

The Last Word – Drug Crime

By Brent Rathgeber, MP

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Drug crime is a very serious problem which affects everyone. It is a phenomenon which is occurring around the country.

Over the past couple of years your Government has taken many actions, such as: moving to strengthen police forces at all levels, cracking down on street racing, ending house arrest for violent criminals, implementing mandatory minimum sentences for those convicted of serious violent crimes, raising the age of sexual consent in order to protect our young children, employing new laws to crack down on drug impaired driving and now we are cracking down on gang related crimes.

Your Government is also committed to taking action and cracking down on criminals who wish to prey on the vulnerable by trafficking in illicit drugs.

Minister of Justice Rob Nicholson recently introduced Bill C-15, "*An Act to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*".

This legislation will get tough on those who produce and sell illegal drugs.

The proposed changes will impose mandatory minimum sentences for the production and sale of illicit drugs. Also, new offences will be created for gang related drug offences, as well as drug offences which are specifically targeted towards children, such as selling drugs near our schools.

In my view, these changes are long overdue. They will send a strong signal to criminals that it is no longer acceptable for them to put dangerous drugs onto our streets.

We must protect our children from drugs and other illicit behavior; that is why I will support this Bill. It will ensure that drug dealers end up where they belong: behind bars.

I have spoken with many of my constituents in St. Albert and I consistently hear the same message; if you are going to produce or sell drugs in Canada, you need to go to jail.

I would be interested in hearing your thoughts and opinions about this, or any other issue. Never hesitate to call my office at (780)-459-0809, or drop me a line at rathgb1@parl.gc.ca.