



[How We Help](#)

[About Us](#)

[Resources](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Donate Now](#)



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](#)

In Their Words: Student Field Placement at CRCVC

Gabriella

Hello, my name is Gabriella! I am a student at Carleton University pursuing an honours degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice with a concentration in Sociology. I had the great opportunity to do my field placement with the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime, where I gained a deeper knowledge of victims' rights, victimization, and different issues victims face in Canada and within the

justice system.

Through this experience, I had the pleasure of helping victims of crime across Canada find resources and supports available to them through the chat and text lines, contribute to the monthly newsletter, and observe some of the many different ways CRCVC advocates and supports victims on an individual basis and through all levels of the justice system. I am forever grateful for this opportunity; for everything I learnt through CRCVC, victims I had the pleasure of supporting, and for my amazing colleagues. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your journey to justice!

Alberta to provide increased funding to support Victims of Crime

Through the [Specialized Criminal Justice Navigator program \(SCJN\)](#), the Government of Alberta is providing 6.8 million dollars over two years to increase support for front-line victim services. The SCJN funds approximately 20 organizations in Alberta that help victims of crime navigate the criminal justice system. The SCJN ensures that the organizations they fund are victim-centric, culturally appropriate, and trauma-informed. These programs must also be non-profit, work collaboratively with other victim services, and work to enhance the availability of their services.

The SCJN currently funds child advocacy centres, sexual assault services, specialized programs for victims of elder abuse, domestic violence services, human trafficking services, and services for newcomers to Canada. Thus, the SCJN ensures these services work directly with victims of crime to provide information about the criminal justice system, guidance in navigating the system, and provides resources and support for victims of various ages.

Federal Ombudsperson launches systemic investigation into the treatment of survivors of sexual assault in the Canadian Justice System

The [Office of the Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime \(OFOVC\)](#) announced the launch of a national investigation into the experiences of sexual assault survivors within Canada's justice system. The probe comes as concerns grow that survivors feel marginalized and disempowered in the current system, with their rights being overshadowed by those of their perpetrators.

The investigation will explore survivors' interactions with law enforcement and the criminal justice system at all stages, from the point of initial contact through to post-sentencing.

An expert advisory committee is being formed to support the investigation and ensure survivors' voices remain at the forefront. This committee will equally ensure that a diverse range of perspectives and expertise are included to enhance the efficacy and inclusivity of the process.

A key focus of the investigation is [section 278.1](#) of the Criminal Code of Canada, which allows individuals accused of sexual assault to ask a judge for private, confidential records from the victim including medical, counselling, child welfare, and social service records. A [petition](#) to revise this section of the Criminal Code was launched in February, by [Survivors Safety Matters](#).

Federal Ombudsperson, Dr Benjamin Roebuck, highlights the imperative need for change saying, "It's shocking how often victims' rights are ignored. Survivors experience re-traumatization and can feel disposable once their testimony is heard. Survivors who contacted our office have told us they felt unsafe in a system that is supposed to protect them. We have normalized the idea that the criminal justice system will be a painful experience for survivors of sexual violence."

The investigation's final report is anticipated to be released in the summer of 2025. And, it will provide actionable recommendations to integrate a trauma-informed and victim-centred approach into the criminal justice system.

Sexual misconduct will be removed from the military justice system jurisdiction

In [October's newsletter](#), the CRCVC reported on changes within the military regarding the handling of sexual assault allegations. The CRCVC explained that former Supreme Court Justice Louise Arbour [recommended](#) shifting the responsibility of handling cases of sexual misconduct from the military's investigative authority to the civilian system.

On March 21, 2024, Minister Blair [announced](#) new legislation to remove the Canadian military's jurisdiction to investigate sexual misconduct. This legislation provides exclusive jurisdiction to civilian

authorities to investigate and prosecute such offences. While there have already been 150 military sexual misconduct investigations referred to the civilian system, this legislation would enshrine this change into law permanently.

NDP defence critic Lindsay Mathyssen expressed concern about sending more cases to the civilian system without providing more resources. Mathyssen stated that the change doesn't cover all issues and fails to address people caught between the public justice system, the civilian justice system, and the military justice system. However, Mathyssen conceded the new legislation is a positive first step in the right direction.

Report Highlights Barriers Impacting Victims in Rural Yukon

A recently released [report](#) commissioned by the Government of Yukon investigated the current state of support for sexual violence victims in rural Yukon. 244 people were interviewed as a part of this investigation including victims and survivors, service providers (police, EMS, etc.), Indigenous service providers, women's transition homes, as well as non-profit and government organizations and employees.

The results show that most participants were unfamiliar with the available resources for victims, including the Yukon's [sexualized assault response team \(SART\)](#), which was launched in 2020. The low level of awareness of currently available resources and how to access them, the limited amount of resources, and the inconsistency in availability of victim service workers, Indigenous supports, counsellors, and regional social workers were all identified as major challenges for victims wishing to access comprehensive support.

In addition, the report highlighted several key barriers to accessing services:

- Fear of repercussions and reputational damage within small communities.
- A lack of confidentiality from service providers.
- Racial bias and discrimination, notably in health care.
- Reluctance to engage with the justice system due to past trauma.
- Limited transportation to larger centres with more services.
- Few safe spaces and shelters for victims in the communities.

Several recommendations were presented, notably increasing awareness, establishing safer houses, creating better transportation, increasing trauma-informed training for service providers, and establishing cultural and [land-based healing](#) supports.

In response to the report's findings, the [Government of Yukon](#) is already working toward implementing some of the recommendations from the report, including launching a year-long awareness campaign for SART, exploring options for transportation improvements, and contacting community health centres to increase trauma-informed responses.

The Standing Committee on the Status of Women Presents its Report on Human Trafficking of Women, Girls, and Gender Diverse Individuals

The House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women (the committee) tabled its report titled "[Act Now: Preventing Human Trafficking of Women, Girls, and Gender Diverse People in Canada](#)".

Through the study, the committee was able to learn about the effects of human trafficking on victims and survivors. It also highlighted the discrimination and/or systemic oppression faced by women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals that may increase their vulnerability in becoming a victim of human trafficking.

The [report](#) highlights various measures that can be undertaken to protect women, girls, and gender-diverse people from human trafficking in Canada. The committee has made [22 recommendations](#) to help eliminate human trafficking in Canada, and also to safeguard the rights of victims of this crime.

Some of the recommendations included that the Government of Canada amend anti-trafficking laws, policies and programs to [differentiate between consensual sex work, sex trafficking and sexual exploitation of minors](#); the Government of Canada, in collaboration with provinces and territories, Indigenous peoples, law enforcement agencies, and community organizations, continue investing in victim support services, including trauma-informed and culturally sensitive counselling, legal assistance, and safe housing options for survivors of human trafficking; and the Government of Canada's support programs that provide training for those who work with victims of sex trafficking to include trauma-informed approaches on how to recognize the difference between sex work and human trafficking.

In its report, the Committee recognizes the systemic inequalities and challenges that contribute to the persistence of human trafficking in Canada. The testimony in this report addresses possible approaches

to minimize and eliminate these inequalities.

Upcoming Events

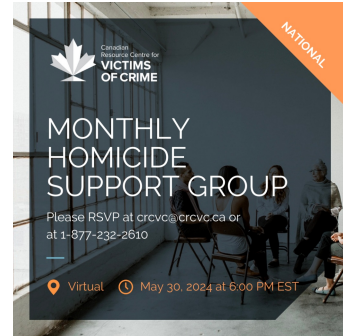
Homicide Support Group

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: Thursday, May 30th, 2024 at TBD

Where: Virtually

To RSVP: email us at crcvc@crcvc.ca or call us at 1-877-232-2610



Victims and Survivors of Crime Week 2024

The CRCVC will be posting three 10-minute informational videos for families, friends, and loved ones of missing persons. The videos will cover the topics of ambiguous loss/complicated grief, triggers and self-care/coping. French transcripts will be provided with informational videos.

The videos have been presented by **Duane T. Bowers**, a licensed professional counsellor who assists those exposed to trauma to live their life fully. His work mainly focuses on the fields of missing, and sexually exploited and trafficked persons, nationally and internationally.

The videos have been funded by the Department of Justice, **Victims and Survivors of Crime Week 2024**.

When: May 13 to May 17, 2024.

Where: <https://ccima.ca/>

Donate Today

Charitable Registration #13552 8701 RR0001



CRCVC | 141 Catherine Street Suite 100 | Ottawa, ON K2P 1C3 CA

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)