



[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](#)

This year, CRCVC is celebrating its 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 support and efforts of our team, our sponsors and partners, our donors and of course, readers like you! Thank you.

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

---

**Only a Fraction of Fraud Cases Make it Through Ontario's Justice System**

Over the last decade, **fraud cases have surged**, but only a very small amount of these cases have resulted in criminal charges. Many issues contribute to the lack of charges being laid in these cases, some of these being lack of resources, lack of specialized expertise, and the prioritization of more violent offences.

Last year Canadians reported losing around **416 million dollars** to fraud. In addition, annual reports of fraud are continuously rising. However, of those cases that are prosecuted, and where an offender is given jail time, 51% are sentenced to 1 month or less. There is no real sense of justice in cases of fraud.

Scams destroy the lives of victims, though there is rarely any real justice for them. Even if offenders are ordered to pay, the onus is on the victim to recover their funds. There is also a lack of empathy for victims. Anyone can become a victim of these types of scams and have their lives altered. This is why it is so important that this issue is addressed and that victims begin to receive the help they need when dealing with a fraud case.

### **What about the state of affairs?**

CBC News recounts the ordeal endured by a woman who was the victim of fraud perpetrated by her ex-husband. This woman says that her mortgage debt, which should be cleared in 10 years, has been extended to 25 years following this criminal act. Therefore she, and around forty other victims, followed the criminal case against her ex-husband until the pronouncement of the judgment. He was sentenced in June 2018 to 14 years in prison for fraud against at least 41 victims between 2007 and 2008. By weighing the period of detention before the trial (currently repealed), his sentence was reduced to 4 years.

The judge also ordered him to pay an amount of around \$11 million in damages over a 10-year period. In 2019, the offender was released on parole but a few months later, he returned to prison for having resumed the same criminal activity. Despite the revocation of his parole, the offender was free again in June 2020 after having served his sentence. Unfortunately, his ex-wife has not received any of the compensation ordered by the judge.

In its investigations, CBC Toronto noted the following:

1. Ontario's highly congested court system is failing to tackle and deter the skyrocketing cases of fraud in the province.
2. Even victims whose cases result in a conviction struggle to recover the money they lost in the legal process.

Ontario is also ignoring the outcome of ordered restitution for crime victims. CBC indicates that the Justice in Ontario ordered perpetrators of fraud to pay approximately half a billion dollars in damages to the victims. However, the provincial government does not know what has been paid for this amount as they cannot centrally track the results. Lawyers and defenders of victims say that decisions on restitution are regularly forgotten and that it is up to the victims to go to the civil judge to have these decisions made enforceable. The burden of this procedure is unfortunately placed on the victims, which results in revictimization.

According to CBC News, over the past decade compensation given to victims amounted to only 23% of the amount awarded by justice in Ontario. On the question of why the Attorney General's office cannot know the amount of restitution recovered, or whether they have a plan to put in place an enforcement mechanism for compensation, as some other provinces (Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Prince Edward Island) have already done, its spokesperson mentions that these issues relate to the wide variety of settlement methods offered. In these cases, compensation is paid either directly to the court, to the victim, or even to their lawyer. According to the spokesperson, this situation does not allow for centralized monitoring. The Executive Director of the Canadian Resource Center for Victims of Crime (CRCVC), Aline Vlasceanu, deplores the fact that **"there are no statistics on what is really going on"**. For her, "[t]he first step is to understand what we are dealing with. So to stay alert, to have those stats handy, would be huge."

### **Between criminal procedure and civil procedure; what can we choose?**

Norman Groot, a civil fraud recovery lawyer in Toronto, points out that the criminal route is rarely effective in recovering fraud-related losses. According to him, in most of these cases, the procedure comes to an end when the money is no longer there. He advises his clients to use the civil route first, as it moves a little faster. Groot states that "[if] we can actually start tracing money and try to freeze assets even before the bandit knows that his gig is up, that is the best chance of recovery,". The issue that remains is that victims who have already lost money to fraud still have to spend more to pay their lawyers. The civil procedure is only cost-effective when the amount lost due to fraud is substantial. Victims of fraud who do not have the means, or whose stake is not significant enough, do not know what to do to recover their money. This situation encourages fraudsters and discourages victims.

### **What measures are in place or planned to resolve the problem?**

Efforts to combat fraud began with the creation of the Serious Fraud Office (FOS) which has led to a significant reduction in fraud cases. The Director of SFO for the province of Ontario states that fraud investigations are very complicated. It would be very difficult to have a Crown prosecutor appointed at the

end of the investigation, to be able to understand the case and to prosecute it effectively. “Extending fraud specialization from police to prosecutors is one way to address the roughly half of fraud charges Crown lawyers end up dropping in Ontario,” says Peter German, the president of the International Center for Criminal Law Reform in Ontario.

Fraud has serious and negative consequences for everyone. The SFO Director for Ontario Police suggests creating a critical mass in terms of understanding this impact.

But, what about the issue of compensation for victims of fraud? We believe that the government must take the issue of enforcement measures into its own hands. As Aline Vlasceanu, the Executive Director of the Canadian Resource Center for Victims of Crime has indicated, it is not right to place this burden on the victims and leave them to fend for themselves. [She adds](#) that the psychological, social, financial impact and emotional impact that fraud has on victims is as serious as when it comes to a violent crime. In its December 2022 session, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights recommended: “that the Department of Justice work with provinces and territories to agree on effective means of assisting victims in enforcing restitution orders.” To read the full report, click [here](#).

With this in mind, and in light of the progress seen in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Prince Edward Island, we hope that government-run mechanisms will be put in place in Ontario to help enforce, and track compensation orders for victims of fraud.

---

## Doulas in Ontario Say They Are Victims of Fraud by A Woman Now Facing Dozens of Charges

Kaitlyn Braun, a woman from Brantford, Ontario, is now facing [more than 30 charges](#) including fraud, sexual assault, and criminal harassment. Braun allegedly sought care from doulas across the province to assist her in false births and false stillbirths from June 2022 to February 2023. Victims say that this experience has altered their lives.

Over the course of a year, Braun contacted multiple doulas and stated that she was pregnant as a result of a sexual assault and had no support. Many doulas had compassion for Braun’s situation and agreed to help her. One of the victims, Seanna Hayes, [says](#) that during their time together Braun made numerous excuses for why she didn’t need to go to a hospital. Hayes became suspicious and called the hospital. The staff at the hospital told her that they never told a pregnant patient to stay home. Braun was eventually convinced to go to the hospital where Hayes overheard a doctor tell Braun that she was not pregnant. Another doula, Amy Silva, said that Braun’s labour seemed normal and that to her there were no red flags. She stated that Braun was very convincing and good at acting.

The three victims involved in this case, say that their encounters with Braun have taken a toll on their lives. One of the doulas, Abigail Diensch, said that Braun has agreed to pay her \$800 for her services, which is compensation that she never received. She also stated, “my kids spent two days at their grandma’s because I wasn’t able to be home with them. Had it gone on any longer I would’ve had to cancel other work.” Seanna Hayes now questions any potential client who reaches out to her, and according to Silva, many doulas who would normally not charge for their services, are now considering doing so.

---

## Victim Complaints: 2021-2022 Annual Report

In November 2022, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) published its annual report discussing victim complaints and the various times in which the CSC didn’t fully uphold victims’ rights under the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights (CVBR).

In the report, the issues raised by the victims in the 11 *admissible* complaints in 2021-2022 can be summarized as “timeliness of sharing offender-related information and the accuracy of that information; and consideration of victim concerns within case management processes/decisions”. The report states that the delays in response to complaints were mainly due to “detailed consultations with the institutions/community sites and regions involved, and with the policyholders at National Headquarters”, and the consultations gave more visibility to victims’ issues.

Based on the review and analysis of the complaints CSC received in 2021-2022, they have “identified challenges associated with upholding two of the four victim rights (Right to Information and Right to Participation), as well as opportunities for improvement going forward”.

If you would like to read the full annual report, click [here](#).

---

## Lancement du guide de la série Droits et recours des victimes d'actes criminels

Le 28 février 2023 en Montréal, L'Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes (AQPV) a lancé son nouveau [guide de la série Droits et recours des victimes d'actes criminels](#) « Contester une décision de l'IVAC devant le Tribunal administratif du Québec (TAQ) ».

Selon Arlène Gaudreault, la présidente de l'Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes, le guide est **gratuit** et s'adresse à toutes les personnes victimes qui contestent une décision de l'Indemnisation des victimes d'actes criminels (IVAC) devant le TAQ, notamment celles qui ne sont pas représentées par une personne avocate. C'est aussi un outil précieux pour les personnes qui apportent du soutien aux victimes d'actes criminels et à leurs proches. Le Centre Canadien de Ressources pour les Victimes de Crime (CCRVC) a aidé plusieurs clients contestant une décision de l'Indemnisation des victimes d'actes criminels (IVAC) et continue de lutter pour les victimes. De plus, le CCRVC priorise la connexion des victimes aux ressources d'aide et aux informations, ainsi, nous supportons les objectifs de l'Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes et leur guide.

Vous pouvez consulter le guide [ici](#) et la partager au sein de vos réseaux, pour rejoindre à la fois les victimes et les personnes intervenantes.

## Comedy Night Fundraiser

CRCVC is excited to announce its comedy night fundraiser on May 4th, 2023. The evening will commence at 8:30 pm with the performances of two special comedians (TBD) and will last until about 10:00 pm.

Thanks to our generous sponsors and donors, there will also be a raffle at the end of the night. You'll be able to win spectacular prizes from Happibeer Brewing Company, Escape Manor, OSEG, Level One Game Pub, and Equator Coffee Shop! Stay tuned for updates on what you could win. Raffle tickets will be sold only for cash.

You can purchase tickets to attend this special event at our office located at 100-141 Catherine Street, Ottawa ON, K2P 1C3. We accept **cash only** for the purchase of tickets.

All proceeds made from the show and raffle tickets will go directly to CRCVC to help us continue the work we do in supporting victims of crime.

*Please note, you must reserve your table directly through the venue. For full details, please [click here](#).*

Can't make it but still want to support? Buy a ticket and gift it! Or simply donate by visiting our [website](#).

## Upcoming Events

### Special Guest Edition: Homicide Support Group

In April, our **Homicide Support Group** warmly welcomes **Duane T. Bowers** as a special guest! His current professional activities include working with survivors of trauma, child exploitation and trafficking which includes providing support to families of abducted, missing, exploited, trafficked and murdered victims as well as professional staff working directly in the field. Duane is responsible for the development of support, clinical supervision and training of staff and volunteers for a variety of organizations that deal with these issues in the US and Canada.

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:** April 27th, 2023 at 6:30 pm EST

**Where:** Virtually

**To RSVP:** email us at [crcvc@crcvc.ca](mailto:crcvc@crcvc.ca) or call us at **1-877-232-2610**



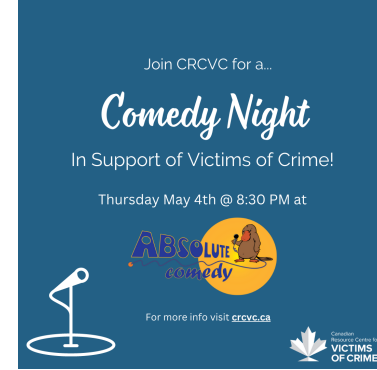
## Comedy Night Fundraiser

CRCVC is excited to announce its comedy night fundraiser on **May 4th, 2023**.

Thanks to our generous sponsors and donors, there will also be a raffle at the end of the night. Bring cash, and you'll have a chance to win spectacular prizes from Happibeer Brewing Company, Escape Manor, OSEG, Level One Game Pub, and Equator Coffee Shop!

You can purchase tickets at our office, located at 100-141 Catherine Street, Ottawa ON, K2P 1C3. **Cash only**.

All proceeds made from the show and raffle tickets will go directly to CRCVC which will allow us to continue supporting victims across Canada.



*Please note, you must reserve your table directly through the venue. For full details, [visit our website](#).*

Can't make it but still want to support? Buy a ticket and gift it!

Or simply donate by visiting our [website](#).

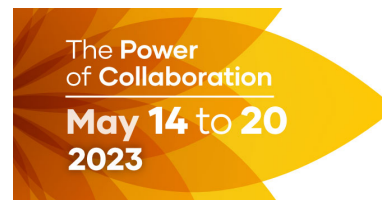
**When:** May 4th, 2023 at 8:30 pm EST

**Where:** 412 Preston Street, Ottawa, ON K1S 4M9

**For ticket purchases:** please email us at [crcvc@crcvc.ca](mailto:crcvc@crcvc.ca) or call us at 1-877-232-2610

## Victims and Survivors of Crime Week

As part of Victims and Survivors of Crime Week 2023, CRCVC is planning a virtual expert panel discussion: "30 Years of Victim Rights in Canada with CRCVC: A Review".



**Victims and Survivors of Crime Week**

In line with this year's theme, The Power of Collaboration, the panel will discuss victim rights issues, achievements in the field of victimology, the Canadian Victim Bill of Rights and its recent review, as well as gaps and limitations in our criminal justice system along with ways in which we can narrow such gaps.

Panellists include:

- Heidi Illingworth, Executive Director, Ottawa Victim Services
- Steve Sullivan, CEO, MADD Canada
- Irvin Waller, PhD, Professor Emeritus University of Ottawa
- Arlène Goudreault, Présidente de l'Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes
- Benjamin Roebuck, PhD, Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime
- Alain-Guy Sipowo, Professeur adjoint, École de criminologie à l'Université de Montréal

This event will be hosted for free online, via Zoom, in both English and French.

**When:** May 16th, 2023 at 12:00 pm EST

**Where:** Virtually (via Zoom)

[Register today!](#)

[Donate Today](#)

Charitable Registration #13552 8701 RR0001

