



**Blake Richards, M.P.**  
Wild Rose

# Wild Rose Report

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LENGTHY PUBLIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN BEARS FRUIT IN BILL C-10**

The recent passage of our Conservative Government's Safe Streets and Communities Act signifies another fulfilled election promise and makes several long overdue reforms to the Criminal Code. But it also represents a satisfying conclusion to a personal mission I embarked on some time ago.

You may recall how in 2010 we belatedly learned that convicted sex offender Graham James had received a pardon in 2007 from the National Parole Board. Canadians were outraged that an offender who had preyed on innocent children could so easily and quietly receive a pardon. I shared their disgust and in April 2010 I joined with a concerned constituent, Amy Stewart, to start a petition to prevent convicted child molesters from being pardoned for their crimes.

The response to the online petition was amazing. Within days, hundreds of people across Canada had downloaded the document to circulate in their communities. I received thousands of signatures in support of ending pardons for serious crimes. The result was Bill C-23A, which received Royal Assent in June 2010. The new law extended the ineligibility periods for certain pardon applications from five years to 10.

But Bill C-23A was only a partial victory. Opposition parties in the former minority Parliament had unfortunately stripped out portions of our bill that would have made certain offences - including sexual offences against minors - entirely ineligible for pardons.

The pardons legislation was one of many justice bills that the Opposition parties obstructed at the time. Our various bills to crack down on violent gangs, to end house arrest for serious crimes, to toughen penalties for producing and trafficking illicit drugs, amongst others, were all debated at length, only to fall victim to the Opposition's tactics.

One of our campaign promises was to bundle those crime bills that the Opposition had repeatedly obstructed and to pass them within 100 sitting days of our re-election. Bill C-10 included a measure to make those convicted of sexual offences against minors be ineligible for a record suspension, as my petition had called for in 2010.

It was personally satisfying to stand in support of Bill C-10 on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and to know that my vote meant better protection for children from predators like Graham James who will now face new and higher mandatory minimum jail time for their despicable crimes, and will also never be able to scrub their crimes from the public record again.

**For more information, please contact Blake Richards, M.P., at (403) 948-5103**