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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](#).

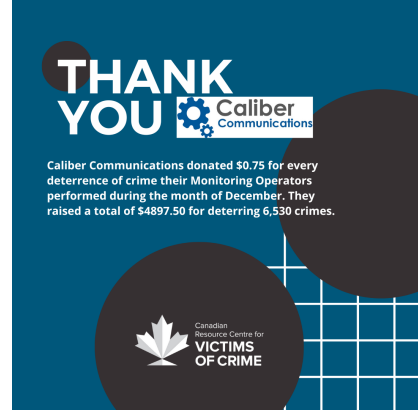
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Thank You - Caliber Communications

We want to extend our gratitude to Caliber Communications as for the second consecutive year, they reached out to CRCVC with a unique fundraising idea called Deterrence December. This partnership raised a total of \$4897.50 and they deterred 6,530 crimes this month. Thank you so much to the team at Caliber Communications for their support and efforts in making our society crime-free.

If you or your organization is interested in supporting CRCVC please email us at crcvc@crcvc.ca or donate [today](#).



Recommendations on offender prison transfers and their impact on victims

On November 29, 2023, Dr. Benjamin Roebuck, Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime, addressed the [Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security on the Rights of Victims of Crime](#) about the reclassification and transfer of federal offenders.

Dr. Roebuck addressed the gap in legislation for the rights of victims of crime as opposed to offender rights. He advocated prioritizing victims, supporting legislation, and comparable resources for offenders and victims because there is a need for equal consideration of the victim's interests. An offender's transfer, parole hearing, or release is significant to the victim. Victims of crime should have equal access to all relevant information, have their rights upheld, and have their well-being considered with the same importance as those of the offenders.

Presently, the Corrections and Conditional Release Act (CCRA) lacks in serving victims' needs and conflicts with the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights. The ombudsperson proposed the following recommendations to improve the treatment of victims within the CCRA:

1. Trauma and Violence-Informed Communications: Allows victims to express their safety concerns without repeatedly having to provide traumatic details in their statements.
2. Amending CCRA Principles: Calls for explicit amendments to CCRA to include victims' right to timely and relevant information, along with their protection and participation.
3. Proactive Information on Transfers: Correctional Service Canada (CSC) should implement a more proactive approach in informing victims of upcoming transfers, providing details on decision-making processes, and offering ways to express safety concerns or requests for geographic restrictions.
4. Non-Discretionary Process: Advocates for a clear, non-discretionary process to disclose information about offender transfers before they occur unless specific or security reasons are provided in writing beforehand.
5. Geographic Considerations: Emphasizes the importance of considering the geographic location of registered victims in all transfer decisions to prevent an offender from being transferred to an institution close to the victim before they have been notified.
6. Victim Registration and Input: Calls for clear information for victims on how to register to be informed about an offender and their sentence, and how to provide input before decisions are made. Also, it is important to emphasize that unregistered victims will not receive information.

Compassionate, Victim-Centred Approach: Emphasizes the need for a more compassionate and victim-centred approach in CSC's transfer process and underlines the importance of treating victims and survivors of crime with respect and dignity, and their right to information.

Reform to Canada's Bail System

New legislative amendments to the Criminal Code on Canada's bail reform were implemented as of January 4, 2024. The Honorable Arif Virani stated that [Bail Reform Bill C-48](#) received Royal Assent on December 5, 2023. These changes will help protect communities and people across Canada. Specifically, there are targeted changes to the bail regime to address serious repeat violent offending with firearms, knives, bear spray, and other weapons. The changes will also address the enhanced risks posed by intimate partner violence (IPV). These amendments make it more difficult for the accused persons to get bail if it is alleged that they are involved with violent offending using weapons, specific firearm offences, or IPV. Further, these amendments focus on reverse onus provisions.

[\[Reverse onus\]](#): Generally, the Crown prosecutor has the onus, i.e. the responsibility to show that the accused should not be granted bail (denied bail). In a reverse onus, it is presumed that the accused should be detained while awaiting trial unless they can show the court that they should be granted bail by

demonstrating that there is no cause for their detention. The judge or justice of the peace decides to grant or deny bail.]

The changes to amendments include:

- create a new reverse onus that targets violent repeat offending involving weapons.
- expands the list of firearm offences that trigger reverse onus.
- broadens the existing reverse onus regime for persons accused of IPV.
- requires courts to consider the accused person's conviction history for violence when determining a bail decision.
- commit to a parliamentary review of these measures after 5 years of the legislation receiving Royal Assent.
- requires courts to state on the record for any bail decision that the community's safety and security concerning the alleged offence has been considered, thus increasing accountability to the public.
- requires courts to state on the record for any bail decision how they considered the particular circumstance of Indigenous accused and accused from vulnerable overrepresented populations, as required by the Criminal Code, section [493.2](#).

Bell Let's Talk: "Let's Create Real Change"

Bell Let's Talk is a Canadian campaign created by Bell Canada to spread awareness of mental illness in Canada and fight the stigma surrounding it. Bell Let's Talk focuses on promoting awareness, acceptance and action through 4 key pillars: overcome the stigma, refine the care and access to mental health services, support research programs, and lead by example in the workplace. This campaign is dedicated to achieving its 155\$ million funding commitment for mental health initiatives by 2025.

Each year since 2010, Bell Canada has launched a "Bell Let's Talk Day" to promote awareness and public discussion about mental health. On this day, Bell Canada donates 5 cents for every call or text used on its network, as well as for the use of the hashtag (#BellLet'sTalk) on social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and Twitter.

Over the years, this campaign has had a mix of positive notability and valid criticism. Bell has been faulted for being a hypocrite for not practising what they preach in the workplace. Over the years, stories have come out about Bell having an unhealthy work environment and not being empathetic to mental health needs. The Bell Let's Talk campaign has done a good job of spreading the conversation surrounding mental health and has allowed individuals to feel empowered to speak openly about their experiences. However, the lack of diversity of individuals and mental health issues in their advertisements have also left people feeling more alone. Bell Canada has enhanced their advertising little by little every year to be more inclusive of different mental health issues and individuals from different social and ethnic backgrounds. Amid the criticism and pushback from the public, Bell Canada decided that their campaign to spread awareness was not enough. This year, Bell launched a new campaign on January 24 called '**Let's Create Real Change**', emphasizing the need for real change in mental health in Canada. In 2023, Bell Let's Talk focused on actions that individuals could take every day to encourage discussions and support mental health. This year, the focus is on 25 mental health organizations that provide support and services for Canadians experiencing mental health issues across the country. A list of the organizations supported by this year's campaign can be found here: [Learn more about the positive impact of Bell Let's Talk](#).

'Let's Create Real Change' asks every Canadian to spend the year taking meaningful action to create change in our homes, schools, workplaces and communities. Bell Canada provides practical examples to encourage action through "C.H.A.N.G.E.":

- Choose a mental health organization to research and support.
- Help a loved one struggling with their mental health by learning how to support them.
- Ask about how your workplace, school, or community is creating change for mental health this year.
- Nurture your well-being by learning and implementing mental health strategies into your everyday life.
- Get involved in a mental health initiative or event to support mental health.
- Engage in conversations about mental health and combat the stigma.

Bell Let's Talk 2024 brings new **funding** for different mental health projects, including, the Bell Let's Talk Community Fund, the Bell Let's Talk Diversity Fund, the Bell Let's Talk Post-Secondary Fund, and the Bell True Patriot Love Fund.

For more information or to seek out different ways you can help promote action and real change for mental health in your community this year, visit [Bell.ca/LetsTalk](#) and join the movement.

Confronting Gender-Based Violence



In times of crisis, the occurrence of gender-based violence (GBV), intimate partner violence (IPV), and sexual assault tend to spike. For example, last year Canada saw housing costs increase immensely, interest rates climb, and natural disasters such as flooding and wildfires occur. This turmoil led to a correlated increase in the number of women and girls who experienced violence. Paulette Senior, president and CEO of the Canadian Women's Foundation and Lisa Martin, executive director of Women's Shelters Canada, reported in the [Toronto Star](#) that a woman or a girl was killed by violence every 2.5 days last year in Canada. In addition, thousands were psychologically, physically or emotionally abused. Indigenous women, trans women, women with disabilities, and women living in the North were especially affected. These staggering statistics led to 30 municipal governments finally acknowledging GBV as an epidemic.

Senior and Martin also reported that in the year 2020-2021, almost 50, 000 women tried to obtain shelter from one of the 557 Canadian residential establishments, mainly for experiencing abuse. Furthermore, there was a substantial increase in the demand for support and crisis calls to shelters. As such, they argue that all levels of government, stakeholders, donors, decision-makers, and philanthropists commit to adequate and ongoing funding because GBV is an epidemic and needs a systemic response.

Additionally, a [report](#) from Women and Gender Equality Canada on the Government of Canada's website stated that GBV is an ongoing issue with many profound impacts affecting women and gender-diverse people. It is a human rights violation which costs many women and gender-diverse people their lives.

On January 11, 2024, the Government of Canada announced support of up to \$19 million to 34 organizations in Ontario. The funding will aid these organizations in addressing and preventing GBV by strengthening their communities, building capacity, providing better support and resources, or conducting research.

A full list of the 34 organizations receiving funding can be found [here](#).

Challenging Notions, Third Edition *Critical Victimology in Canada* A textbook by Tammy C. Landau

The expanded third edition of Challenging Notions introduces students to both the theoretical and the applied aspects of victimology and provides a critical foundation for evaluation. Tammy C. Landau, an expert in criminal justice, explores patterns of victimization in Canada, the experiences of Indigenous peoples in the criminal justice system, restorative approaches to victimization, and the challenges presented when the state is the perpetrator of crime.

This new edition contains updated statistics, census data, case studies, and discussion questions. New intersectional topics include trauma-informed justice and social movements such as defunding the police and Indian residential schools as well as information from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. [To read more, click here.](#)

Upcoming Events

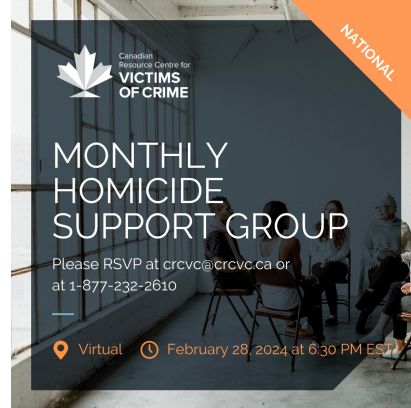
Homicide Support Group

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: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 6:30 PM EST

Where: Virtually

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



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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