



National Justice Network Update



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Welcome to the **JULY** issue of the *National Justice Network e-Update*, a publication of the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime. PLEASE SHARE THIS **FREE** NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES OR HAVE THEM SIGN UP TO RECEIVE IT DIRECTLY AT: <http://crcvc.ca/en/newsletter/>.

Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime

Visit: <http://www.crcvc.ca>

Email: crcvc@crcvc.ca

Phone: 1.877.232.2610



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Canada

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SUPREME COURT DENIES ROBERT PICKTON'S APPEAL, CONVICTIONS STAND

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled on Friday July 31, 2010 to deny the final appeal of Robert Pickton on six murder convictions stemming from the murders committed in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. In 2007, Pickton was convicted of second-degree in the deaths of six women, and given a life sentence with no parole eligibility for twenty-five years. He was also charged in the deaths of twenty other women, but those charges were severed at the same time. The Court was unanimous in their decision, but split 6 -3 on their reasons.

Following the release of the verdict, the Crown Attorney's office indicated that the twenty outstanding murder charges that Pickton faces will be stayed, meaning that they are unlikely to be prosecuted. This has long been

SNAPSHOTS

SAVE THE DATE

The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime presents:

Witnessing Victims' Resistance to Violence and Oppression, 2-day training session

With Dr. Allan Wade, Ph.D.

October 25 & 26, 2010
In Ottawa, Ontario.

Online registration opens August 20, 2010. Visit <http://crcvc.ca/en/2010-training/> to view the event poster and to register.

2009 POLICE REPORTED CRIME STATISTICS

According to figures released in mid-July, there were 43,000 fewer crimes reported to police in 2009, compared to 2008 figures. A large percentage of that decrease related to property crimes, with fewer motor vehicle thefts, mischief offences and break-ins reported. The Crime Severity Index (CSI), which measures the seriousness of crime, also declined.

Crime, according to CSI was most serious in the territories and the western provinces, which has been the case for the past decade. CSI values in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories were twice as high as any of the provinces, followed by Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia and Alberta.

There was a slight overall decline in violent crime, including serious



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the fear of some victim's family members, and it is a decision that many will have difficulty with, as it means that there will be no trial, no potential for them to hear what happened to their loved ones, and no conviction entered that will say with certainty who is responsible for their deaths.

The Vancouver police department followed the announcement of the Supreme Court's decision with an apology to the surviving family members. Deputy Chief Doug LePard started, "We're sorry from the bottom of our hearts that we did not catch him sooner and protect more women from being harmed." The case was plagued with criticism for how it was handled when many women, most living in one of Vancouver's poorest neighbourhoods, first went missing. It took a number of years before the links between cases were made, and many felt that this led to the loss of additional lives. The police have said that they will continue to investigate, and hopefully provide answers for some families whose loved ones are still listed as missing.

CONVICTED MURDERER RELEASED BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY WHERE HE KILLED

Anton Lorenz was living in Scarborough in 1999 when he brutally attacked and murdered his girlfriend Sandra Quigley. It was not the first time he had attacked her, previously sending her to hospital after causing her to miscarry their child. He was charged with attempted murder following that attack, but convinced Sandra to take him back. They were together for less than a year following that attack. He was convicted of second-degree murder and sent to prison for life with a parole eligibility set at ten years.

Lorenz has recently become eligible to apply for parole and was granted a series of unescorted passes into the community. This is shocking to his victim's family and friends, as he has been granted passes to the same area where the crime occurred, and where many of them still live.

Sandra's good friend Sheryl Udeh found out exactly how upsetting that can be; when she ran into Lorenz in a local grocery store while he was out on a recent pass. He didn't notice her, and she fled the store. She had to be admitted to hospital following the chance meeting, due to the stress of the encounter. She fears that it could happen again, or worse, that he could run into one of Sandra's children.

This is a fear that is echoed by Sandra's sister, Eve, who

assault, sexual assault, and robbery. Some violent crime did increase or remain constant in the report. There were 806 attempted murders, 85 more than in 2008, and 610 murders, about the same as the previous year.

Violence in youth is higher now than it was a decade ago. Both the volume and severity of youth violent crime were about 10% higher in 2009 than in 1999.

WOMEN'S MINISTER SPEAKS OUT AGAINST HONOUR KILLINGS

Rona Ambrose, the Federal Minister for the Status of Women, recently spoke out against the practice of "honour killings", warning that any violence, including murder, intended to avenge one's honour would not be tolerated in Canada. "Let me be explicit: This type of violence, the most extreme of which is often known as 'honour killing,' has no place in Canadian society," Ms. Ambrose said at the Punjabi Community Health Services in Mississauga, west of Toronto. "Killing or mutilating anyone, least of all a family member, is utterly unacceptable under all circumstances, and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

There have been several high profile cases of "honour killings" in the media recently. The most recent being the guilty verdict in the Aqsa Parvez case in Mississauga. Ms. Parvez was seen to rebel against the rules established by her father. She was sixteen at the time that she was strangled by her father and brother in December 2007. She had wanted to stop wearing a hijab, get a part-time job, and





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questions why Lorenz is being released into the exact community where he murdered her sister. She feels that it is an "utter dismissal" of her sister's life, and that it puts her family and friends at risk of further harm from this man. She feels that he should be released into another community, if he is going to be released.

At his recent parole hearing, Lorenz refused to discuss the murder, and deflected blame to his victim. "I'm glad her family wasn't at the parole hearing," said Krista Gray-Donald, of the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime, who represented Eve at the hearing.

NOVA SCOTIA SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE FROM 1970S RESULTS IN CONVICTION

In a case that took over fifteen years to be brought to trial, a Nova Scotia businessman was recently convicted of sexually abusing two boys in the 1970s. Ernest MacIntosh, who is now 67, was found guilty when the Nova Scotia Supreme Court rejected his claim that the sex was consensual. He was convicted on 13 charges of indecent assault and gross indecency and will be sentenced on September 14. The victims, now middle-aged, were in their teens when the abuse occurred.

The two victims, who are brothers, brought their complaints to the RCMP in the mid 1990s, reporting that they were assaulted in rural Nova Scotia. They testified at trial that their victimization left them severely traumatized, and that they did not come forward earlier out of fear and embarrassment. MacIntosh, who was a family friend, initially came into contact with the victims when he volunteered to babysit them.

At the time that the complaints were made, MacIntosh was living in India. The RCMP called him to inform him of the arrest warrant, but he claimed that the line went dead before he heard of it. Extradition proceedings were commenced in 1997, and he was finally extradited in 2007.

MacIntosh is still facing further charges, but no date has been set for that trial. He had been previously convicted in the 1980s of indecent assault and of sexual assault in unrelated cases.

TESKEY FINALLY DECALRED A DANGEROUS OFFENDER

Edmonton - In late July, the criminal courts confirmed something the Miller family has long known - that Leo Teskey is a dangerous offender. Teskey beat Dougald Miller savagely in 2000, and left him for dead. Dougald

spend time with her friends.

FOUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS CHARGED WITH SEXUAL ASSAULT IN WINNIPEG

Abuses at a Winnipeg boarding school have resulted in 82 charges against four youths for assaulting 16 younger victims. It is alleged that the four seniors at St. John's-Ravenscourt School, for assaults which include holding the victims down and placing a wood stick against their buttocks. This spring, the four were originally charged with threatening, confining and sexually assaulting one younger student. More charges were recently laid, involving more students.

The school is an exclusive private school, which educates many foreign students. The allegations have shocked the student body, faculty and parents. The headmaster, Stephen Johnson, has said that they will use outside consultants to improve security.

SENATE APPROVES BILL TO HELP ABORIGINAL WOMEN

The Senate of Canada approved Bill S-4 in early July, despite warnings from some Native senators that the bill would leave aboriginal women worse off. The bill was introduced by the government in the Senate first, which means that it must still pass in the House of Commons in the fall.

Directed specifically at Aboriginal women living on reserves, the legislation aims to help prevent women from losing their homes because of abuse or divorce. It seeks to address a gap left by the fact that divorce laws do not apply on reserves. As a result, women do not have any protections, and must argue their cases to local





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survived the attack, but was left in a vegetative state. Teskey was originally convicted of aggravated assault in 2002 and declared dangerous in 2005. He was ordered a new trial in 2007 when the Supreme Court of Canada overturned his conviction on the grounds that the trial judge took too long to provide his written reasons for the verdict.

At Teskey's dangerous offender hearing, Dougald's wife and caregiver, Lesley told the courts that he has been dying a slow and painful death since the attack. "He was the most wonderful man," Lesley Miller said. "For the last 10 years, he's been in a prison."

In his ruling, Judge Eric Peterson said that Teskey has a temper that he can't control, a substance abuse problem, and shows no remorse for the harm that he has done to others. Teskey has 37 prior convictions, which include one for the vicious sexual assault of a young boy, and another for shooting a police officer in the head.

The dangerous offender designation means that Leo Teskey can be kept in prison indefinitely. He can only be released once he appears before the National Parole Board, and convinces them that he is no longer a threat to others.

ONTARIO ANNOUNCES \$2 MILLION FOR PROGRAMS FOR MALE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

The Ontario recently pledged to spend \$2 million over the next two years to establish programs for men and boys who are victims of sexual abuse. The money will be used to establish four networks across Ontario, each offering coordinated services, support, and counselling. It is the first program like this offered by any of the provinces or territories. Attorney General Chris Bentley says that the government is committed to the program, and does not plan on scrapping it after the initial two years.

It is anticipated that the program will offer individual counselling, group counselling and other supports for male victims. There will also be a toll-free hotline to provide crisis support. Rick Goodwin, Executive Director of Ottawa's Men's Project, a non-profit counselling agency, called the announcement a historic first step in supporting male victims.

The idea for the program stemmed from the public inquiry into the allegations of a sexual abuse ring operating in Cornwall. The province had provided some funding for victims from Cornwall to seek counselling, but that

band councils. While the bill does establish rules of ownership and protections for women, critics argue that it will be cost prohibitive for women to seek to have the rules enforced, and that there should have been more consultation with the native women that it seeks to protect.

BILL S-7 MOVES TO THIRD READING

Bill S-7, known as the *Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act* returned from committee before the Senate adjourned until the fall, and will be up for third reading in the fall. This is an important step to the bill becoming law. After third reading it must move to the House of Commons for review, as it was introduced in the Senate.

PAEDIATRIC DEATH REVIEW REPORT RELEASED

The office of the chief coroner in Ontario released their report examining the deaths of 455 children under the age of 19 in Ontario, including 30 classified as homicide, and 57 of indeterminate causes.

The full report is available at <http://tinyurl.com/paediaticreview>, but it should be noted that nine children whose families were known to Children's Aid Societies were murdered in Ontario last year. The report does indicate that steps have been taken at various CAS offices to ensure safety for children, but does not make specific recommendations.

MAN ACCUSED OF ATTEMPTED MURDER FOR NOT DISCLOSING HIV GRANTED BAIL

An Ottawa area man who was charged with four counts of attempted murder for having unprotected sex without disclosing





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funding ran out in January. In response to reports from the victims in Cornwall, the Ontario Provincial Police launched "Project Truth" and spent four years investigating the ring, laying 115 charges against 15 people. One person was eventually convicted.

OTTAWA HOSPITAL FACES A SHORTAGE OF AVAILABLE SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSES

A 21-year old victim of sexual assault who sought treatment at the Ottawa Hospital's specialized Sexual Assault and Partner Abuse Care Program was refused treatment by the unit in early July due to a shortage of available nurses. The unit has a mandate within the Sexual Assault Protocol of providing service within one hour when a victim presents for treatment, but was unable to live up to that commitment when a nurse was not available. The victim was given the choice of waiting in a bed until Monday when a nurse was available, or going to either Cornwall or Renfrew hospitals. She was taken to one of those hospitals for treatment.

Since the case was reported in the media, another victim came forward to report that she too had been refused treatment by the hospital during a previous shortage. She did not receive treatment, and subsequently discovered that she was pregnant from the assault. This illustrates a concerning trend, and highlights the fact that she did not receive basic medical advice as to how to prevent a pregnancy following her attack.

The shortage of available nurses has been blamed on unexpected leaves and illnesses, although there have been reports that burnout is a factor. Typically, a nurse is on call and not present at the hospital. If a victim presents for treatment, the nurse is called in. Sexual assault examinations are very demanding, and can take in excess of five hours to complete. Evidence gathered from the examination is used to help identify offenders and secure convictions.

The Ottawa Hospital has taken steps to remedy this situation, and is currently ensuring that a sexual assault nurse is onsite at all times while they work out a long term solution.

that he was HIV positive has been granted bail. He is under very strict conditions that include house arrest at his mother's home. In addition to the attempted murder charges, he was also charged with four counts of administering a noxious substance, 14 counts of aggravated sexual assault, and three counts of sexual assault.

The police arrest Steven Boone, and made his image public, after an eighteen year-old reported that he had tested positive for HIV after having sex with Boone. They asked the public to come forward if they had had relations with Boone, and several more victims came forward.

Boone was picked up by Waterloo Police upon his release on bail. He faces similar charges in the Waterloo area.

VICTIMS OPPOSE CARDINAL'S ANTICIPATED PROMOTION

Canada's highest-ranking Catholic doesn't deserve a rumoured promotion to the Vatican because of the way he's handled the church sex-abuse scandal, a Quebec victims' group said. France Bédard, the group's founder, said Cardinal Marc Ouellet repeatedly refused to apologize for crimes committed within the church, and for the hundreds of lives destroyed.



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Pope Benedict is reportedly set to name the cardinal to the powerful Congregation of Bishops, which advises the Pope on the selection of bishops. Ouellet's office has not confirmed the rumours.

But Bédard, head of l'Association des Victimes de Prêtres, a group that helps victims of sexually abusive priests in Quebec, said Ouellet's rumoured promotion is unmerited. "There are lives that are completely destroyed and that's why I've been asking for years that Cardinal Ouellet repair the damage that pedophile priests have done," Bédard said. "The promotion that he might be getting is really undeserved. He has been very silent about the victims."

She made the comments outside a Quebec City courtroom following the appearance of a priest accused of being a pedophile.

