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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](#).

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This year, CRCVC is celebrating our 30th anniversary! Thanks to all of your support, we've been able to bring meaningful change to victims of crime and their families over the last 30 years. The mission of this organization wouldn't have been accomplished without the efforts of our team, our sponsors and partnerships, as well as our donors, so thank you!

If you or your organization is interested in supporting CRCVC during its 30th anniversary, please email us at crcvc@crcvc.ca or make a [donation here today](#).

Improving Support for Victims of Crime

The Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights has recently concluded its [report](#) outlining 13 recommendations for change regarding the need for better support for victims of crime across Canada. The Committee held nine meetings within the last two years on the status of victims' rights in Canada to address "the shortcomings of current legislative and policy measures available to victims of crime".

The CRCVC stays committed to helping improve victims' rights and ensuring that support is available to them. Below are some highlighted recommendations from the report along with what CRCVC has done in the last 30 years to help victims of crime.

Recommendation 2 suggests that the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights be amended to establish a right to access victim assistance and support. CRCVC helped with the implementation of the CVBR in 2015 with participating organizations and Heidi Illingworth indicated the importance of examining the lack of access to victims' services, including mental health support. According to [Aline Vlasceanu](#), our Executive Director, adequate resources are the biggest hurdle to accessing mental health support. Currently, there are several gaps that diminish the understanding of the impacts of the CVBR. There is an overall lack of assistance and according to Heidi Illingworth, "there is a lack of data collected, reported and recorded at all levels in relation to the rights that are provided in the bill". It's important to address these gaps and encourage the government to adopt a victim-centered approach to protect them. The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime will continue to support and play a key role in any amendments to the bill with participating organizations, such as Ottawa Victim Services (OVS) and the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime (OFOVC).

Recommendation 3 suggests that the Minister of Justice, its provincial and territorial counterparts, and victim and community organizations should collectively determine a set of minimum standards for support to be made accessible to victims of crime in Canada, including mental health support. In addition, that increased funding be provided to provinces and territories to improve the accessibility of support services for victims. This recommendation comes after several witnesses shared with the Committee their concern about the lack of accessible mental health services for victims in Canada. As described by our Executive Director, [Aline Vlasceanu](#), "long waitlists, minimal compensation, and the limited number of therapy sessions available to each victim are barriers for victims trying to access services." Some victims even have to resort to paying for therapy services out-of-pocket which can present challenges if they do not have the resources to pay. Victims deserve to feel supported throughout their healing journey, and this includes receiving adequate financial compensation to access necessary support services.

Recommendation 5 proposes that the Department of Justice develops standardized training procedures to inform criminal justice personnel across Canada about the rights of victims. This would establish national standards for the treatment of victims, and criminal justice personnel would be responsible for ensuring that victims have access to the rights as outlined in the law. At the CRCVC, we strive to advance victims' rights and increase public awareness of victims' issues by providing continuing education to stakeholders, professionals, the government, and the public. We provide submissions, recommendations, information, and presentations to all levels of government to ensure the interests and perspectives of victims are upheld.

Recommendation 6 asks the Department of Justice to lead a national and public campaign informing all Canadians of their rights as a victim of crime. Out of consideration for victims of crime and their interests, at CRCVC we educate the public via reports and publications in the media, social media, our monthly newsletter, and our website. We also promote victims' and their family's access to information regarding issues that affect them. To respectfully inform the public of issues facing victims of crime, CRCVC conducts workshops and presentations at community events, conferences, and post-secondary institutions.

Recommendation 9 asks the government of Canada to consult with victims to examine the current parole board process and to work to improve it to better serve victims and their families. At CRCVC, we offer registration assistance, representation, and accompaniment to parole hearings, among other things. A favourable parole board process for victims' and family participation would be decided by them and could possibly incorporate victim impact statements.

Recommendation 11 asks that victims be consulted before a publication ban is imposed. The House of Commons Justice Committee has stated that publication bans are necessary in some cases and should remain available. However, the committee has recommended that victims be consulted before a ban is imposed. A victim-centred approach like this is important in giving victims a choice. Publication bans are often used to protect the identity of sexual assault victims. However, some victims have said that they had to "[fight to use their own names](#)".

Recommendation 13 asks that effective means be developed to help victims enforce restitution orders. Heidi Illingworth, the executive director of Ottawa Victim Services, says that currently, [enforcing a restitution order falls on the victim](#). The burden to enforce an order should be placed on the state, as they are already [responsible for collecting the fines](#). At CRCVC we believe that when possible, offenders should provide compensation to victims of crime in the form of restitution. We have provided information on and spread awareness about the need for restitution orders, and the process of obtaining them in

different provinces, through our publications.

If you would like to read the full report from the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights discussing recommendations to improve support for victims of crime, as well as read more about the study on the federal government's obligations to victims of crime, click [here](#).

Caliber Communications Raises Just Over \$5,000 for Victims of Crime

For the second consecutive year, Caliber Communications pledged \$1.25 to the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime for every crime their innovative technology deterred in the month of December.

Caliber Communications is an industry-leading security technology company that uses patented cellular video monitoring platforms, proprietary artificial intelligence systems, and innovative security peripherals. These provided tools are important in the *early detection and deterrence of criminal activity before it happens*.

We are pleased to announce that this innovative fundraising idea helped raise \$5142.50 by deterring 4114 crimes across Canada!

Once again, we would like to thank Caliber Communications for partnering with us for the second consecutive year and helping us raise money for victims of crime across the country.

Learn more about Caliber Communications by visiting their [website](#) here and check out their Deterrence December 2022 blog [here](#)!

Twitter: @caliber_comms

LinkedIn: Caliber Communications

Facebook: Caliber Communications



Every crime has a victim and we support victims of some of the most terrible crimes. Survivors turn to us for help as they navigate the justice system and we could not be there for them without your support.

As we mark our thirtieth anniversary in 2023, we reflect on some of the system changes we were able to advocate for on behalf of our clients who come from all over Canada.

Consider giving the gift of hope today.

Your donation allows us to focus on their immediate needs while continuing to work with all levels of government to ensure fair and equitable treatment for the often-forgotten victims of crime.

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CRCVC's 30th Anniversary Sponsors

We would like to give a huge shoutout to STICKERYOU for generously donating personalized stickers and magnets for the CRCVC's upcoming 30th anniversary. The quality is incredible and everything they have comes in any shape, size, and design you want.

Thank you StickerYou for your generous donation and for supporting CRCVC! Check out their website [here](#).



Branded Matter

We would also like to give a shoutout to Branded Matter for generously donating personalized CRCVC keychains! Branded Matter has been designing and creating custom-branded products from coins and lapel pins to engraved and custom-manufactured keychains since 2010.



Branded Matter

They specialize in working with government entities, the healthcare industry, educational organizations, and other businesses to create unique and high-quality products that accurately reflect their brand and messaging. Branded Matter's team of experienced designers has a wealth of knowledge and expertise in creating custom metal and engraved items and is dedicated to providing exceptional customer service and support throughout the design process.

Thank you Branded Matter for the incredibly high-quality keychains! You can visit their website [here](#).

Interested in joining CRCVC as a partner for our 30th anniversary? Contact us at crcvc@crcvc.ca.

Visit our [Partners Page](#).

[Partners Page](#)

Upcoming Events

Monthly Homicide Support Group

Our **Homicide Support Group** is for family members, friends and close loved ones of homicide victims and is intended to offer peer support to those dealing with violent loss. This support group is offered nationally meaning that we can connect with and support survivors from across the country. *English only.*

When: February 23, 2023 at 6:30 pm EST

Where: Virtually

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



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