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October 20, 2011  
Via e-mail

Dear BC Members of Parliament, Federal Justice Critics and Party Leaders,

We are writing to you with an urgent concern about the proposed provisions in Bill C-10 affecting young people involved in the justice system. Recalling Canada's commitments to uphold children's rights, the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children (CCRC) makes the following recommendation:

**The CCRC proposes that Part IV of Bill C-10 on youth justice be extracted from the omnibus bill and considered separately through a full public debate on youth justice in Canada.**

We refer you to the full CCRC statement: <http://rightsofchildren.ca/young-people-and-bill-c-10>

The statement makes the following key points:

- Longer jail times, and adding denunciation and deterrence as principles of sentencing for young people, are known to be ineffective methods for increasing public safety. Bill-C10 does not comply with Article 40 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international standards for youth justice.
- Investment of scarce resources to prevent youth involvement in crime, e.g. by better supporting youth to transition out of the child welfare system, is the priority, not spending on more jails.
- Publishing the names of young offenders reduces space for rehabilitation and second chances, and may entrench identification with criminal behavior. Article 40 of the Convention respects the right of a child "to have his or her privacy fully respected at all stages of the proceedings." Bill C-10 violates this provision.
- More young people experience violence than perpetrate it. Bill C-10 will not address what is a serious problem in Canada, the high level of violence against children.

Members of parliament are responsible to protect the rights of children and ensure that Canada fulfills its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified in 1991. Nothing has been tabled in parliament to show that Bill C-10 complies with the Convention, despite specific requests for that assessment during debate on the earlier Bill C-4. Taking Part IV out of the omnibus bill is a reasonable measure until all Members of Parliament are informed about how Bill C-10 fulfills, or violates, their obligations to uphold the rights of children.

First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition has previously expressed our concerns with Bill C-10's predecessor Bill C-4, as have the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates, and BC's Representative for Children and Youth (<http://www.rcybc.ca/Content/Publications/PapersandSubmissions.asp>).

We urge you to stand up for children's rights and evidence-based youth justice standards by calling for the removal of Part IV of Bill C-10 for separate consideration.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Montani  
Provincial Coordinator