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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 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 or make a [donation here today](#).

[New Legislation Introduced to National Sex Offender Registry](#)

Senator Marc Gold, on behalf of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, introduced new legislation on April 26, 2023, addressing aspects of the Criminal Code pertaining to the National Sex Offender Registry. The new legislation is in response to the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling in [R v Ndhlovu](#). This legislation is more sympathetic to victims' needs, ensures that sexual assault survivors and their families feel confident in the criminal justice system, and helps increase public safety.

The [Government of Canada](#) released what the proposed changes entail and explains how they help guarantee that the National Sex Offender Registry continues to aid in the prevention and investigation of sexual crimes while protecting [The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#). The proposed changes would:

- respond directly to the Supreme Court's decision in [Ndhlovu](#) by changing the registration criteria for sexual offenders. For example:
 - serious child sexual offenders would be registered automatically.
 - repeat sexual offenders would be registered automatically.
 - all other sexual offenders must be registered unless they can demonstrate that they pose no risk to the community.
- strengthen the national response to sexual offending by:
 - adding offences, including the non-consensual sharing of intimate images and extortion, to a list of offences that may result in registration on the National Sex Offender Registry.
 - give law enforcement additional enforcement and compliance tools.
- empower victims and improve the law on publication bans by:
 - requiring judges to ask prosecutors if they have sought victim input on whether to impose a publication ban.
 - clarifying the process for modifying or revoking a ban.
- require judges to ask if victims want to receive ongoing information about their case after sentencing, and ensure that their wishes, if known, are entered into the record of the proceedings.

Hence, these changes in legislation will ensure that offenders continue to be registered in the National Sexual Offender Registry while giving judges the discretion to exempt certain offenders, such as low-risk re-offenders.

Victims of Domestic Abuse Now Have a Safe Way to Testify

The traumatization that victims and survivors of domestic violence face does not end once charges are laid or they flee their abusers. The ordeal of facing the person who harmed them as they testify during court proceedings can retraumatize them. As a result, many victims and survivors are reluctant to testify. They do not want to subject themselves to it. Being able to access a remote safe space to testify may increase the likelihood of victims and survivors' willingness to participate in court proceedings.

The [Calgary Herald](#) reported that Calgary, Alberta now has a new remote safe space for victims of domestic abuse to use when they testify. This space is designed specifically for victims of domestic violence to testify without having to face their abuser in court. HomeFront, a non-profit organization, and the provincial government created a remote room separate and away from the courthouse in order to help support victims and survivors when testifying.

The trauma-informed room provided by HomeFront is furnished with video equipment to encourage victims and survivors to testify outside of the courthouse with the hopes of bringing more abusers to justice.

The room gives the opportunity to victims and survivors of domestic violence to have a voice in court while establishing a more trauma-informed, victim-centred environment. The importance of having this trauma-informed approach when aiding victims and survivors to testify is immensely valuable. Adopting a trauma-informed approach means that victims and survivors of domestic violence are treated with the understanding that the violence they experience is not their fault and strives to eliminate retraumatization often experienced during court proceedings.

Keira's Law - Bill-C223

In February 2020, four-year-old Keira Kagan and her father, Robin Brown were both found dead at the bottom of a cliff in Milton, Ontario. Although the cause of death was deemed inconclusive, Keira's mother Jennifer Kagan, and a group of family violence experts strongly believe it was a murder-suicide, or retaliation from the father, for the mother ending their marriage. According to news reports such as [CBC News](#) and [Global News](#), Kagan and Brown divorced sometime in 2016, and extensive litigation was needed in family court afterward, according to reports during this time Kagan repeatedly warned the courts about Brown's abusive behaviour and even went to court seeking protection for Keira.

Bill C223, also known as Keira's law, aims to help expand judges' training to include domestic violence and coercive control. Many warning signs and risk factors were reported by Keira's mother and dismissed. During one of the trials, Kagan was talking to the judge about domestic violence and parenting, and how those factors affect their daughter, but the judge told her that "domestic violence is not relevant to parenting". Keira's law was created and implemented to help judges understand and consider domestic violence and coercive control when making their decisions. Keira's law was passed by the Canadian Senate and will come into effect 30 days after it receives royal assent.

According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2021 the rate and reports of family violence against children and youth rose about 9% higher than it was in 2019 and has been rising for the past three years. The number of reported family violence against children was also nearly double for girls, than it was for boys. Rates of domestic violence have steadily been increasing, and unfortunately, the judges that are assigned to making decisions within the family justice system have little knowledge of the signs and risks of domestic and intimate partner violence.

Kiera's law, or Bill C-223, was created and will soon be implemented to help change the way courts, judges, and those in power view domestic abuse and intimate partner violence. Many children each year fall victim to abuse and family violence, and the individuals in the power of making family court decisions do not have the proper education to understand the severity of the risk levels shown. Therefore Kiera's law will help to teach, educate, and expand judges' knowledge when making such decisions.

New Specialized Training Program Offered Program Offered to Healthcare Workers While Dealing With Sexual Assault Victims

When it comes to victims of sexual assault accessing support in rural Alberta, many victims must travel long distances where they can access the essential care and services they need. According to [CBC News](#) and [Global News](#), the Government of Alberta invested \$1 million to help fund Grande Prairie's Northwestern Polytechnic online specialized training course: Rural Sexual Assault Care-Expanded. It will help teach healthcare professionals such as registered nurses, nurse practitioners, doctors, and midwives how to offer trauma-informed care to survivors of sexual assaults. This course is offered online, includes 10 -12 hours of self-paced learning materials and must be completed within 90 days of starting the course.

The main objective of this program is to focus on the assessment, intervention, and collection of forensic evidence and court testimonies while also aiming to help familiarize healthcare workers with sexual assault training and build on the emotional skills needed when treating survivors of sexual assault.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the difficulties that survivors in rural areas may go through when trying to receive access to the essential care and services they need, they also recognize how victims of sexual assault need urgent medical attention. Training rural healthcare providers will hopefully allow survivors better access to help and justice.

In Their Words: Student Field Placements at CRCVC

Abby

Hello, my name is Abby! I am a student at Carleton University in the Criminology and Criminal Justice Program. I had the privilege of having my placement at the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime. Throughout my time here I have learned a great deal about victims of crime, their needs, and what needs to be done to improve victim support. I have had the opportunity to converse with victims through CRCVC's chat and text where I offered support and resources, which contributed greatly to my knowledge. I also wrote a number of pieces in CRCVC's monthly newsletter which allowed me to stay up to date on current issues facing victims of crime.

I would like to say a huge thank you to my supervisor, and to all of my colleagues at CRCVC for welcoming me, and for providing me with the opportunity to work for this organization. I am grateful to have learned so much about so many important topics, and I will take this knowledge with me into my future.

Rose

Hello! My name is Rose and I am completing a Masters of Social Work at the University of Ottawa and will be graduating in September. I was able to learn a lot during my field placement at the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime and I'm incredibly grateful to have been allowed to work with the team.

During my placement at CRCVC, I learned about resources available to victims of crime and learned how to best support them through our online chat. I gained knowledge about the Canadian Victim Bill of Rights and how organizations offer recommendations on how to make it better. Under the supervision of the

team, I got the chance to write a letter to the Minister to offer recommendations to the CVBR through inspiration from reports written by the House of Commons and the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime. Among other experiences, I was also able to expand my knowledge of the different forms of victimization and difficulties with accessibility when it comes to victim assistance. I'm thankful for the experience I got during my placement with CRCVC and will carry that knowledge with me as a future social worker involved with the criminal justice system.

Upcoming Events

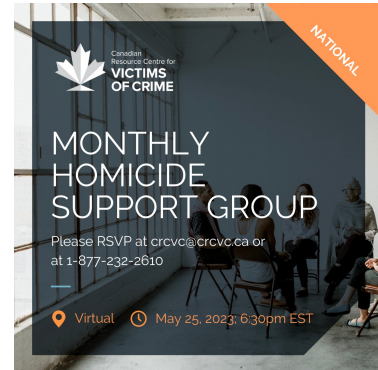
Homicide Support Group

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: May 25th, 2023 at 6:30 pm EST

Where: Virtually

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



Comedy Night Fundraiser

In May, CRCVC is excited to announce its comedy night fundraiser! The evening will have performances from Headliner Olivia Arrington and MC Julien Dionne featuring Nick Peron.

There will also be a raffle, thanks to our generous sponsors and donors, so bring cash and prepare to win some awesome prizes!

You will be able to purchase raffle tickets before and throughout the night. Winners will be chosen at the end of the night.

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 or call us at 1-877-232-2610



Victims and Survivors of Crime Week

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

The Power
of Collaboration
**May 14 to 20
2023**

**Victims
and
Survivors
of Crime
Week**

In line with this year's theme of 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.

The panel discussion will be bilingual and will last 90 minutes. The event will also have simultaneous interpretations in both English and French, allowing all speakers to speak in the language of their preference.

This event will be hosted for free, online via Zoom. Please register [here](#).

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

Where: Virtually (via Zoom)

Register today!

Donate Today

Charitable Registration #13552 8701 RR0001

