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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](#).

[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 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](mailto:crcvc@crcvc.ca) or make a [donation here today](#).

### Thank You - The Day of Giving

As we close the chapter on November and reflect on the incredible Day of Giving that took place on November 28th, your generosity on this special day has made a significant impact on our ability to support those affected by crime. Your commitment to our cause is not just a donation; it is a lifeline for individuals and families navigating the aftermath of traumatic experiences.

In this season of gratitude, we want to express our deepest thanks for being an integral part of our community and showing support through donations. Your kindness inspires CRCVC to strive for even greater heights in our mission.

### Deterrence December with Caliber Communications

We want to give a special thanks to Caliber Communications for their ongoing commitment to supporting victims of crime and for launching this year's Deterrence December campaign and picking us as their charity of choice.

Starting Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:00am, for every deterrence action performed by their Live Remote Video Monitoring team throughout the month, they will donate \$0.75 to the CRCVC, up to \$5,000.

From December 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, you can track the deterrence and donation count on their website [here](#).



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## Bill S-12 Receives Royal Assent

In April 2023, [Empower Newsletter](#) wrote about the introduction of Bill S-12, a new legislation addressing aspects of the Criminal Code. On October 26th, 2023, Bill S-12, received royal assent and became law.

The [Department of Justice Canada](#) delineates how Bill S-12 brings important changes to the Canadian legal system and how it handles the protection of victims' and witnesses' identities. Judges are now obligated to inquire whether victims or witnesses wish to have their identities safeguarded by the publication ban. If the Crown applies for a publication ban, the judge must confirm the victim or witness' consent. Furthermore, prosecutors are now required to provide information on how to request the publication ban's removal or modification. Victims can also maintain the ban while sharing their personal information in specific situations, like private conversations or support group settings. This law provides clarity to victims, lawyers, and judges, ensuring that victims can share their own information for any purpose without any fear of legal repercussions.

Other amendments to the Criminal Code ensure that victims are informed about their right to receive or decline ongoing information about a case after sentencing. Judges are now mandated to ascertain whether victims want to receive this information, offering a straightforward method for victims to express their preferences on their Victim Impact Statement. Additionally, the amendments require courts, with the victim's consent, to share preferences and contact information with the Correctional Service of Canada to guarantee that victims receive the information they are entitled to.

Significant amendments were made to enhance the effectiveness of the National Sex Offender Registry in preventing and investigating sexual crimes while upholding the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well. Furthermore, the National Sex Offender list has been expanded to encompass serious crimes such as "sextortion" and non-consensual distribution of intimate images.

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## Ontario Receives Funding to Help End Gender-Based Violence

December 6, 2023, marks the 34th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre where 14 women were killed at École Polytechnique de Montréal. Thirty-four years later gender-based violence remains prevalent and the Ontario government still refuses to mark gender-based violence as an epidemic, despite the reports showing an increase in numbers. For example, [Statistics Canada](#) reports an increase in the number of gender-based violence homicides between the years 2020 and 2021. The statistics reveal that there has been a 14% increase in gender-related homicides of women and girls, the highest since 2017. Additionally, police reported 1125 gender-related homicides of women and girls between 2011 and 2021, in Canada; an average of about 102 women and girls per year. Of these homicides, 66% were perpetrated by an intimate partner while only 1% were perpetrated by a stranger. Statistics from the federal government also reveal that in 2018, 44% of women (6.2 million women) experienced some form of intimate partner violence.

In an attempt to implement change to end gender-based violence, the federal government will invest \$162 million during the next four years to support the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence in Ontario. The need for this funding is proven by the 55 femicides that have occurred so far solely in Ontario.

This bilateral agreement between the federal government and several provinces and territories, namely Ottawa, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, and the Northwest Territories, includes [five pillars](#) for preventing and addressing gender-based violence. These five pillars include support for victims, survivors, and their families, prevention, a responsive judicial system, implementing Indigenous-led approaches, and social infrastructure and enabling environment.

Additionally, Quebec has signed its own [bilateral agreement](#) with the government that respects its autonomy. The federal government has committed to invest \$97.3 million over the next four years to support Quebec's Integrated Violence Strategy.

Although The National Plan to End Gender-based Violence is a 10-year plan aimed at having Canada free of gender-based violence, some believe that this is not enough. [CityNews Everywhere](#) explains that the agreement allows each province and territory to address their individual needs but Marlene Ham, executive director of the Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses, questions how this plan is going to be measured. For example, some of the concerns are on how the National Plan to End Gender-based Violence will be monitored and evaluated. Hence, there are concerns regarding transparency and accountability.

It has been [recommended](#) that the federal government establish an independent and impartial gender-based violence commissioner with adequate, stable funding, and effective powers. The commissioner would be responsible for an annual report to Parliament thereby creating transparency and accountability.

Furthermore, there is apprehension regarding consistency across and within jurisdiction in legislation and policies addressing gender-based violence. There is a need for cohesive, inclusive, and coordinated activities throughout all jurisdictions. Not to mention, that this plan is set to provide funding in Ontario for the next four years; what will happen after that is yet to be explained.

If you need any help or support, please reach out:

**Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime:**

- Toll-Free 1-877-232-2610
- Local 613-233-7614
- Text 613-208-0747

**Assaulted Women's Helpline Crisis Line:**

- Toll-Free 1-866-863-0511

**Senior Safety Line:**

- Toll-Free 1-866-299-1011

**Shelter Safe:**

[www.sheltersafe.ca](http://www.sheltersafe.ca)

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## Increased Federal Support for Child and Youth Advocacy Centres

November 20th marks the [National Child Day](#) in Canada. This day reinstates the importance of children's rights and protections from harm and Canada's commitment to uphold these rights. This year, the Federal Government issued a statement announcing increased funding for certain Child and Youth Advocacy Centres across Canada.

This increased funding is stated to assist these centres in addressing and meeting the needs of child and youth victims, and their families, as they navigate through the criminal justice system. This increased funding will hopefully provide more services and supports for child victims and their families such as access to child forensic interviews, support through medical and legal process, and access to healing and recovery programs.

This funding will also provide better access to training and resources for the workers to better assist and meet the children's and youth's needs.

As of November 2023, increased funding has been confirmed in two Child and Youth Advocacy Centres across Canada, one in Alberta and the other in Ontario.

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## Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 20th marks the annual International Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR). TDOR began in 1999 when transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith hosted a vigil to honour [Rita Hester](#), a transgender woman who was murdered in her apartment in 1998. To this day her case remains unsolved. On November 20th, we not only remember the life of Rita Hester but also the lives of those who fall victim to transphobic violence every year.

The annual Transgender Awareness Week is from November 13-19th, leading up to TDOR. This week is when transgender people and their allies take action to bring awareness and encourage Canadians to become educated on the experiences of two-spirit, trans and gender-diverse people, stand up against discrimination based on gender identity and gender expression, promote inclusion, and protect Trans rights.

Minister Marci Ien of Women and Gender Equality Canada issued a [statement](#) this November 20th in regards to the Transgender Day of Remembrance. The statement discusses the horrific rising rates of violent crime and hate speech against transgender communities, specifically transgender people of colour and transgender youth, as well as the impacts on mental health. Due to rising rates of hate against 2SLGBTQI+ communities in Canada, Women and Gender Equality Canada has advanced the implementation of the [Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan](#), stating that the Government of Canada heard the community's concerns and submitted \$1.5 million of emergency funding directly to Pride organizations to help pay for increased security costs and to be able to continue holding events during Pride season.

It is important to remember and honour the lives of transgender communities around the world who have been killed due to hatred and violence. Becoming a good ally starts with educating oneself about what it means to be a part of the 2SLGBTQI+ community, being respectful and promoting inclusivity.

[Things you can do as an ally:](#)

- Share your pronouns.
- Use gender-inclusive language.
- Visit [translivesmatter](#) to see those who have lost their lives to transphobic violence in the last year.
- Support 2SLGBTQI+ media.
- Participate in activities.
- Educate colleagues, family, and friends about transphobia.

## 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:** December 13, 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



## The National Day of Remembrance and Action Against Violence on Women

The annual vigil honours the women and girls who lost their lives to violence. The Vigil will mark the 34th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre where 14 women were killed at École Polytechnique de Montréal.

**When:** December 6th, 2023 at 6 PM EST

**Where:** Minto Park Ottawa (102 Lewis Street)

## The National Day Of Remembrance and Action On Violence Against Women

Please join us for the 34th annual vigil in remembrance of the 14 women murdered at the massacre at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal and the lives of women that have been taken by violence in our community.

Where:  
Minto Park,  
Ottawa, ON

When:  
December 6, 2023  
at 6pm



Donate Today

Charitable Registration #13552 8701 RR0001



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