



Creating a New Path for Canadian Justice

Who: Leadnow is an independent community of more than 60,000 Canadians who are working together hold government accountable, deepen our democracy, and take action for the common good.

What: As we enter the 11th hour before the expected vote on the Omnibus Crime Bill, we are writing to encourage you to oppose Bill C-10 and invite you to support and/or participate in a constructive alternative, a Citizen's Assembly for Canadian Justice. This idea is already supported by more than 30,000 Canadians, and a range of experts and organizations listed on the second page of this note.

This Assembly would build on the tradition of Royal Commissions and citizens assemblies, bringing together citizens, experts and organizations to create a new justice strategy that would make Canada safer, not meaner. We would prefer that the Assembly be created by Parliament, but if Bill C-10 passes then we will establish the Assembly as an extra-Parliamentary body.

Your endorsement would mean you support the idea of creating a Citizen's Assembly for Canadian Justice that would craft a 21st century plan for our justice system, potentially by establishing recommendations for multiple levels of government.

When: We will announce the next round of endorsers in a media release early Monday morning before the anticipated vote on Bill C-10. In order to be included in that media release, we would like to hear from you by 9PM EST on Sunday. Depending on the outcome of the vote, we will then begin the process of working with the interested endorsers to design the Assembly.

Why: Our community is opposed to Bill C-10 because, in defiance of the evidence about crime reduction, it will jail many more Canadians who should not be there. We will be forced to pay to turn our most vulnerable citizens into prisoners. This fill-the-prisons approach to justice has been a costly failure everywhere that it has been tried. On the other hand, Canadians have the

collective intelligence and wisdom to create a much better path focused on prevention, rehabilitation and restoration.

Next step: To endorse this concept or ask any questions, email crimebill@leadnow.ca or contact Jamie Biggar directly at:

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More information:

- Leadnow website:
<http://www.leadnow.ca/canadian-justice>
- Full petition download link:
<http://s3.amazonaws.com/leadnow/leadnow-crime-bill-petition.pdf>
- News release:
<http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/leadnowca-on-eve-crime-bill-vote-experts-groups-join-call-new-path-canadian-justice-1593376.htm>
- Globe & Mail article on Leadnow.ca:
http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/british-columbia/gary_mason/building-a-progressive-voice-with-focus/article2250565/

Appendix: Initial List of Organizations and Expert Endorsements

Organizations

- The John Howard Society
- Canadian Civil Liberties Association
- Pivot Legal Society
- Canadian Drug Policy Coalition
- Indigenous Environmental Network
- Canadian Union of Public Employees
- Educators for Sensible Drug Policy
- Canadian AIDS Society
- Canadian Federation of Students
- Reclaim our Democratic Canada
- It Could Get Worse
- BC Humanist Association
- National Union of Public and General Employees

Experts

- David Daubney, former Progressive Conservative MP ('84-88) and Chairperson of the House of Commons Justice Committee ('87-'88)
- Irvin Waller, President of the International Organization for Victim Assistance and Professor at the University of Ottawa focused on protecting victims and reducing crime
- William Gibbs, former Chair of the National Parole Board
- Ed McIsaac, former Executive Director of the Office of the Correctional Investigator
- Michael Jackson, Queen's Counsel lawyer and professor at UBC focused on
 - First Nations and penal law and policy
- Lorraine Berzins, Smart Justice Network
- Fred Phelps, Canadian Association of Social Workers