



National Justice Network Update



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Welcome to the **MARCH** 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/>.

The CRCVC would like to thank Canadore College Community and Justice Services student Brittany Riel for her help preparing this issue of the NJN.

Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime

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Department of Justice
Canada

Ministère de la Justice
Canada

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LINKS OF INTEREST:

[Policy Centre for Victim Issues](#)

[Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime](#)

[National Office for Victims](#)

PENSIONS FOR PRISONERS A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE

The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC), along with many other groups serving crime victims, is decrying the federal government's decision to allow incarcerated offenders to receive pension benefits. The policy allows for offenders like Clifford Olson is to receive the monthly benefits. Olson, perhaps Canada's most notorious serial killer, killed 11 boys and girls before he was imprisoned in 1982. He is one of over 500 federal offenders over the age of 65 and is eligible to receive both Old Age Security pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement. Both benefits total more than \$14,000 annually. Olson told the Toronto Sun "What good is money to me? I got no use for it, if you get what I'm getting at."

"Those who are incarcerated should lose such

SNAPSHOTS

*** SAVE THE DATE ***



Coordinated Victim Assistance Project (CVAP) for the City of Ottawa

In October 2009, a number of stakeholders from the Victim Services community representing all three levels of government came together to launch a joint-project to champion a seamless and coordinated victim-centered framework to create the best possible victim assistance system for the Ottawa region.

The group will be holding a one-day collaborative workshop during National Victims of Crime Awareness Week inviting stakeholders to provide input on the current state of victim services in Ottawa and to share their vision for the future.

When: Tuesday, April 20th, 2010
from 08:45 to 16:15

Where: Woodvale Pentecostal Church, Ottawa, ON

Please forward any questions to Donna Watson-Elliot at watson-elliottd@ottawapolice.ca

SENATOR WALLIN INTRODUCES THE NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Bill S-209 was recently re-introduced into the Senate as the "National Day of Service Act", in honour of Canadians who were courageous and sacrificed their



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entitlements during the time they are imprisoned”, said Heidi Illingworth, the Executive Director of the CRCVC.

The Prime Minister announced at the end of March that he has directed the Minister to remedy this situation. The CRCVC has written to the Minister of Public Safety and will keep readers apprised of the government’s actions.

RELEASE OF THE VICTIM OMBUDSMAN’S SECOND SPECIAL REPORT

On March 30, 2010, the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime (OFOVC) released its second report: *Toward a Greater Respect for Victims in the Corrections and Conditional Release Act*. The report makes 13 recommendations to strengthen victim’s rights, including measures for increased information to victims and remedies for when victims are denied the right to participate in a hearing. It emphasizes the need to treat victims with compassion and respect, provide them with information about their rights and the offender that harmed them, respecting the important role they have to play in the National Parole Board hearings, as well as the importance of receiving restitution.

Steve Sullivan, said "victims have repeatedly told us that they want their rights to be legislated, and they want to be kept informed...they want to be part of the system, to have their voice matter."

The full report is available for download at:
www.victimfirst.gc.ca

BILL C-464 MOVES CLOSER TO LAW

Referred to as “Zachary’s Law”, Bill C-464 moved one step closer to becoming law when it received unanimous support from the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights on March 16, 2010. The Bill, introduced by MP Scott Andrews as a Private Member’s Bill in 2009, seeks to amend the *Criminal Code* to protect the children of people accused of serious crimes.

David and Kate Bagby, the grandparents of Zachary Turner, presented their story to the Committee. Zachary was the child of their son Andrew and his ex-girlfriend Shirley Turner. While living in the United States, Turner shot and killed Andrew and fled to Canada in 2002. She then revealed that she was pregnant with a baby boy, Zachary. While the extradition process was making its way through the courts, Turner was given custody of

lives in the face of terrorism, particularly the events of September 11, 2001. If passed, the Act will designate the 11th day in September as a day to voluntarily engage in community service, perform good deeds and participate in actions within one’s community.

SHOOTER’S FAMILY URGES DONATIONS FOR OFFICER’S FAMILY

On March 8, 2010, OPP Constable Vu Pham was shot after making a traffic stop near London, ON. He died a few hours later at London’s Victoria Hospital. The man who shot him also died of gunshot wounds. In the death notice posted following his death, his wife, Barb Preston, requested donations to a trust fund for the slain officer’s three sons.

NOTICE OF VACANCY – FEDERAL OMBUDSMAN FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

The CRCVC wrote to the Justice Minister to voice our disappointment with the decision not to renew the appointment of Mr. Steve Sullivan, Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime. We feel that he did exceptional work during the three years of his term, in opening and running the OFOVC, and promoting the rights of victims according to the Canadian Basic Statement of Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime.

We wish Mr. Sullivan the best as he begins a new chapter in his life. We are certain that he will continue to be a powerful voice for those who have suffered indignities of criminal victimization.

For more information on the posting, visit:





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Zachary. She eventually jumped off a wharf in Conception Bay, Newfoundland with Zachary in her arms, killing them both. The Bagby's story is tragic, and they have devoted their lives to ensuring that no other family has to endure the same suffering.

The CRCVC strongly supports Bill C-464, as we believe that this bill will compel the judiciary to consider minor children of the accused when they are making a decision on judicial interim release. The proposal does not suggest that all accused be denied bail, or that the conditions under which a person will be granted bail be made so onerous that no accused will be granted bail. It asks that meaningful consideration be given to the minor children of the accused when determining risk - children who are quite often at the greatest risk of harm at the hands of the accused. It does not dictate that bail will be refused in any given case, or make having children unfairly predispose an accused to remand.

BUDGET 2010 – INCREASING SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF CRIME

One of the most common frustrations that victims of crime report is that they feel excluded from the Canadian justice system. They want to be heard and respected. Canadians who have been the victim of a crime deserve to have a strong advocate within government. Budget 2006 announced the Federal Victims Strategy, which enhanced programming, and created the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime. Building on this investment, Budget 2010 provides funding of \$6.6 million over two years, to enhance support for victims of crime, including providing facilitated access to EI sickness benefits for eligible workers who have lost a family member as a result of a crime.

The CRCVC is pleased by the announcements made in the 2010 federal budget.

NB REVIEWS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS

In New Brunswick, an 11-person domestic violence death review committee will begin analyzing all deaths that resulted from domestic violence in the ten-year period from 1999-2008. This committee will act as a body to the Office of the Chief Coroner. They will review circumstances that lead up to the death, look at risk factors or trends and make recommendations.

BILL C-25 TAKES EFFECT, ENDS TWO-FOR-ONE CREDIT FOR TIME SERVED

The "Truth in sentencing" bill, which virtually eliminates the two-for-one credit for time served while awaiting trial came into force on Tuesday, February 23. The act was originally passed in October, and is not retroactive; it applies to those who have been charged and remanded following its coming into effect. Known as Bill C-25, the new law allows courts to give the offender straight time, or one-for-one credit for time served awaiting trial.

"I do think offenders are going to be less likely to put arbitrary delays in the process," stated Krista Gray-Donald of the CRCVC, "It was advantageous for an offender to rack up dead time. Now there's no advantage. I would hope speedier trials are the result."

2010 JOINING TOGETHER: ISSUES AND INITIATIVES IN CHILD MALTREATMENT

The Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse will be hosting a conference in Calgary, AB on May 3-5, 2010. The conference aims to provide an opportunity for professionals to learn about the latest research and best practices in forensic and clinical approaches to child maltreatment. The wide array of keynote and plenary speakers and presenters will ensure that a multitude of themes are covered.

Full program and registration information is available at www.csicainfo.com. The organizers recommend that attendees register early.





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Martine Stewart, the Director of The Violence Prevention Initiative, hopes that the analysis will lead to intervention and prevention of future deaths and assist family members through the process. It is expected that the review will be concluded by the fall of 2010.

New Brunswick also has a domestic violence review committee that reviews the deaths of children under 19-years old. These children had to be under the care of legal care of the Department of Social Development or whose families were in contact with child protection system within 12 months prior to their death.

CORDON'S LAW

In 2008, Allan Schoenborn murdered his three children, five-year old Cordon, his eight-year-old brother, Max, and sister Kaitlynne, ten. Their bodies were found in the family home in Merritt, BC. Schoenborn, who was arrested after a ten day manhunt, was found Not Criminally Responsible and remains in a Kamloops hospital.

Kathleen Walker, an attorney from Vancouver, has launched a Facebook group, in support of her proposal, referred to as "Cordon's Law". The proposed legislation would streamline all restraining orders protecting children, remove distinctions between civil and criminal orders and disseminate the information not just to police, but also to schools, hospitals, social workers and border guards. It would extend any order protecting one parent to the children as well.

Ms. Walker hopes to get 100,000 signatures from members on her Facebook group and to meet with the Attorney General. The CRCVC supports the proposal as it seeks to create a positive change to child protection laws.

TORONTO POLICE CONSTABLE'S MURDERER GRANTED UTAs

Craig Munro was convicted in 1980 of first-degree murder of Constable Michael Sweet. The murder occurred during a botched robbery at a downtown Toronto restaurant. Munro was recently granted Unescorted Temporary Absences from a BC prison. The passes, which are limited in number, require that Munro has to adhere to strict conditions while in the community.

At a parole hearing in Agassiz, B.C., a two-person panel denied Munro day parole, instead giving him 15 day-

EVERY VICTIM MATTERS CONFERENCE

The Saffron Centre of Sherwood park, AB will be hosting a conference on "Understanding the Impact of Cyber violence on Youth" in Edmonton AB, April 22-23. The program covers a range of topics that address the dangers that today's youth face online. Program detail and registration information can be found online at www.saffron-ssac.com.

TO REPORT OR NOT REPORT – THE CHOICE FACING VICTIMS

Victim Support Scotland is hosting a 3-day international victimology conference, including practical workshops. The conference will seek to:

- address why victims choose to tell or not tell anyone about a crime
- reflect on victim engagement in the justice system
- advance the knowledge of all service provision to people affected by crime

Date: October 5-7, 2010

Where: Edinburgh, Scotland

To register, visit:

www.vssconference2010.org.uk

LI COULD BE RELEASED IN FEW YEARS: PSYCHIATRIST

In 2009, Vince Li was found not criminally responsible of the gruesome death of 22-year old Tim McLean on a Greyhound Bus. It was found that Li was suffering from untreated schizophrenia and psychotic delusions when he attacked Mr. McLean.

Li's psychiatrist says that Li is doing very well in treatment; he says Li could be released into the community within five years. At the



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passes, or Unescorted Temporary Absences (UTA). He'll spend each of those days in a halfway house working to develop life skills.

Munro is prohibited from using drugs or alcohol and must avoid all contact with anyone involved in criminal activity or any member of the victim's family. If he doesn't abide by these conditions, his Parole Officer can suspend him and re-evaluate his entire plan. The Parole Officer can also do routinely check-ins without notice with Munro at any time.

A video statement by the victim's widow, Karen Sweet, said that Munro was still a dangerous man and had not taken responsibility for his actions.

BILL PROPOSES PUBLICIZING THE NAMES OF VIOLENT YOUNG OFFENDERS

The Conservative government is proposing changes that will allow for the names of teenagers convicted of serious crimes to be published, and evidence from previous encounters with the law to be used in sentencing.

The government will also strengthen the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* by allowing courts to charge and sentence young people when they partake in irresponsible behaviour, like car chases. Changes would also permit judges to take into account evidence of previous "extrajudicial sanctions" that did not result in conviction.

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson said that the legislation will keep these offenders off the street when necessary to protect society. However, defence lawyers disagree. They believe that harsher sentencing will not reduce youth crime and will prevent them from being productive members of society.

Frank Addario, past president of the Criminal Lawyers' Association, stated that youth are fundamentally different than adults; they experience the world differently and their level of maturity changes their level of culpability, making it a mistake to apply the same approaches. The CRCVC believes it is necessary to publicize the names of the most serious, violent young offenders in order to protect public safety.

MEMORIALIZING VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

"Memorializing the Victims of Terrorism: An Overview of the Literature" is an article in the Department of Justice's Victims of Crime Research Digest: Issue No. 2 written by Rine Egbo.

time of the attack, Li claimed God was speaking to him and told him to kill Mr. McLean.

The victim's family remains outraged with the verdict of the case and they believe he will harm others if release.

JUDGE DECLARES MISTRIAL IN MANNERS CASE

The trial of the two men charged with the murder of 15-year old Jordan Manners in Toronto, was declared a mistrial by the presiding Judge on Friday, March 26, 2010.

The two accused, who are now 20 years-old, were juveniles when the murder happened. They will return to court on April 1, 2010 to discuss a date for a retrial.

The strength of the case is now in dispute after two teenage girls who were witnesses recanted earlier statements and admitted to lying at trial. The two girls were students at the school, and gave sworn statements that the two boys were on the first floor stairwell where Jordan was found. At trial, they retracted those statements, and said they were based on rumours at school, not on what they saw.





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This article outlines the kinds of physical memorials for acts of terrorism that exist in Canada, the major types of memorials for recent acts of terrorism in other Western nations, and policy issues that governments consider when seeking to establish memorials for victims of terrorism. The article also identifies the need to remember and pay tribute to the victims of terrorism.

As stated in the article, “memorials occupy a permanent position in the landscape of many nations”, and are “spaces invested with meaning that are set aside to remember”. The CRCVC feels that events of September 11th certainly deserve a permanent and meaningful space in Canada that is set aside for remembrance; yet there is still no permanent memorial in Canada to remember the 24 Canadians who perished on 9/11.

Late this month, Russia suffered two significant attacks by suicide bombers; which took the lives of more than 100 innocent citizens. The rippling effects of a terrorist attack are significant and inter-generational. The CRCVC offers our condolences to the families of the victims as well as all the citizens affected by this recent terrorist attack.

