

SPEAKING NOTES FOR
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY KERRY-LYNNE D. FINDLAY, Q.C.,
M.P. FOR DELTA-RICHMOND EAST

ON THE EVENT OF:
A JUSTICE ROUNDTABLE



VANCOUVER, BC
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Good morning ladies & gentlemen.

Let me start by thanking each and everyone of you for taking part in this roundtable. I look forward to hearing your views.

It is up to all of us to work together to ensure the safety and security of our communities, which is why I am so pleased that you have all come here today.

As you are aware, since coming into office, our Government has made tackling crime one of its highest priorities.

We remain unwavering in our commitment to Canadians to ensuring our communities are safe places for people to live, raise their families and do business. We have made significant progress, but there is still much more to be done.

That is why we recently introduced Bill C-10, also known as the *Safe Streets and Communities Act*. This Bill fulfills our commitment during the last Federal Election to quickly re-introduce law-and-order legislation to combat crime and terrorism.

Our *Safe Streets and Communities Act* is comprised of nine previously introduced bills that did not pass during previous parliamentary sessions. We promised that we would have these bills passed within the first 100 sitting days of parliament.

And we have already made great headway; the Bill has passed second reading and is currently before the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights.

After hearing from Canadians from all walks of life, our Government is taking measures to address their concerns by making the protection of victims a priority.

Among the legislative reforms in our comprehensive bill; are provisions for protecting children, targeting organized drug crime, and protecting the public from violent and repeat young offenders.

This legislation will help protect children from sexual predators by increasing penalties for sexual offences against them. It also creates two new offences that target conduct that could facilitate the sexual abuse of a child.

This legislation also protects the public from violent and repeat young offenders by ensuring that they are kept off the streets when necessary to protect the public.

It also puts an end to conditional sentences or house arrest for serious violent and property crimes, such as sexual assault, human trafficking, arson, luring a child and kidnapping.

Incorporated in our new comprehensive bill, is legislative reform that will help protect vulnerable foreign workers

from being subjected to potential abuse and exploitation by giving immigration officers the authority to deny work permits to those who may be at risk.

Our Government will also continue to work with the appropriate enforcement agencies, both domestically and internationally to help address the issue of international human trafficking.

The *Safe Streets and Communities Act* legislation also creates tougher sentences for the production and trafficking of illicit drugs. This legislation targets criminal organizations that supply illicit drugs – the most significant source of money for gangs and organized crime. Drug producers and dealers who threaten the safety of our communities will face tougher penalties.

Canadians can count on our Government to deliver on its promises and always look at ways to strengthen and improve the Canadian justice system.

We are eager to continue working in partnership with the provinces and territories, communities and with law enforcement officials to ensure that our justice system is responsive to the needs of Canadians.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the work you do in support of our efforts to protect Canadians.

I am confident that our discussion today will further assist our Government as we work toward better improving our justice system.

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