



Brent Rathgeber, MP
Edmonton – St. Albert

News Release

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Protecting Society

Tough New Measures to Deal with Dangerous Young Offenders

St. Albert, AB – Today, Minister of Justice Rob Nicholson announced proposed measures to strengthen the way that the Young Offenders System deals with violent and repeat young offenders.

“All too often we are powerless to keep violent or repeat young offenders off of the streets, even when they pose a danger to themselves or other” said Brent Rathgeber, Member of Parliament for Edmonton – St. Albert. “We need to simplify the rules in order to keep these offenders in custody when necessary.”

Right now, a youth 14 or older may commit the most serious of crimes – murder or aggravated sexual assault – and receive only a small fraction of the sentence that Canadians expect to be handed down for these types of crimes.

These proposed changes will require the courts to consider adult sentences for those convicted of these most serious crimes, when the circumstances require it. It is also important to note that the proposed changes include a provision to ensure that offenders under the age of 18 will not be placed in an adult facility, even when they receive an adult sentence.

“Currently, a youth convicted of a serious and violent offence can be released into the community anonymously. Parents have no way of knowing if they are living near a convicted young sex offender. We will give courts greater discretion to publish the names of young offenders when public safety warrants it” said Rathgeber. “Our Government takes the issue of youth crime very seriously and as we move forward with these serious reforms we will build a stronger, safer and better Canada.”

Rathgeber is a Member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights.

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