



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

# Wild Rose Report

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **KEEPING OUR STREETS AND COMMUNITIES SAFE**

Somehow, somewhere along the line, a justice system intended to punish crime and protect society has gotten its priorities confused. A preoccupation with the rights of criminals seems too often to trump the rights of the victims upon whom they prey.

Our Conservative Government agrees with the majority of Canadians who believe the justice system must put victims and public safety first. Over five years in a minority Parliament, our Government consistently proposed legislation intended to restore balance to the system only to see much of it obstructed by Opposition parties that are soft on crime.

But things changed on May 2 of this year. We put a clear, tough-on-crime justice agenda before the electorate and Canadians responded by giving us a strong mandate to make our streets and communities safe. Our Conservative Government is honouring our commitment by introducing comprehensive law-and-order legislation that takes action to protect families and hold criminals accountable.

The Safe Streets and Communities Act reintroduces a number of justice reforms that Opposition parties obstructed in the previous session:

- ✓ Imposing new and higher mandatory minimum penalties for sexual offences against children and creating two new offences that are aimed at conduct that could facilitate these heinous crimes;
- ✓ Tougher sentences for the production and possession of illicit drugs for the purposes of trafficking;
- ✓ Sébastien's Law, which ensures that violent and repeat young offenders are held accountable for their actions by the justice system;
- ✓ Elimination of the use of conditional sentences, or "house arrest", for serious and violent crimes;
- ✓ Enshrined rights for victims to participate in parole hearings and address inmate accountability, responsibility and management;
- ✓ Extends the ineligibility periods for applications for a record suspension (currently called a "pardon");
- ✓ Adds criteria that the Minister of Public Safety could consider when deciding whether or not to allow the transfer of a Canadian offender back to Canada to serve their sentence;
- ✓ Allows victims of terrorism to sue perpetrators and supporters of terrorism, including listed foreign states, for loss or damage resulting from of an act of terrorism committed anywhere in the world; and

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

- ✓ Authorizes immigration officers to refuse work permits to vulnerable foreign nationals when it is determined that they are at risk of ill treatment, including sexual exploitation or human trafficking.

Canadians want and deserve to be able to feel safe in their homes and communities and that means that criminals need to be off our streets. This legislation will help us do that.