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We respectfully acknowledge the CRCVC office is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Omàmiwininiwag (Algonquin peoples) Nation.

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National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

In 2020 the federal government declared February 22 National Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Canada. The [Government of Canada](#) defines Human Trafficking as recruiting, holding, or moving victims to exploit them for sexual services or forced labour for profit. Victims are controlled and pressured through the use of threats, coercion, force, deception, and/or abuse of trust, power or authority. Traffickers often use tactics such as manipulation and mental, physical, and emotional abuse. Thus, resulting in significant physical, psychological, and emotional trauma.

Sex trafficking is a form of human trafficking in which victims are coerced into providing sexual services by force or the use of threats. Traffickers typically target people who are socially or emotionally isolated, need work and/or money, or who are survivors of abuse. [Canadian](#) government data and resources reveal that human trafficking most affects women and girls, youth and young adults, and Indigenous women and girls.

Labour trafficking involves recruiting, holding, or moving victims to coerce them to perform any type of work and can happen in any type of industry. Although, anyone can be a target for traffickers, migrant workers, newcomers to Canada looking for work, people with precarious immigration status or working in remote areas who do not have access to information about their legal rights can be at a higher risk.

Get Help:

Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline

Call: 1-833-900-1010 (24/7)

Email: hotline@ccteht.ca

Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime

Call: 1-877-232-2610

Text: 613-208-0747

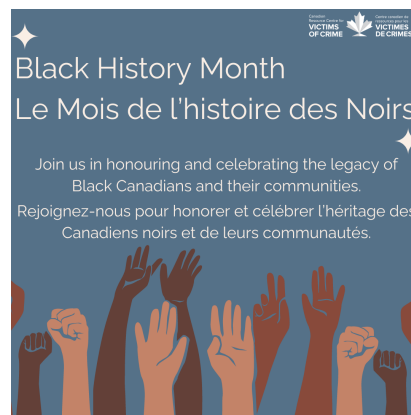
Email: crcvc@crcvc.ca

A New Day

Call: 613-747-2223

Email: lnno@anewdayas.com

Happy Black History Month!



In February, Canada honoured, celebrated and remembered the history, contributions and achievements of Black Canadians. It is critical to take action in building equitable communities and recognizing the importance of racial justice, diversity and inclusion. CRCVC encourages everyone to celebrate Black Excellency every day, all year round.

Canada's Black Justice Strategy

In December 2021, the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada were mandated by the Prime Minister to create Canada's Black Justice Strategy (the Strategy). The Strategy aims to address the continuous systemic discrimination and racism, injustice and overrepresentation of Black people in the Canadian Criminal Justice System, including as victims of crime.

According to [Statistics Canada](#) in 2015-16, Black people accounted for 6% of the accused Canadian population with a completed criminal court case, while only representing 3% of the total Canadian population. In contrast, White people accounted for 55% of the accused population and 71% of the total population. Black people's accused population was concerningly double that of their total population, suggesting that Black people are overrepresented in the Canadian criminal court. This study goes on to demonstrate how Black people are overrepresented in other aspects of the Criminal Justice System. It outlines the high rates of Black people in the total offender population in federal correctional institutions (8%), the rate of the likelihood that a Black accused be detained while awaiting trial compared to an accused from other racial backgrounds (35% vs 23%), and the rates of Black accused in certain provincial correctional institutions, such as 10% in Nova Scotia (vs 3% of the general population), 13% in

Ontario (vs 5% of the general population), 5% in Alberta (vs 3% of the general population) and 1% in British Columbia (vs 2% of the general population).

The study also looked at comparisons of Black people and White people in criminal court decisions, sentencing outcomes, and length of custodial sentences. The overall findings show that Black accused are more likely to be sentenced to long-term custody and receive probation compared to White accused who are more likely to receive a fine or a less severe sentence. For greater detail and more information on this data, go to [Statistics Canada](#).

Canada's Black Justice Strategy is the Government's response to these findings by Statistics Canada. The Strategy has 4 phases that it must complete before it can officially implement Canada's Black Justice Strategy. As of 2024, The Strategy has completed two phases: 1) Establishment of a Steering Group of nine Black leaders and experts with expertise in the Canadian criminal justice system, and 2) consultation with Black communities across Canada to gain validation on existing information and recommendations on missing or outdated information, and to ensure that the Strategy reflects the diverse experiences and intersectionalities of Black people in Canada.

The Strategy is now in Phase 3: the final Strategy Report from the external Steering Group. This month, the Steering Group is said to present the Final Strategy Report to Justice Canada which addresses the overrepresentation of Black people in Canada's criminal justice system (including as victims) and their recommendations on a new reform. The 4th Phase before implementing The Strategy is the development and release of an Implementation Plan. This plan will outline the actions that the Federal Government will take to address the systemic discrimination and racism of Black people involved in the system.

The goal is to implement Canada's Black Justice Strategy this year with expectations of transformational change to the Canadian criminal justice system to remove barriers that create systemic injustices and discrimination and ensure equal treatment for all people in Canada.

Check out [Canada's Black Justice Strategy](#) for more information.

Women's Memorial March

The Women's Memorial March Honouring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit Peoples (MMIWG2S+) took place on February 14. The Women's Memorial March was held in various communities across Canada to honour and remember the lives of missing and murdered women, girls, and two-spirit peoples.

The event originated in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside in 1992 following the murder of a local Indigenous woman named Cheryl Ann Joe. The event has grown over the years with many communities coming together to grieve the loss and remember women who are still missing.

According to [Statistics Canada](#), Indigenous women and girls make up between 2% and 3% of the population but they represent between 5% and 7% of the population. Between the years 2009 and 2021, the rate of homicides of Indigenous women and girls was six times higher than non-Indigenous women and girls. Additionally, the [National Inquiry's Final Report](#) highlights that the root cause of Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ is persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights and abuse violations. Thus, the Memorial March also aims to create awareness of the fact that the MMWG2S+'s families are often unsupported and mistreated while urging others and those in power to take action to help prevent further injustices and harm.

Note: [The Family Liaison Information Unit](#) provides service to all families of missing and murdered Indigenous people.

Introducing the New STEAR App

The Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment launched a new web and mobile application called [STEAR](#). The Support Tool for Economic Abuse Recovery (STEAR) is designed to help empower Economic Abuse survivors.

Economic abuse is experienced by more than 96% of women who experience Intimate Partner Violence. Economic abusers usually control their partner's spending and limit access to financial information which creates financial barriers to accessing essential resources such as basic needs. Survivors of economic abuse face barriers to acquiring food, medication, transportation, telecommunication, and education. Many do not have access to money, have their paychecks taken from them, or have debt accumulated under their name by the abusers. Thus, the STEAR App's objective is to provide support and resources to economic abuse survivors. This application gives women who have experienced Intimate Partner Violence and Economic Abuse a confidential space to acquire information on safety, financial matters, and legal resources to help them rebuild economic security after an abusive relationship.

Vigil Robert Pickton's farm

On February 21, the families of Robert Pickton's victims held a vigil at the site of his farm in Port Coquitlam, BC. The vigil was to honour Pickton's victims and to express dismay at his eligibility to apply for day parole on February 22.

Pickton was convicted of six counts of second-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of full parole for 25 years.

According to the Parole Board of Canada (PBC), Pickton became eligible for day parole (day parole lets offenders participate in community-based activities but must return nightly to an institution or halfway house) on February 22, 2024. A PBC spokesperson's statement to [CBC News](#) explained that there was no hearing automatically scheduled for Pickton and that he would need to apply to obtain a day parole review.

The vigil was also held to shed light on the concerns with the RCMP's application to [dispose of evidence](#) from the Pickton case.

Upcoming Events

Victims and Survivors of Crime Week 2024

The Policy Centre for Victim Issues has announced dates for its annual [Victims and Survivors Crime Week 2024](#). The virtual events will take place from Monday, May 13 to Friday, May 17, 2024.

The theme for this year's events will be **"The Power of Collaboration"**.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information closer to the event.

When: May 13 to May 17, 2024.

Where: Virtually

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Charitable Registration #13552 8701 RR0001



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