



“Dedicated to Justice” • «Au service de la justice»

December 12, 2011

The Honourable Rob Nicholson
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC) would like to congratulate you and the Conservative government for successfully repealing the faint-hope clause and implementing the *Protecting Canadians by Ending Sentence Discounts for Multiple Murders Act*. We are pleased this legislation has now come into force in Canada.

At the CRCVC, we work with many clients who have been directly affected by section 745 of the *Criminal Code* and know that collectively, victims are breathing a sigh of relief. The faint-hope clause was a contradictory section of the *Criminal Code*, causing anguish to victims' families when they were forced to attend a hearing years sooner than the offender's sentence dictated. It is our belief that an offender who is convicted of murder and sentenced in a court of law to life imprisonment without parole for more than fifteen years, should serve the time the court intended before parole eligibility.

Similarly, when a murderer takes more than one life, it is both just and fair that they should serve consecutive parole ineligibility periods. Allowing sentence discounts for the worst offender/worst offence scenario diminishes all the lives that were senselessly and violently taken.

We thank you for taking the concerns of victims from across Canada and acting. Offender accountability is a major issue for victims and their families and we congratulate the government for addressing it. We wish you a safe and happy holiday season and all the best for 2012.

Sincerely,

Heidi Illingworth
Executive Director