



[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](#)

May is Sexual Assault Prevention Month

May marks **Sexual Assault Prevention Month**. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, and Charmaine Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity, emphasize the importance of supporting survivors and raising awareness about sexual assault and all forms of gender-based violence.

According to [Statistics Canada](#), one in three women and one in eight men will experience sexual violence

in their lifetime, with the rates of gender-based violence against Indigenous women being even higher. To address sexual violence and move toward prevention initiatives, the Ontarian Government is investing \$1.4 billion over four years in a range of supports for victims and survivors, including emergency shelters, counselling, crisis lines, safety planning, and transitional housing support.

Ultimately, the Government of Ontario aims to build a more connected system wherein child protection workers, police, judges, social workers, educators, and health care professionals collaborate and share information more often so that the system can better support victims.

Recent trends in police-reported status of sexual assault and other violent crime in Canada, 2017 to 2022

On April 26th, 2024, Statistics of Canada released a [Juristat article](#) that examined the trends of sexual assault and other violent crimes in Canada following the implementation of revised coding practices. It focuses on the clearance status of the reported crimes, characteristics of the victim, accused person, and crime, comparing trends from 2017 with the years that followed [revisions to the UCR Survey](#).

In 2017, 14% of all reported incidents of sexual assault were classified by police as unfounded, which dropped to 7% in 2022. Similar patterns were observed in other types of violent crime.

From 2017 to 2022, the rate of founded (a reported offence for which a police investigation found evidence of occurrence, attempt, or lack of credible evidence to prove the incident didn't take place) sexual assault reports among victims increased by 38%, and the number of such incidents grew from 22,543 to 33,293. The increase was associated with multiple factors, including the [new definition of founded crime](#), changes in reporting practices among the population, and changes in the current level of crime in society.

Uncleared incidents accounted for 48% of all police-reported sexual assaults in 2017 and increased to 59% in 2022. Compared to 2017, more incidents of sexual assault were cleared by the laying or recommendation of charges in 2022. There was an increase in uncleared incidents in 2022, and the proportion of cleared incidents decreased from 34% in 2017 to 31% in 2022.

Furthermore, the proportion of incidents cleared in other ways (for example, withdrawn complaints, departmental discretion, etc.) declined from 18% to 10% over the same period.

Bill C-270: *Stopping Internet Sexual Exploitation Act*

[Bill C-270](#), the *Stopping Internet Sexual Exploitation Act*, has been referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights following the Bill's second reading in the House of Commons on May 8th, 2024.

A [petition](#) in favour of Bill C-270 highlights the absence of legislation mandating producers of pornographic material to verify the consent and age of those depicted, despite existing protections in the Criminal Code against sexual exploitation and child-specific offences.

The proposed Private Member's Bill adds two offences to the Criminal Code:

- Creating pornographic material for commercial use without verifying the age (18 years of age or older at the time the material was made) and the consent of the individuals shown; and
- Distributing pornographic material without verifying the age and consent of those depicted and that those depicted have not subsequently, in writing, withdrawn their consent.

The proposed *Stopping Internet Sexual Exploitation Act* closely follows the introduction of [Bill C-63](#), the *Online Harms Act*. If passed, the *Online Harms Act* will hold social media platforms to three duties: the duty to act responsibly; the duty to protect children; and the duty to make certain content unattainable (i.e., non-consensual images and content that sexualizes children). For more in-depth information about the proposed Online Harms Bill, please read our [March Newsletter](#).

Critiques of Bill C-270 raised during both of its readings, question the need for the Bill given its similar nature to existing protections and Bill C-63. However, supporters maintain that Bill C-270 provides crucial additional protections not accounted for in existing legislation or the *Online Harms Act*.

Montreal police launch pilot project to address domestic violence-related strangulation cases

The Montreal Police Service (SPVM) and the Quebec Prosecutor's Office (DPCP) are launching a [pilot project](#) to help authorities better address domestic violence-related strangulation cases.

Montreal police recorded 6,520 intimate partner violence-related events in 2023, with at least ten women per week being strangled. Experts warn that a person who experiences a non-fatal strangulation incident with their intimate partner is [750% more likely to be killed by the same offender](#). As such, the SPVM and the DPCP stress that strangulation incidents warrant special and immediate attention.

The project will be deployed in the east end of Montreal over 18 months. It focuses on teaching police and prosecutors how to better identify and respond to domestic violence cases where strangulation is a factor. The pilot project also sets out to improve the support offered to victims and, provides victims with information about the various symptoms that may occur following a strangulation incident to raise awareness of the specific dangers of such an assault. The project aims to improve the gathering of evidence needed to lay charges against suspects who have committed strangulation-related violence.

Following its implementation period, the pilot project will be evaluated to determine whether it can be maintained and extended to the whole of Montreal.

Manitoba Government establishes endowment fund for MMIWG2S families

The Manitoba Government is launching a new \$15-million endowment fund to establish a grant program offering support to families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit (MMIWG2S+) people. The fund was announced on May 5, a day that recognizes and commemorates MMIWG2S+.

"This is a transformative, historic announcement for MMIWG2S+ relatives, one that recognizes the needs of families and the work we can do together. This fund will ensure a stable long-term commitment to help meet the needs and support families for years to come.," said Nahanni Fontaine, Minister of Families.

The [Winnipeg Foundation](#) will manage the endowment fund and revenue generated from the fund will provide for application-based grants for the families of MMIWG2S+. In the coming months, the Manitoba Government will work alongside the families of MMIWG2S+, the Matriarch Circle, and community partners to develop clear guidelines for grant eligibility and distribution. The program's first intake will launch in 2025.

The fund corresponds with the [Calls for Justice](#) in the [final report](#) of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, acknowledges the Government of Manitoba.

In Their Words: Student Field Placement at CRCVC

Anna

Hi, my name is Anna and I will graduate from the Victimology program at Algonquin College this June! I have had the wonderful opportunity to complete my field placement with the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC). Through my work with the CRCVC, I have gained an invaluable knowledge of the issues victims are facing, the services available to victims, as well as victim's rights in Canada.

While short, my time with the CRCVC has afforded me the privilege of supporting victims directly through the CRCVC's chat and text lines, giving me an incomparable first-hand opportunity to do frontline work. I also wrote a handful of articles for Empower and contributed to the successful launch of the CRCVC's 2024 Victims and Survivors of Crime Week project. This work experience has provided me with knowledge and skills that I will carry forth as I venture into a career as a victim service worker. I also wish to highlight my gratitude to the CRCVC team. Not only did they welcome me with open arms, but their guidance, support, and feedback allowed me to have a fantastic learning experience. Thank you again for having me. Merci de m'avoir accueillie. It has been a pleasure!

Lynn

Hello! My name is Lynn and I am graduating from the Victimology program at Algonquin College in June. I am grateful for the eye-opening experience I had doing my field placement with the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC). I had several opportunities that provided me with a deeper understanding of the importance of advocating for victims, valuable insights into the field of victimology, and the skills required to be a Victim Support Worker. While my time at CRCVC was short, it will always be an experience I carry forth in my career.

At CRCVC, I supported victims by providing resources to them through the CRCVC's chat and text line, gaining valuable frontline experience. Additionally, I contributed to the launch of CRCVC's Victims and Survivors of Crime Week 2024 project, wrote a few articles for Empower, and created awareness posts advocating for CRCVC's services. Apart from the professional knowledge I gained, my experience at

CRCVC also offered valuable personal insights that helped me grow as an individual.

I would also like to thank the staff at CRCVC for welcoming me and imparting such invaluable knowledge. I respect the efforts they took to provide feedback, and guidance throughout the placement. Once again, thank you for allowing me to be a part of your team!

VSCW 2024: CRCVC releases three informational videos

Three informational videos created as part of the Victims and Survivors of Crime Week 2024 (VSCW) are now live on the [CRCVC's website](#). The videos, narrated by Duane T. Bowers, cover topics of ambiguous loss, managing trauma triggers, and self-care for loved ones of missing persons. French transcripts are available for all videos. Following VSCW 2024, the videos will reside on [CCIMA's website](#). Please participate in the short survey after watching the videos. Here is the link for the English [survey](#) and the French [survey](#).

Did you know?

The Canadian Centre for Information on Missing Adults (CCIMA) has a new website. Please visit [CCIMA](#) to see its new look and find helpful resources!

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, July 25th 2024 at 6:30PM

Where: Virtually

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



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](#)