

CANADIAN RESOURCE  
CENTRE FOR VICTIMS  
OF CRIME



CENTRE CANADIEN DE  
RESSOURCES POUR LES  
VICTIMES DE CRIMES

February 13, 2008

*"Dedicated to Justice" • «Au service de la justice»*

The Honourable Rob Nicholson  
Minister of Justice  
284 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0H8

The Honourable Stockwell Day  
Minister of Public Safety  
340 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0P8

Dear Ministers:

As you know, the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC) is a national, non-government advocacy group for victims and survivors of violent crime. We find it necessary to respond to those who are seeking clemency for Robert Latimer, as we feel the young, innocent victim in this case, Tracy Latimer, seems to have been forgotten or overlooked in the plight to set her father free.

We find it offensive that so many groups are calling for end to Robert Latimer's "suffering". This man knowingly and willingly ended the life of his daughter in a so called "act of mercy". We should not condone or excuse the killing of society's most vulnerable people, those with disabilities and handicaps.

Robert Latimer had numerous palliative options to assist him with his daughter's care and he rejected them all. He chose to end his own daughter's life, despite the fact that Tracy enjoyed music, bonfires, being with her family and the circus. She liked to play music on a radio. Tracy could apparently recognize family members and she would express joy at seeing them. Tracy also loved being rocked gently by her parents. As we understand it, it was never possible for Tracy to communicate about her wishes and priorities. Thus, Latimer's actions were deliberate and reckless.

Tracy was a human being. Surely her life, no matter how difficult, was worth living. As a society, we cannot allow the strong among us to arbitrarily choose which lives are more worthy of living than others.

Please remember this young victim and how her life was ended in any decision you take.

Sincerely,

Heidi Illingworth  
Executive Director