



July 24, 2007

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Hon. Lorne Calvert
Premier of Saskatchewan
Room 226 Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan
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Dear Premier Calvert,

Almost one year ago to the day, I wrote you about Peter Whitmore, one of Canada's most notorious pedophiles. In the wake of the kidnapping and assault of an innocent 10 year-old boy, the people of Whitewood and the people of this province, had been left with a deep concern about the growing threat to public safety posed by these types of offenders, when they are released back into the community.

As the result of a recent decision by Crown Prosecutors to forego a dangerous offender designation for Mr. Whitmore, public attention has once more been drawn to this notorious case. While sparing these young victims the ordeal of a protracted and emotional trial may be a laudable goal, parents and others interested in the safety of children deserve to know everything possible is being done to protect potential victims from these dangerous offenders. And, as I have stated publicly, if the dangerous offender provisions of Section 753 of the Criminal Code of Canada don't apply to Mr. Whitmore, then they don't apply to anyone.

For much of the last 14 years, Mr. Whitmore has illustrated clearly the justice system's failure at dealing effectively with chronic sex offenders. In a previous case, Canada's parole board indicated Whitmore was "100 per cent" likely to re-offend after serving one of his sentences on sexual assault. As stated in a July 19, 2007 editorial in the *Saskatoon Star Phoenix*:

His name has often been in the headlines for the outrageous manner in which he has flouted court orders and manipulated justice officials and agencies and got back on the streets to claim more victims.

People across this nation are becoming increasingly frustrated with a system that continues to allow these offenders back on the streets. Norman Bourdreau of the Winnipeg-based child protection group *Beyond Borders* says he's outraged that Mr. Whitmore is not being designated a dangerous offender. In recent media coverage, Mr. Bourdreau is demanding to know how "a self-proclaimed sexual offender is able to slip through the cracks".

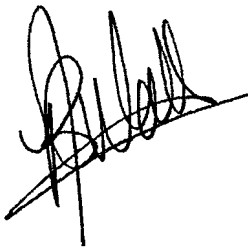
One viable solution being offered to improve the current system is Bill C-27, now being discussed in committee in the House of Commons. Under this legislation, it would be up to the convicted person to prove he or she should not be classified as a dangerous offender. This "reverse onus" provision would come into effect after a third violent crime or sex offence.

Should Bill C-27 pass, victims may not have to testify, Canadians could rest assured everything possible is being done to protect innocent victims and Crown Prosecutors would not be placed in the uncomfortable position of having to surrender a powerful sentencing option in order to secure a conviction.

Unfortunately, all of the federal opposition parties, including the NDP, have stated their opposition to this legislation

In light of recent events in the Whitmore matter, I urge you to offer your full support for Bill C-27, and in particular to encourage your federal NDP counterparts to support this important legislation.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Wall', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brad Wall
Leader of the Official Opposition Saskatchewan Party

Cc Frank Quennell, Minister of Justice for Saskatchewan
Don Morgan, Saskatchewan Party Justice Critic