



Brent Rathgeber, MP
Edmonton – St. Albert

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 10, 2009

Opposition Guts Crime Legislation *Unelected Senators Dismantle Important Tough on Drugs Bill*

St. Albert –Last night, once again, the Opposition in the Senate voted to weaken Bill C-15, an important piece of legislation that cracks down on drug crime.

“Bill C-15 was passed in the House of Commons quite quickly. Not only has it been sitting in the Senate for upwards of six months, but now the Opposition has voted to remove all provisions that allow us to get tough on drug dealers. It is quite disconcerting” said Member of Parliament Brent Rathgeber. “The culture of pampering criminals in this country has gone on long enough. Canadians consistently tell me that we need to put the rights of victims and law abiding citizens above those of drug dealers and gangsters. Apparently the Opposition does not agree.”

Among other things, Bill C-15 will ensure mandatory jail time for serious drug offences that involve organized crime, violence, or preying on youth. Opposition Senators led the charge to remove the provision of C-15 that calls for mandatory minimum sentences for those who grow marijuana with the intent to traffic. According to Opposition Senators, someone is only a dangerous drug dealer once they are growing 201 marijuana plants or more.

“When the cameras are on and the public is watching, the Opposition talks a good game about cracking down on crime and respecting victims. However, as we can see by these actions done in the back rooms of the Senate, Canadians simply cannot count on the Opposition to stand up and vote to protect their safety or the safety of their children” said Rathgeber.

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

-30-

For More Information Contact:
Mark Johnson
Communications Assistant
613-996-4722

Ottawa Office:
Room 551, Confederation Bldg.
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
RathgB@parl.gc.ca
Tel: (613) 996-4722



Constituency Office:
#220, 20 Perron Street
St. Albert, AB
T8N 2E4
Tel: (780) 459-0809
Fax: (780) 460-1246