

Crime & Justice

Come along with us on a seven-week exploration of our criminal and social justice system. You will learn from lawyers, judges, police personnel, and social justice advocates about their day-to-day efforts to promote and ensure a safer, fairer society for us all.

September 19: Housing B.C.'s Vulnerable

Tom Sandborn (freelance writer, advocate) & Christine Harris (mother of Lindsey Longe)

In a recent article in *The Tyee*, Tom Sandborn reported that “more than 25 per cent of the deaths in provincially funded supportive housing* in Vancouver weren't reported for at least two days” If residents' deaths can go unreported for days, where are the supports?

Please join us for an inquiry into the case of Lindsey Longe, whose death raises disturbing questions about professional and provincial accountability in funded housing. How do we ensure justice for those unable to fight for it themselves?

*for the homeless, frail seniors, people with disabilities, Aboriginal individuals and families, and women and children at risk of violence

September 26: Wills & Estate Planning

Mike Beishuizen (lawyer)

According to Mike Beishuizen, creating a valid Will is an essential part of the estate planning process, but all too many people mistake it for being the **only** step. Mike will guide us through a comprehensive plan for ensuring financial and health care peace of mind.

October 3: Females in Gangs: The Unicorns of Organized Crime

Hilary Kim Morden (PhD Candidate, SFU School of Criminology)

Historically, most gangs in Canada have been comprised predominantly of younger adult males with women holding subordinate positions such as girlfriend or goomah. Over the past two decades, however, there have been increasing numbers of females emerging as bona fide members - actively committing gang crime and, in some cases, emerging as strong leaders. Today's presentation examines the lives and motivations of 17 gang-affiliated female offenders located in Metro Vancouver. Ms. Morden will offer insight into the gang affiliation and maintenance process for females and some suggestions for potential prevention and intervention strategies.

October 17: A Day in Court

The Honourable Robert N. Hamilton (judge, Surrey Provincial Court)

What is involved in the workday of a provincial court judge? Come along to learn about the myriad challenges and decisions facing Provincial Court Judge Robert Hamilton, who will describe for us the adult and youth criminal, family, child protection, and civil cases he hears.

October 24: Medical Assistance in Dying: Medical, Legal, and Spiritual Perspectives

Dr. Morley Lertzman (physician), Mike Beishuizen (lawyer), Steve Moore (pastor)

The prohibition on voluntary euthanasia was overturned in a February 2015 decision by the Supreme Court (*Carter v Canada (AG)*), which ruled that some adults with grievous and irremediable medical conditions are entitled to physician assisted suicide. As a result of an extension granted to the new Liberal government, federal, provincial, and territorial governments were given until June 2016 to design and implement the regulatory framework for physician-assisted dying in Canada.

Our three-person panel will offer insights into the current state of this legislation from their respective areas of expertise: medical, legal, and spiritual.

October 31: Human Trafficking in Canada

Mrs. Cathy Peters (advocate)

Human trafficking is in fact modern day slavery and distressingly alive and well in our community. It is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel another person to provide labour or commercial sex against their will, and it is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in the world. Please join Cathy Peters as she outlines for us the magnitude of the problem and what we, as parents, grandparents, and citizens, can do to protect the vulnerable.

November 7: Do Mandatory Minimum Sentences = A Lower Crime Rate?

The Honourable Selwyn Romilly (judge, BC Supreme Court, retired)

The Honourable Selwyn Romilly will discuss some of his most memorable rulings that have had long lasting effects on British Columbia law. He is a legal trailblazer. Justice Romilly, the first Black judge appointed to the British Columbia provincial court in 1974 and to the Supreme Court 21 years later, retired last January after a long and distinguished career. Several of his judgments have been summarized in the *Weekly Criminal Bulletin*, the *BC Digest of Criminal and Sentence Cases* and the *Charter of Rights Digest*. In 1991, he was voted by BC lawyers as one of the four best provincial court judges in the province.