

## Victims and Survivors of Crime Week 2023

### 30 years of Victim Rights in Canada with CRCVC: A Review 30 ans de droits des victimes au Canada avec le CCRVC: une analyse

#### Panelist biographies

##### Steve Sullivan, CEO, MADD Canada

Steve Sullivan is the CEO of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Canada. Before he was appointed CEO, Steve was MADD Canada's Director of Victim Services where he expanded MADD Canada's support services and resources for victims of impaired driving and advanced victims' rights. Under his leadership, MADD Canada increased support services and outreach; established new training for victim services volunteers; established monthly online support group meetings; and expanded Provincial Memorial Monument and Provincial Memorial Road Sign programs. In addition to his work with MADD Canada, Mr. Sullivan brings a wealth of experience from past positions, including roles as Executive Director of Ottawa Victim Services; Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime; and Executive Director of the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime. He was also a part-time Professor at Algonquin College for several years, where he developed and delivered education programs on victims and the law. Mr. Sullivan has an Honours BA in Law with a Concentration in Criminology from Carleton University, as well as numerous courses and training in Political Science, Victim Services and Mass Casualties/Terrorism, Trauma, Harassment, and Executive Management.

##### Heidi Illingworth, Executive Director, Ottawa Victim Services

Heidi Illingworth is the Executive Director of Ottawa Victim Services, a community-based agency that provides emotional support, practical assistance, referrals, and advocacy to victims of crime and tragic circumstances. She has extensive experience in the victim services and anti-violence fields. She served as the Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime from 2018-2021, providing recommendations to federal Ministers of Justice and Public Safety. Prior to this, she spent 20 years in front-line service delivery supporting survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and other serious crimes. She served as the Executive Director of the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime for over 11 years and is currently a part-time faculty member in the postgraduate Victimology program at Algonquin College. She has created resources to help support victim service providers, as well as programs to support individual victims of crime and their families. Most notably, Ms. Illingworth is the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her service to Canadians.

##### Arlène Gaudreault, Présidente de l'Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes

Arlène Gaudreault holds a master's degree in criminology from École de criminologie l'Université de Montréal, where she was subsequently a Lecturer on victimology from 1993 to 2011. She was also a

Visiting Professor at Université de Pau (France) in the master's program on victims' rights. She was the coordinator of the first Centre d'aide pour les victimes d'actes criminels in Quebec and was instrumental in the development of several programs aimed at improving the fate of victims of crime. She is a founding member of the Association québécoise Palidoyer-Victimes and has presided over the organization since 1988.

Over the course of the past few years, she was invited to speak at several seminars and scientific gatherings in Quebec, Canada, and France. She is regularly approached to act as a consultant for several committees and task forces in Canada.

She is the recipient of many awards and citations underlining her contribution to the development of initiatives in favor of victims and the promotion of their rights:

- Prix de la justice du Québec, Ministère de la Justice du Québec, June 1997.
- Personnalité de la Semaine, La Presse, June 1997.
- Personnalité de l'Année in the Humanisme, courage et développement personnel catégorie, Gala de l'excellence de La Presse, October 1997.
- Award of Excellence, Canadian Criminal Justice Association, Vancouver, 2003.
- Robert Sauvé Award, Commission des services juridiques, Québec, 2007.
- Tribute Award, Quebec Society of Criminology, 2013.
- Tribute Award, Murdered or Missing Person's Families' Association (MMPFA), 2015.
- Prix Hommage bénévolat, Ministère du travail et de la solidarité sociale, 2021.

### **Irvin Waller, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus University of Ottawa**

Irvin Waller is recognized as a pioneer of the movement for rights and services for victims of crime and the prevention of victimization in Canada and the world. He undertook the first victimization survey in Canada in 1972, got funding from the government for the first evaluation of victim assistance projects and urban victimization surveys, and wrote the pamphlet on victim rights and services for Canada. This influenced his role in getting the UN General Assembly to recognize the harm to victims and so the need to prevent victimization and implement the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power. The Declaration, known as the victim Magna Carta, is cited still today across the world as the justification to improve services and rights for victims. His book written in 2011 on Rights for Victims of Crime identifies the progress made in Europe and the US on the implementation of the resolution and so the impact of victimization, services for victims, police first aid, restorative justice and standing in courts. Internationally, he continues to promote the important model of the Canadian federal Ombudsman. Within Canada, he is an advocate for Canada to significantly reduce victimization

and catch up with the rest of the world to establish basic victim rights with remedies in all orders of government.

### **Benjamin Roebuck, Ph.D., Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime**

Benjamin Roebuck (he/him) was appointed as Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime in October 2022. He holds a Ph.D. in Criminology from the University of Ottawa and is an internationally recognized expert in the field of victimology, with over 15 years of experience as a researcher and educator on victim rights. Prior to his appointment as Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime, he was Research Chair and Professor of Victimology and Public Safety at Algonquin College, where he was a founding member of the Victimology Research Centre. He has been the principal investigator for studies exploring resilience and posttraumatic change with survivors of violence, victim service providers, and people with lived experiences of homelessness. Benjamin previously served on the Board of Directors for Crime Prevention Ottawa and committees focused on restorative justice, mental health, and youth justice. He also served as a member of the External Advisory Committee for the Sexual Misconduct Response Centre, which provides support for currently serving and former Canadian Armed Forces members and National Defence public service employees affected by sexual misconduct.

### **Alain-Guy Sipowo, Professeur adjoint, École de criminologie à l'Université de Montréal**

Alain-Guy Sipowo is a lawyer by training and member of the Quebec Bar Association. Alain-Guy is currently a professor at the School of Criminology, where he teaches victimology and criminal justice. He is particularly interested in vulnerable victims, such as racialized groups and refugees, and the law. He has worked extensively on victims of atrocity crimes, including victims of sexual violence in the context of armed conflict, and international criminal law. He is currently working on a project which examines criminal justice reform in relation to the #MeToo movement and includes the creation of specialized tribunals for victims of sexual and gender-based violence in Quebec.