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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 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](#).

Renfrew County Inquiry Update

In [last year's summer newsletter article](#), we addressed the triple homicide of Anastasia Kuzyk, Nathalie Warmerdam, and Carol Culleton. Further, we outlined that following their deaths there would be an inquiry held by the Renfrew County Coroner which sought to understand both the cause, and what could be done to prevent such a tragedy from occurring again. Following the inquiry there were 86 recommendations made by the jury which they believed were imperative in both providing victims of previous occurrences of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) more safety and security, but to also ensure that nobody else would be victimized by cases of IPV. Of the recommendations included in the jury's decision, was the necessity to declare IPV an epidemic in Ontario, a move that has been made by over 30 municipalities in Ontario and one that has been pleaded for by officials and advocates for survivors of IPV across Canada.

However when presented with the opportunity to declare IPV an epidemic the government opted not to do so on the basis that ["Intimate partner violence \(IPV\) would not be considered an epidemic as it is not an infectious or communicable disease"](#). Consequently, in using a literal definition in the decision not to declare IPV an epidemic in Ontario the government discounts and grossly undermines the current trends and statistics. So in response to the government's decision not to declare IPV an epidemic, the CRCVC in partnership with the Ottawa Victim Centre and the 7th Step. Society of Canada informed the Ontario Government of our desire for IPV to be declared an epidemic in Canada in our [advocacy letter sent to the](#)

Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752

On January 8, 2020, Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 was shot down after taking off from Tehran, Iran, by two Iranian surface-to-air missiles. Fifty-five Canadian citizens and 30 permanent residents were among the 176 people killed in this national tragedy. In the wake of the tragedy, Canada, the U.K., Sweden, and Ukraine officially launched their case against Iran on Wednesday, July 5th before the International Court of Justice asking for them to rule against Iran. The joint application states that Iran has violated its obligations under an international treaty and failed to prevent the "unlawful and intentional" destruction of Flight PS752. In doing this, the government has not only brought justice one step closer for the victims onboard Flight PS752, but it is also bringing justice and closure to victim's loved ones, and all Canadians.

New Pilot Project: Teen IRL - Durham Region to Educate Youth on Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a serious and growing concern that affects individuals across the country, including Durham Region. Vulnerable youth can become targets for traffickers, who exploit their vulnerabilities for various purposes, including sexual exploitation and forced labour. It is essential to equip young people with the knowledge and tools they need to recognize the signs of trafficking and protect themselves from falling victim to this heinous crime.

The upcoming pilot project aims to achieve several important goals targeting Grades 7-8 within the region. The project will include education, interactive workshops, resource development, and collaboration. The program's strategy is based on evidence-based prevention education while having engaging conversations with all stakeholders, including parents and educators. ["The average age of recruitment for domestic sex trafficking in Canada is 12-13 years old, and online luring and recruitment has risen by 150% in 2022 alone, putting an emphasis on why an expansion of these educational programs is so important."](#) By educating youth about the risks and tactics used by traffickers, the project aims to prevent victimization and enable early intervention should any young person encounter a potentially dangerous situation.

The pilot project involves collaboration with local law enforcement, educational institutions, and community organizations to ensure a holistic approach to prevention and support. As the project unfolds in fall 2023, we encourage parents, educators, and community members to become engaged and support this critical initiative. For more information about the pilot project and Durham region's work in the prevention of Human trafficking visit [Victim Services Durham Region](#).

Resilience in the Face of Adversity: Kerri Kehoe's Journey

Kerri Kehoe is a survivor who exemplifies the strength of the human spirit in the aftermath of victimization. Her story sheds light on the challenges faced by victims and the importance of support, advocacy, and healing.

Kerri Kehoe's life was forever changed when she became a victim of the actions of Richard Charles Joyce. His criminal behavior inflicted trauma upon her, leaving her with emotional wounds that took time to heal. "Joyce had been serving a life sentence with no parole eligibility for 25 years for his role in the vicious murder of mother of three Margaret Yvonne Rouleau. He then pleaded guilty to charges related to the kidnapping and sexual assault of three girls, including Kehoe, ages nine and 11. He received a 10-year sentence for one of the girls and a 12-year sentence for the other two girls, to be served concurrently."

As time passed, Kerri Kehoe transformed her pain into purpose. Drawing from her own experiences, she emerged as a passionate advocate for victims' rights and survivor empowerment. By sharing her story, she aimed to raise awareness about the lasting impact of victimization and the need for continued support systems.

She is now seeking support in keeping her offender in prison and asking for the public to show up for the upcoming parole hearing scheduled for Sept 7th, 2023. See these articles for further information on Kehoe's story and our executive director's comments on offender rehabilitation: [Global News](#) or [The Epoch Times](#).

Upcoming Events

Take Back The Night

Come join CRCVC in supporting the annual Take Back The Night rally and march against sexual and gender-based violence. TBTN is a great opportunity for residents of Ottawa to come together and show support to survivors while promoting awareness, advocacy, and activism to create safer communities and healthier relationships.

When: September 21st, 6 PM onwards
Where: Minto Park (102 Lewis St.)

For more information, visit our [website](#).



Canadian Police and Peace Officers Memorial 2023

[Canadian Police and Peace Officers Memorial \(CCPOM\)](#)

The 46th Annual Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, September 24th with a full Regimental Parade along Wellington Street up onto the front lawn; a non-denominational memorial service; presentation of headdresses and March Past after the service. For those who cannot join in person, a live social media broadcast will be made accessible.

When: September 24th, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Where: Parliament Hill



For any questions or concerns, call us [1-877-232-2610](tel:1-877-232-2610) or email at crcvc@crcvc.ca

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: September 28th, 6:30 PM EST

Where: Virtually

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



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