime as a professional career.

We encourage you to read [Susheel's story](#) and to remember the lives lost during the June 23rd attack on Air India flight 182.

The CRCVC never forgets.

JUST Committee New Study: Government's Obligation to Victims of Crime

A meeting was held on Friday, June 17, 2022, by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights regarding a new study about the government's obligation to victims of crime.

The purpose of this meeting was to address the government's obligation to victims of crime, including the vacant position of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime and the comprehensive review of the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights (CVBR).

The Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights have had previous meetings regarding the CVBR in the summer of 2021, yet nothing came of them. The meetings in regard to this study were cancelled and were not expected to be rescheduled. This was devastating news as many victim services organizations and victims were intended to voice their opinions to the Committee.

The Justice Committee has since renamed this study the "Government's Obligation to Victims of Crime."

The Committee invited the Executive Director of the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC), Aline Vlasceanu, as a witness to speak about victims' rights. The Committee also invited Dr. Benjamin Roebuck, research chair and professor of victimology and public safety at Algonquin College and Heidi Illingworth, Executive Director of Ottawa Victim Services, as witnesses to the meeting.

"Victims' rights are not an abstract topic. They have real-life consequences for victims and survivors of crime". That was Dr. Benjamin Roebuck's initial statement as the first witness to address the Committee.

For victims of crime, there are real consequences to not being informed, such as missing opportunities to participate in hearings and share concerns about their personal safety. No one in the current criminal justice system is being held accountable for providing the information that victims are entitled to, such as requesting information about the perpetrator, under the CVBR.

The unfortunate truth is that victims of crime are unable to bring forward a challenge to court if their rights have not been upheld, they may only file a complaint. Aline Vlasceanu says, "There are no real tangible remedies available when their rights under the Act are violated."

In 2015, the CVBR was enacted, including a requirement to review the Bill after five years. It has now been seven years and a review has not yet taken place.

The CVBR currently "prevents victims from legally enforcing their rights", according to the former Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime, Heidi Illingworth. She mentions that the act's implementation has "been a failure", which is why she recommended the act be amended when she was Ombudsman.

To this day, no amendments have been made to the CVBR and victims remain "retraumatized by a system that should be protecting them," as the Executive Director of CRCVC stated.

There are important steps to take in ensuring that victims feel like equal participants in justice processes. Heidi Illingworth, notes that "training is essential for Crown officials." Victims need to be guided through any criminal justice process and this all starts by implementing sensitivity training and general training around victims' rights. There needs to be a "consistent approach to how we support victims as they're going through the difficult process of giving evidence in court," Heidi adds.

Heidi Illingworth believes that "all police be required to provide a victims' rights information card to victims" upon initial contact. For victims of crime, these cards would give victims the necessary information to exercise their rights as outlined in the CVBR, such as the right to information, protection, participation, and restitution.

Aline Vlasceanu also discusses the importance of having the position of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime filled. It isn't easy telling victims that "the position is vacant when they think there is someone there".

The Federal Ombudsman in many ways acts as a voice for victims of crime in an unjust criminal justice

system. According to Aline Vlasceanu, “a lot of victims feel that it underlines the fact that [they] don’t necessarily have a voice within the system in Canada”. It’s often “revictimizing” for victims knowing there is an open position, but not enough investment to have someone fill it.

This is especially true during the COVID-19 pandemic as the virtual service delivery of court hearings has changed so much. Dr. Roebuck goes on to mention that this meant “many gaps have been created and so many people whose cases had added complexities still need resolution”. Having the position vacant throughout the pandemic implies that all of those adaptations are still ongoing, meaning “that a lot of people are left without help and resources and need somebody who’s looking into those issues”.

These issues raised by the Committee’s witnesses are of great concern to crime victims and to all of us at CRCVC. We stand with every victim who feels as if they are being disregarded by our justice system as we continue to advocate for stronger and more effective rights.

Survey – To Better Understand the Treatment of Immigrant and Racialized Women

Immigrant Women Services Ottawa (IWSO) and community partners are inviting immigrant and racialized women to take part in a survey to better understand their experience with the police in Ottawa. This survey is between 10-20 minutes long and is voluntary.

You must be at least 18 years old, be an immigrant and racialized woman who has experienced violent crimes or experienced controlling behaviour by a partner or family member.

The survey is available in 7 languages. You will be able to find the links here: [English](#), [French](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Farsi](#), [Mandarin](#), and [Arabic](#). If you wish to have a paper copy, all surveys are available on the [IWSO website](#).

The survey will close on August 31st, 2022 with hopes of having a report with recommendations for Ottawa Police Service in the Fall of 2022.

Highlighting the Work of our Victim Support Workers!

Our very own victim support worker, Katherine, just published her first co-authored [paper](#)! This collaborative paper was led by Professor of Victimology at Algonquin College, Benjamin Roebuck.

The article discusses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on victim services across the country and on the well-being of victim service providers. Extensive stay-at-home orders and lockdown mandates exacerbated stress levels and increased anxiety and depression at both the individual and collective levels.

The purpose of this article is to examine how repeated exposure to the resilience of survivors can help service providers build their own personal resiliency to better understand their experience and well-being throughout the pandemic.

Congratulations Katherine and team!

2022 CRCVC Advocacy Award

Congratulations to Algonquin College Victimology student, Aisling McCoy, who won the 2021-2022 CRCVC advocacy award!

It is awarded to a graduating student in the Victimology Program who embodies a solid work ethic, integrity, cooperation, knowledge, excellence and determination in their student life, academic achievements, involvement in the community and/or in the practicum.

Aisling is pictured alongside CRCVC Director, Development Bernie Forestell.

The award is well deserved. **Congratulations Aisling!**



Upcoming Events

Monthly Homicide Support Group

Please note that our Homicide Support Group is paused for July and August 2022. We will resume our monthly sessions in September 2022, with a special guest!

Our [Homicide Support Group](#) is for family members, friends and close loved ones of homicide victims and is intended to offer peer support to



NATIONAL

MONTHLY HOMICIDE SUPPORT GROUP

No July/August sessions but we will resume in September!

See you in the fall!

those dealing with violent loss. This support group is offered nationally meaning that we can connect with and support survivors from across the country.

English only.

To RSVP: email us at crcvc@crcvc.ca or call us at 1-877-232-2610

Donate Today

Charitable Registration #13552 8701 RR0001

