



National Justice Network Update



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Welcome to the **MAY** 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

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Department of Justice
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LINKS OF INTEREST:

[Policy Centre for Victim Issues](#)

[Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime](#)

[National Office for Victims](#)

[Victim Services, Correctional Service Canada](#)

[Information for Victims, National Parole Board](#)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OVERHAULS PARDON SYSTEM

The federal government announced sweeping changes to the National Parole Board's parole system on May 11, introducing legislation that eliminates pardons and replaces them with "record suspensions". These changes come after it was revealed that notorious sexual predator Graham James had been pardoned.

The proposed legislation will make it harder to obtain record suspensions, excluding from eligibility those who have committed sex offences against children and those who have been convicted of three or more serious offences. It will also lengthen the post-release wait times, to five years for those convicted of more minor crimes and ten years for those convicted of serious crimes. The new regulations will now require that offenders must show that gaining a record suspension will contribute to

SNAPSHOTS

CCVF EIGHTH ANNUAL GALA

The Canadian Crime Victim Foundation's 8th Annual Spring Gala will be held on May 28, 2010 at the Riviera Parque in Vaughan, Ontario. This year's guest speaker will be Senator Pamela Wallin. She will be joined by other special guests and great entertainment. The CRCVC looks forward to attending this excellent event!

GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES CHILD PORNOGRAPHY PROTECTIONS

On May 6th the Federal government introduced legislation that aims to protect victims of child pornography, making it mandatory for Internet Service Providers to report any tips that they receive about child pornography, and any information that they have pertaining to an offence that may have occurred. Under the proposed legislation, failure to comply with the law will result in escalating fines to the individual or corporation, with provisions that allow for incarceration in cases of repeated failures. Information on the bill can be found [here](#).

CONGRATULATIONS TO PVSBC

Police Victim Services of British Columbia (PVSBC) recently held their 25th Annual Training Symposium in Burnaby, BC on May 14th and 15th. Hundreds of delegates from across BC and Alberta and other parts of Canada experienced an excellent training session and networking opportunity. Congratulations to Carolyn Sinclair, Kim Gramlich and their entire team!



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their rehabilitation.

The number of pardons that have been granted has increased steadily in recent years, with the National Parole Board issuing 40,428 pardons in 2008-2009, while denying approximately 800. This is a huge increase over 2006-2007, when 14,851 pardons were granted.

The CRCVC strongly supports the changes proposed. Offenders should have to prove that they meet certain criteria in order to obtain a pardon. The current system which essentially approves all pardon requests is not sufficient.

ST. THOMAS FAMILY NEEDS HELP FOLLOWING TRAGIC CRASH

Three young boys are without a father after an April car crash took the life of Tom Norman in Aruba. Mr. Norman and his wife, Christine, were enjoying a vacation stop in Aruba when a drunk driver in a pick-up truck crashed into their rented ATV. Tom was killed instantly, and Christine, who was thrown over the front of the vehicle, suffered leg and pelvis injuries. She is in hospital still, and will likely remain there for several more months.

The driver was arrested and the crash is being investigated by the Aruban police, but it has been reported that there were also drugs in the vehicle. The family is still waiting to hear the outcome of the investigation from the police. There have been twelve drunk driving fatalities in Aruba this year.

The Norman's have three young boys, ages six, four, and two. At the time of the crash Christine was working part-time and attending school. Tom was a test pilot for Diamond Aircraft, and had minimal insurance because of the risks associated with this career. The family is uncertain if there is any compensation available in Aruba. A trust fund has been set up to help the family, for current and future expenses. Donations can be made to at the TD Canada Trust in St. Thomas, account number 6371107-02. More information about their plight can be found at www.normanfamily.ca.

OTTAWA PSYCHIATRIST'S SENTENCE OVERTURNED

The Ontario Court of Appeal has overturned the sentence handed down to Ottawa psychiatrist Juan Tejada. In July of 2009, Tejada was convicted of sexually assaulting a former patient, and later received a conditional sentence of two years. The Crown appealed the sentence. The three judge panel that reviewed the sentence found that it

SEXUAL PREDATOR SORRY FOR HARM

A man who tricked young girls into making child pornography and performing sex acts apologized to his victims at his sentencing hearing in Ottawa on May 13th. Ryan McCann, now twenty, used several identities in the commission of his crimes. In most cases he convinced the girls to degrade themselves on a webcam, and then threatened to publish the videos he made to convince them to make more videos. He acknowledged that he was a predator who stripped the victims of their innocence.

He pled guilty to 26 charges involving 19 victims, all but one of which was under eighteen. He was sentenced to eight years in prison.

SIBLINGS OF YOUNG HOMICIDE VICTIMS RESEARCH PROJECT

Please read the [attached invitation](#) to participate in a research project being conducted by Dr. Susan Tasker at the University of Victoria and Priscilla de Villiers, Research Coordinator and Consultant. This project is funded by the Canadian Crime Victim Foundation. If you would like to participate, please contact Priscilla de Villiers: Email: research@priscilladevilliers.com Tel: +1.905.634.1819

VICTIM CONTRIBUTES TO BOOK

Lou Ann Soontiens, a victim of sexual abuse at the hands of a Chatham, Ontario priest, has told the story of her abuse in a newly published American book on sexual abuse in the Catholic



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“manifestly inadequate”, and concluded that he should have received a sentence of incarceration totalling three to four years. They imposed a sentence of two years to take into account the fact that Tejeda is in poor health, and had served five months of house arrest.

Tejeda had sexually assaulted the male victim for approximately nine years, from 1990-1999. The victim had sought counselling for alcohol and sexual identity concerns. Tejeda took advantage of his vulnerabilities, plied him with alcohol and then sexually assaulted him repeatedly.

The judges found that sentencing judge Roydon Kealey had made two errors in sentencing. First, he asserted that the victim’s civil suit negated the effect of the victim’s impact statement, and secondly, he found it debatable whether the breach of trust could be considered aggravating on sentence, as it is what made the otherwise consensual sex criminal.

SOCIAL MEDIA ADDS COMPLEXITY TO PUBLICATION BANS

Publication bans are a fairly common occurrence in cases involving sexual assaults or vulnerable victims. They generally involve protecting the identity of the victim, but may also extend to the identity of the offender. The advent of such as Facebook and Twitter have created new challenges in enforcing publication bans, as they allow non-traditional means of publicizing details of a given case.

Recent trends have the details being shared by victims or concerned citizens, who publicize the information in the form of memorial pages or “warning” sites. Information is often shared long before a publication ban is instituted, and is virtually impossible to remove once published on the internet.

Brendan Crawley, from the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General said that personal sites revealing details of a case are subject to the conditions of publication bans. He is not aware of any action being taken against a site for a breach of a ban. It is possible that the author could be asked to remove the site to comply with a ban.

Heidi Illingworth of the CRCVC says that she understands the anger that residents may feel and their desire to get information out about a crime or the offenders, but cautions that the job of notifying the public about dangerous offenders is best left to the police.

Church. The book, entitled “Breach of Faith, Breach of Trust” looks at the history of abuse within the Catholic Church, focusing on Charles Sylvestre, who abused Ms. Soontiens and at least 46 other women.

Ms. Soontiens received a settlement in a civil suit against the Roman Catholic Diocese of London, but had been given the opportunity to tell her story. The book has allowed her to do that.

CCVF TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO YORK UNIVERSITY

Joe and Lozanne Wamback, founders of the Canadian Crime Victim Foundation have announced a funding agreement and partnership with York University in Toronto. They plan to assist the LaMarsh Centre for Research on Violence and Crime for research into victims of violent crime.

They plan to help launch a study children and families who have been victims of extremely violent crimes. The hope is that the research will provide insight for clinicians, to foster an understanding of the resiliency among victims and guide policy in victim’s rights. York University psychology professors Jennifer Connolly and Stephen Fleming will lead the initiative.

FORMER OMBUDSMAN LAUNCHES NEW BLOG

Steve Sullivan, former Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime and CRCVC President has launched a new blog to share his experiences, knowledge and opinions about the realities of crime victims in Canada. The blog, entitled “Crime Victim Advocacy”, can be found [here](#). We look forward to reading Steve’s





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Publication bans are generally ordered to for good reasons, and often necessary to protect members of the public.

YOUTH CONVICTED OF SEXUALLY ASSAULTING ACQUAINTANCE

A seventeen year old Ottawa teen was convicted in early May of sexually assaulting a female acquaintance, with the judge rejecting his attempts to claim that the sex was consensual. The Judge ruled that the victim was a credible and reliable witness, whose story never varied, and was supported by the evidence.

The victim was fifteen at the time of the assault. She had run into the youth at a local fair, and was walking and talking with him when they wandered behind some trailers and he attacked her. He threatened to harm her if she told anyone.

Sentencing is set to occur on Aug 13, 2010, and it is believed that the Crown will seek a significant period of incarceration.

LALO VICTIMS AWAIT COMPENSATION

Nova Scotia child molester Cesar Lalo was recently released from prison, having served the sentence he received for abusing a number of boys in his care. Many of his victims, however, are still awaiting the outcome of longstanding lawsuits against the province pertaining to the abuse. Lalo was a youth probation officer who preyed on the boys that were under his supervision.

Several lawsuits have been settled in recent years, but there are approximately 20 civil suits outstanding. Nova Scotia's Justice Minister, Ross Landry recently stated that staff are working "diligently" to settle the lawsuits, claiming that the ministry is sensitive to the possibility of revictimization. Some lawsuits date back to 1996.

The CRCVC urges that the Nova Scotia government take swift action to address the compensation claims of these victims. This is a case where the wrongdoing has been established, and the government needs to acknowledge the harm felt by these victims, and the role that the province played. Lalo was an agent of the Crown when the abuse occurred, and his actions led to long term suffering for many of his victims.

insights!

PROVINCES CONCERNED ABOUT COST OF CRIME BILLS

A Globe and Mail survey of provincial justice ministries indicates that six of the ten provinces have expressed concern over the costs of the federal government's tough on crime legislation, with the other four awaiting further information from the government. The federal government has not officially proposed a cost for the bills, but it is believed that Bill C-25, which eliminated the two for one credit for offenders awaiting trial, could cost approximately \$2 billion over the next five years. The CRCVC supports many of the initiatives proposed by the Federal government, but is also concerned about the cost estimates.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION: THE EVIDENCE

World Health Organization and Liverpool John Moores University launched *Violence prevention: the evidence*, an eight-part series of briefings on the evidence for interventions to prevent interpersonal and self-directed violence. By spotlighting evidence for the effectiveness of interventions, *Violence prevention: the evidence* provides clear directions for how violence prevention funders, policy makers and program implementers can boost the impact of their violence prevention efforts. The reports can be found [here](#).





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KARL TOFT RELEASED FROM CUSTODY

Convicted pedophile, Karl Toft, now 73, was released from custody in Edmonton on May 4th. He had been held following a breach of his recognizance order. He was scheduled to return to court on May 25th. While awaiting that appearance, Toft was required to check in with Edmonton Police's behavioural assessment unit and live under the existing conditions of the order.

Toft was arrested when it was reported that he had been seen in a fast food restaurant, contrary to a prohibition from patronizing places frequented by children. Toft has admitted to molesting more than 200 young boys during the three decades that he worked at a reform school in New Brunswick. He was convicted of some of those assaults, and spent time in a penitentiary until his release in 2001.

This was the first charge laid as a result of a breach of the order. Police report that he has been "extremely compliant" since his release, and that he attends support meetings, and counselling in addition to his police checks.

Toft has spoken out publicly in support of the Phoenix sex offender program at the Alberta Hospital, which faced the threat of being shut down earlier this year. At that time, Toft reportedly told the Edmonton Sun that the program was responsible for him facing the enormity of his crimes and turning his life around.

URBAN AGENDA CALLS FOR PREVENTING VIOLENCE THROUGH A MULTI-SECTOR APPROACH

The *Urban Agenda*, developed by UNITY in conjunction with representatives from the US's thirteen largest urban centres, calls for cities to invest in development, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of effective and sustainable approaches to prevent community and gang violence. The report highlights the need to combat violence from multiple avenues, for example education; health and human services, substance abuse and mental health, and children and families, and that these initiatives need to be carried out at the national, state and local level to be effective.

Based in research and informed by communities, the looks at both city-level and neighbourhood-level approaches to violence prevention. It maintains that violence, and therefore victimization, can be reduced by investing in cities for sustainable programs, supporting local planning and implementation through training and capacity building, and collaboration between all levels of government and the public to support prevention efforts.

To learn more, please visit the [UNITY](#) homepage.

WOMAN FINDS HEALING IN FORGIVING FATHER'S KILLER

from www.ksn.com

WICHITA, Kansas – A woman is dealing with her pain in a remarkable way. The woman, whose father was gunned down at close range, has not only forgiven the killer, but now calls him a friend. It's a message of hope that she came to Wichita to share.

"When my dad was killed, that was all that mattered," said Margot Van Sluytman. "We didn't have my dad."

She was just 16 at the time when her father, Theodore Van Sluytman, was murdered during a robbery at the store where he worked.



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"Right point blank, like right up close, he shot my father," Margot said.

That man went to prison while Margot poured her pain into writing poems that, once published, inspired the killer to contact her by e-mail almost 30 years later.

"Every day I pray that somehow you and your family have somehow been able to move on from the despicable thing I did," Margot reads from Glen Flett's letter. "I would like you to know that I have put my whole heart into being a different man than I was."

Flett, now out of prison, eventually met Margot face-to-face, despite the concern of her mother and siblings. But Margot was convinced he deserved a second chance and even agreed to talk about their strange friendship at a women's prison.

"I knew when Glen and I stood up and spoke with those women, some murderers, they would see the possibility for healing," she said.

It's what she calls 'restorative justice' – helping both victim and criminal move on. It's a message of mercy she spreads wherever she goes, fulfilling a pledge she made to her father long ago.

"The last thing I said to my dad before the lid was closed, I said, 'I promise you your death will not be for nothing,' I didn't know what that meant at the time, but I believe it means this," she said.

Margot and Glen continue to keep in touch and have made several public appearances together.

