

The Well - Spring 2008

A gathering place for the CCJC community...

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Editorial

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Stephanie Ehret and I have been blessed with the opportunity to work with the Church Council on Justice and Corrections. I am delighted to have been able to compile this edition of The Well and I wish give a special thanks to Maristela for helping me with it.

In this spring edition of The Well, you will find news, thoughts and reflections on a variety of areas in which CCJC is involved. CCJC has had two major communications with the Canadian government over the last few months. The first communication was a letter sent to Prime Minister Stephen Harper in response to the [recent shift on the clemency policy](#) and the second was a Brief to the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs regarding Bill C-2. Articles and information on both of these communications are included. Also included in this edition are reflections on three events in which CCJC recently participated, restorative justice weeks in [Jamaica](#) and Montreal and the [CoSA gathering in Calgary](#). Lastly, there is a [book review](#) about Hazel J. Magnussen's A Doctor's Calling: a matter of conscience.

Please be sure to also check out the recent stories [In the News](#) as well as the [Upcoming Events](#). Please feel free to forward news stories or information about upcoming events if you would like to them to be included in the next edition of The Well.

Many thanks to each contributor, you all helped to make this issue both enjoyable and thought-provoking. I welcome all feedback and I hope you all enjoy this edition.

This morning I awoke to the sound of birds chirping. Indeed, spring is coming. I wish you peace and light at this blessed time of year!

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Soul Food

Life

Life, believe, is not a dream,
So dark as sages say;
Oft a little morning rain
Foretells a pleasant day:
Sometimes there are clouds of gloom,
But these are transient all;
If the shower will make the roses bloom,
Oh, why lament its fall?
Rapidly, merrily,
Life's sunny hours flit by,
Gratefully, cheerily,
Enjoy them as they fly.

What though death at times steps in,
And calls our Best away?
What though Sorrow seems to win,
O'er hope a heavy sway?
Yet Hope again elastic springs,
Unconquered, though she fell,
Still buoyant are her golden wings,
Still strong to bear us well.
Manfully, fearlessly,
The day of trial bear,
For gloriously, victoriously,
Can courage quell despair!

By Charlotte Brontë

*“Amnesty is as good for those who give it as for those who receive it.
It has the admirable quality of bestowing mercy on both sides.”* - Victor Hugo

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Letters to the Canadian government responding to its policy shift on clemency

By Stephanie Ehret

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections was active in the movement against the return of the death penalty in 1976. Since then, the Canadian policy has been one of clemency and to intervene to stop Canadians from being executed in foreign countries. However, in October 2007, the Conservative government shifted this policy, and as Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day indicated, Canada “won’t actively intervene to bring murderers who have received due process in democratic countries back to Canada”.

This policy shift positions the government to review requests for clemency on a case-by-case basis before deciding whether to intervene to stop Canadians from being executed in foreign countries. In doing so, it denies the teaching that the life and dignity of each person must be respected and protected without exception. It has been criticized, in addition, for setting up what has been called a ‘two-tier’ policy on clemency. For example, the decision not to intervene in some cases, such as the one of Ronald Smith, a Canadian citizen who is currently on death row in the United States, may make it more difficult to obtain a reprieve for others, such as Mohamed Kohail, a 23 year old sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia.

Letters of concern about this policy shift have been written by CCJC as well as the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Anglican Church of Canada to Prime Minister Stephen Harper. To read copies of each correspondence, please click on the following links:

- Letter from the [Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) (pdf - 225kb)
- Letter from the [Anglican Church of Canada](#) (pdf - 234kb)
- Letter from the [CCJC](#) (pdf - 45kb)

The letter from the organization representing Canada's top Catholic clerics was highlighted in a National Post article on December 13, 2007.

The letter from the Anglican Church of Canada denouncing the new policy on clemency was highlighted in a Times Colonist article on February 1, 2008. [Click here for the full article](#) (html - new window).

Please feel free to [contact us](#) to obtain more information. We encourage our membership and supporters to read more about this important issue, and to write to government expressing your opinion about this shift.

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CCJC brief to the Senate Committee regarding Bill C-2 (Tackling Violent Crime Act)

By Lorraine Berzins and Stephanie Ehret

In October 2007 Bill C-2, the Tackling Violent Crime Act, was introduced into the House of Commons. This Bill supports a number of measures including tougher mandatory prison terms for serious gun crimes, stiffer penalties for impaired driving, tougher bail laws, tougher rules for repeat offenders regarding Dangerous Offender designation, and increasing the age of sexual consent to 16 from 14.

At that time, organizations such as CCJC were given a chance to submit their views on Bill C-2 to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. The Committee also heard witnesses appointed by each political party during the week of November 13. This Brief by the CCJC to the Committee is available through [this link](#) (pdf - 67kb).

CCJC was provided with the opportunity to share its concerns about Bill C-2 on a second occasion, when it was before the Senate. On Friday, February 22, 2008, on behalf of CCJC, Lorraine Berzins presented a Brief to the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs concerning Bill C-2, the Tackling Violent Crime Act. Other organizations which presented on the 22nd included Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, REAL Women of Canada, Salvation Army and African Canadian Legal Clinic.

The CCJC Brief emphasizes that when people are harmed and traumatized by crime, - be they victims, offenders, their families or those around them, - they need help to recover and heal, far beyond what the State's system of legal justice can provide. CCJC knows this, and we work to get our communities and churches involved in taking their own responsibility to help with this. However, we also know that how the State carries out the responsibilities that it does have, can make a big difference, for the better or for the worse. The laws the State enacts, the financial resources public officials are accountable for, the public messages they send out with their actions and statements - all of these can either assist community efforts OR they can undo community initiatives by giving the problems we already have with crime a twist for the worst.

There are several things about our current criminal justice system that are already very destructive. And we believe that now, in addition, there will be impacts from several features of this Bill C-2, about to pass, that are going to worsen those very things.

The CCJC presentation highlights 5 negative impacts which could be expected from C-2 provisions including reducing Judges' sentencing discretion to address the realities of situations which in turn will deprive many citizens of some very good services and sentencing options. The CCJC presentation also highlights 3 areas where research evidence indicates that the provisions of C-2 will not lead to its claimed positive impacts. **Specifically, research emphasizes the lack of effectiveness of harsher sentences to deter or reduce crime, research points to the ineffectiveness of mandatory minimum policies, and research indicates that the U.S. experience with mandatory minimums leads to scandalizing conditions and strains on the prison system with no related impact on decreasing crime rates.**

The Brief emphasized the need for fundamental change in how crime is dealt with in Canada and requested membership of the Senate Committee to take leadership, to initiate a serious and

critical look at its current responses to crime, and to become champions for this important issue. The CCJC made 5 recommendations:

* It asked the Senate Committee to refuse to pass Bill C-2 until it ensured that the following 2 recommendations had been put before it:

1. Fiscal Accountability Check: Insist upon a cost analysis of the impact of these proposals before passing this legislation.
2. Independent non-partisan effectiveness check: Require that Bill C-2 be assessed as to its potential effectiveness and impact by a specialist panel including areas of knowledge related to crime prevention, victimology, criminology, corrections, policing, judiciary, offender re-integration, and community safety.

*It stated that the second-best options would be to amend Bill C-2 before passing it as follows:

3. Presumption vs. absolute: amend sections relating to mandatory sentencing to insure that the changes made are presumptive, not absolute.
4. Provision for other funding: include a section which requires that adequately funded victim support services, and offender re-integration programs, be available, and that the latter be provided for all offenders who are released, regardless of the timing of that release in the range of their sentencing; this would include those released at the completion of their sentence.

*Its final recommendation regardless of the above:

5. Establish a Senate Committee to fundamentally review government accountability for criminal justice legislation and policy results.

Please click [here](#) (pdf - 88kb) to read the full CCJC brief to the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs concerning Bill C-2.

Unfortunately, despite the efforts of CCJC and many like-minded organizations, on Wednesday, February 27, 2008 Bill C-2 passed with no amendments. The reasoning behind this decision is highlighted in the quote below from a Globe and Mail article written on February 27, 2008 by Jane Taber.

“Ms. Hervieux-Payette told the leader that some Liberal senators did not like the Tory crime bill and were threatening to amend it, clearly challenging his leadership. Mr. Dion told his Senate leader, according to an insider, that this was unacceptable and that the bill must pass. Even Mr. Goodale got into the act in an attempt to talk her out of it. And with two of the issues - the budget and extending Canada’s mission in Afghanistan - resolved, an election over the crime bill would be a disaster for the Liberals. Insiders say it would have given the Tories three great points on which to criticize them during a campaign: they could claim that the Liberal Leader is weak because he could not control his senators; that an expensive election was triggered by unelected senators; and that the Liberals are soft on crime. Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Dion met with Liberal senators and impressed upon them “the importance of passing the legislation while

respecting the work they do,” his spokeswoman, Leslie Swartman, said. By the end of the afternoon, the bill had passed unamended through the committee stage and will likely be through the entire Senate tomorrow. Said Liberal Senate spokesman Marc Roy: “Even though many flaws have been identified by witnesses testifying before the committee, Liberal senators chose not to amend the bill because the government made it very clear that amendments would not be evaluated on their merit but rather used as an excuse to call an election.” Click [here](#) for the full article (opens in new window).

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Restorative Justice Week in Jamaica

*James Loewen
Restorative Justice Coordinator
MCC Canada*

In January of 2008, CCJC was invited to participate in the Second Annual Restorative Justice International Conference in Kingston Jamaica: “Towards Forgiveness, Healing and Reconciliation”. It took place over 2 days in the first week of February during the celebration of RJ Week in Jamaica. The conference was brought about by collaboration between the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Jamaican Ministry of Justice, and the Dispute Resolution Foundation of Jamaica. A number of Canadian RJ ‘Experts’ were invited to help resource and plan the conference, including Danny Graham, Jennifer Llewellyn, Lorraine Berzins, Maristela Carrara, and James Loewen. The conference was aimed at equipping conversations about RJ in four streams: Criminal Justice, Churches, Community Development, and Education. Lorraine, Danny and Jennifer were key presenters, along with some excellent Jamaican presenters. CCJC’s film “Stitched Together” was shown during the Opening Ceremony, “[Defining the RJ Concept” through human story](#) (pdf - 8kb). Aside from the keynote plenary presentations, each stream was given an opportunity to interact with each other in the presence of the Canadian and local resource people. Maristela, Lorraine and James participated in the Church stream conversations. Lorraine also shared ‘lessons learned’ from CCJC and Canada in the plenary addressing the question “[Can Restorative Justice Take Hold in Jamaica](#) (pdf - 8kb). We were excited and encouraged by the level of interest and engagement exhibited by the church leaders present. In particular, the leadership and resourcefulness of Rev. Franz Fletcher of the Church on the Rock was inspiring as he told stories of successful interventions with gun men, and of the support his wife and church are giving to girls who have experienced incest. Further meetings were planned, with leadership being given by Jamaican church groups and the Jamaican Council of Churches. CCJC has made it clear that we will support their work as much as is possible. What follows is an account of our experience in Jamaica.

An Uncertain Landing

The RJ conference in Jamaica was a lot like landing at the Norman Manley International Airport.

We could not see the landing strip as we came in over the beautiful green Blue Mountain, but it was there, out on the strip of sand reaching out into the bay, tenuous, barely connected to the island. It is Kingston's smaller connection to the world - its main connection the massive transshipment port that lies in the harbour which is protected by this strip of sand. This is where the bulk of commerce occurs.

This is the state of RJ in Jamaica, you can't see it, but it is there, out on the fringes, tenuously connected, but an important connection to hope. The mainstay of Jamaican justice is found, like the port, in the heart of the culture. It is a vengeful justice of vigilantes, revenge killing, 'extra-judicial' killings (those done by police!) and a criminal justice system holding on to legitimacy by a hair's breadth. This is where the bulk of what passes for justice occurs.

As we began to descend over the mountains we could see Kingston. Anxiety, anticipation and excitement began to build. As the plane flared, slowed, and dropped towards the blue waters of the harbour, we took it on faith that there would be a landing strip and that it would be sufficient to sustain our plane's landing. There seemed little evidence of this beyond the apparent confidence of the pilots.

With little time, and less clarity, we had been planning the RJ Conference from afar, coming over the mountains. As we saw the day of the conference ahead of us anxiety, anticipation and excitement began to build. It was surrealistic in its intensity; we knew there had to be a conference, that it would have to be solid, well planned and that the hope of many lay in its effectiveness. As we approached and finalized our plans for the conference, it was with faith that everything we needed would somehow be there when we started. There was little evidence of this beyond the apparent confidence of our Jamaican partners.

And then, at the last second, meters from the water, a white strip of land, asphalt and the sound of tires impacting and coming up to speed in a spurt of smoke. A round of applause, partly out of relief, partly out of amazement, was heard in the cabin. Our faith was affirmed. We were there, we had landed, we had made it this far.

As the conference began, the beautifully printed agendas so carefully planned the day before now actually in our hands, there was a rush of applause as the leadership began to speak, partly out of relief, partly out of amazement. Our faith was affirmed. We were there, it was happening, we had made it this far.

As we left the multi-coloured chaos of the city with the harbour on one side, the open sea on the other, it seemed like a good beginning as the sun rose. I could feel the energy of Jamaica; its enthusiasm and uncrushable spirit were clear to me.

As the development of RJ in Jamaica continues out of the multi-coloured cry for Justice, the conference seemed like a good beginning. I could feel the energy of the people, their enthusiasm and uncrushable spirit were clear to me.

God is calling out for Justice in Jamaica, and some of God's people are responding to the cry.

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Circles of Support & Accountability (CoSA) Gathering 2008

A Personal Reflection...

By Megan Backus

From January 13th to the 17th I was fortunate enough to attend the 2008 Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) Conference in Calgary, Alberta. Needless to say, this is an experience that I will not soon forget. For five days I was surrounded by individuals who through their empathy and open-mindedness have been able to bring about real, positive change in the lives of those commonly rejected by society for their crimes. I can honestly say I came back from Calgary a better person.

This conference really shed light on the true meaning of community and the benefits that can be derived from building relationships with core members, as well as among ourselves. The most memorable aspect of the conference for me was hearing the personal stories of program representatives and guests through their involvement in the CoSA program, especially through the question and answer session with an ex-core member, who was a high profile sex offender. I felt that these sessions aided my understanding of the concepts that had been discussed in the previous days and really allowed me to see the human side of this program. Moreover, I found it extremely interesting to listen to the volunteers from CoSA Calgary speak during the second session with the same core member; during this time, one volunteer in particular talked about her own struggles having family members incarcerated and the support she gained from her fellow circle volunteers. This in particular was very enlightening for me because it suggested that this program offers individuals the opportunity to engage in relationships that they have been deprived of in their everyday lives. Through this example, I have been led to believe that the CoSA mandate and ideals are very much applicable to everyday life and can most definitely be extended to dealing with offenders who commit a vast array of crimes.

I feel that it is important to note that I have a great deal of respect and admiration for the coordinators, volunteers, and professionals affiliated with the CoSA program. Their hard work and dedication to this program has had measurable positive effects on the lives of core members, as well as all those involved. I understand that working with sexual offenders is not for everyone, and that it takes an extremely special person to take part in a CoSA circle. I feel that we can all learn a lot from these individuals and this program, including how to support offenders, who are our fellow human beings with needs that are too often overlooked.

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Book Reviews

A Doctor's Calling: a matter of conscience

Hazel J. Magnussen - 2006, Wembley Publishing, 182 pages

Review by James Loewen

This book is about the life and murder of Dr. Doug Snider, as told by his younger sister Hazel. It is a story about the tragedy of his death, the failures of the public systems designed to protect him and the inadequacy and disappointments around the modus operandi of the criminal justice system. It is ultimately a tale of victimization of Dr. Snider and his family by Dr. Abe Cooper, and the re-victimization of Dr. Snider's family, friends and community by the court process.

Hazel's clear storytelling, her illuminating and insightful reflections on her experience of the court process, and her ability to speak with respect for all parties involved provides a rare and important insight into the experience of serious victimization. Her broad analysis of the factors that contributed to her brother's murder provides valuable input into the conversation about the complex roots of crime. Her outline of what she learned about the criminal justice system, both in the book proper and in the appendix, are instructive to those who seek to provide a more respectful and responsible response to victims. It also disabuses us of the notion that the court process is one which serves victims.

This book was well written, has good structure, and contains an important story.

[Click here](#) (opens in new window) to read more about A Doctor's Calling: a matter of conscience.

Evil and the Justice of God

Scott Harris has recently written an excellent review of Evil and the Justice of God by N.T. Wright, published by Inter-Varsity Press, 2006. Winner of the "Merit Award, 2007 Christianity Today Theology/Ethics Book", Wright's book invites Christians and others to take another look at how we define and respond to evil. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) to read the review.

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New research on the need for services for male victims of sexual abuse - Cornwall Public Inquiry

From Susan Love, V/P Study, Project Coordinator and the Research Team: Michael Petrunik (Lead Researcher), Adina Ilea, Rick Goodwin, Sara Johnson

Susan Love was recently involved in a collaborative project, sponsored by the Cornwall Public Inquiry, to look at the need for treatment and support services in Eastern Ontario for males who have been victims of childhood sexual abuse and have subsequently offended sexually as adults. As the research has now concluded, we are pleased to provide you with the [project report](#) (pdf - 608kb) which is now available on the [Inquiry's website](#) (opens in new window). The Royal

Ottawa Mental Health Centre and The Men's Project, both in Ottawa, and Community Justice Initiatives in Kitchener, are examining ways to develop these services for the community.

The research team would like to thank everyone who participated in this project, in particular the Cornwall Public Inquiry, for having not only the insight to establish the Healing and Reconciliation component of the Inquiry but for identifying this study as meaningful research that will hopefully help to mitigate the cycle of abuse. We look forward to receiving your feedback on the report and on the study in general.

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In the news

Restorative Justice in Jamaica

- February 2-8 was restorative justice week in Jamaica and it was announced that a restorative justice policy will be developed during the course of the new financial year. The Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Senator Dorothy Lightbourne said the move is in keeping with the Justice Reform Program. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) for the full Jamaica Information Service article from February 5, 2008.
- According to Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Senator Dorothy Lightbourne, “The Jamaican government, in particular the Ministry of Justice, is committed to modernising and transforming the nation’s justice system over the next 10 years, and the implementation of restorative justice is a vital component of our justice system reform programme,” Click [here](#) (opens in new window) for the full Jamaica Information Service article from February 8, 2008.
- According to Dr. Jermaine McCalpin, a lecturer in the Department of Government at the University of the West Indies (UWI), there is hope for restorative justice to take hold in Jamaica but if it is to work there, there will have to be a change in the cultural outlook of Jamaicans. In addition, for the initiative to work communities must be involved and governmental support is needed. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) for the full article in the Jamaica Gleaner from February 9, 2008.
- According to Henley Morgan, Jamaica has been described as a country at war with itself and it is believed to have the second or third highest murder rate in the world. Morgan hopes that putting in place the legislative and other requirements for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Jamaica will start a process that would allow it to overcome highly divisive practices such as that of ‘constituency caretakers’. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) for the full article in The Jamaica Observer from February 14, 2008.
- In an article written by Members of the Public Theology Forum, we are asked to consider a lesson offered at Lent, that pardon is a better teacher than punishment. In this article, they discuss the merit of forgiveness and second chance in Jamaica. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) to read the full article in the Jamaica Gleaner from March 16, 2008.

Other Restorative Justice Stories

- Recently, in Orillia, Ontario, two large swastikas were spray-painted in blue on the walls of a plaza. The Elizabeth Fry Society of Simcoe County responds to such acts of vandalism and strives to help the youth to have more pride in their community. Boasting a 98% success rate, the organization's restorative justice program for youths 12 to 17 years old brings together all those involved in an incident to find a common resolution. The society's services often save youth from acquiring a criminal record.
- In Ontario, the Safe Schools Act is now being called Safe, Caring and Restorative Schools. This name change reflects revisions to the provincial government's safe schools legislation aimed at encouraging more dialogue between students, parents and teachers before disciplinary action is taken. Changes made to existing policy have already been implemented at local schools in Peterborough, Ontario.

Death Penalty Repealed in New Jersey

- December 2007, the governor of New Jersey, Governor Jon S. Corzine, signed into law a measure repealing New Jersey's death penalty making it the first state in a generation to abolish capital punishment. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) for the full New York Times article. from December 17, 2007.

Death Penalty – Canada's policy shift on clemency

- According to Aubrey Harris, in a February 18, 2008 article in the Ottawa Citizen, Canadians should be outraged that their own government is now violating a Canadian citizen's basic rights by attempting, in the words of the president of the Council of Europe, to apply the death penalty "by subcontract" in the United States. Harris states that Canada must stand for much better than that. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) for the complete article.
- A March 9, 2008 editorial in the Jamaica Gleaner written by Claudio Giusti emphasizes the lack of evidence that the death penalty is a deterrent for violent crime, particularly homicide. Giusti participated in the first congress of the Italian section of Amnesty International. Later, he was one of the founders of the World Coalition Against The Death Penalty. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) for the full editorial.
- NDP MP, Wayne Marston, gave an emotional appeal to the Conservative government to reverse its new clemency policy. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) for the full Canada.com article. from February 1, 2008.
- After the policy announcement on clemency, there has been ambiguity and uncertainty about the position of the Conservative government. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) to read the Edmonton Journal article "Death Penalty Hangs in Uncertainty" from November 25, 2007.
- The ambiguity to which is referred in the above article is already having ripple effect. According to an article in the March 6, 2008 Globe and Mail, the process of reviewing on a 'case by case' basis is not only problematic but it is potentially insulting, as noted by Dan McTeague, the Liberal critic for consular services. A case in point: this new approach will make it more difficult to obtain a reprieve for Mohamed Kohail, a 23 year old sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) to read the complete article.

- Sentiments of the above article are also apparent in a March 5, 2008 article in the Ottawa Citizen which notes that the power of the Canadian government to intervene in cases is already being compromised due to this ‘two-tier’ approach. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) to read the complete article.

Tough on Crime

- An article from the Vancouver Sun on February 23, 2008 argues that the extraordinary thing about the federal Conservatives is not their counterproductive approach to criminal justice, which involves putting increasing numbers of people in jail for longer periods of time. Rather, the extraordinary thing about their approach to criminal justice is that the Conservatives have somehow convinced a good number of people that this ill-advised strategy will make Canadians safer, when in reality it will do just the opposite. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) to read the full article.
- In a similar vein, an article recently published in The Kingston Whig-Standard provides a strong and convincing criticism of the assumption that “tough on crime” policies will translate into lower crime rates. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) for the full The Kingston Whig-Standard article from January 23, 2008.

Correctional Services Canada

On December 13, 2007, the Correctional Services Canada (CSC) Independent Review Panel released its final report outlining recommendations for the Government of Canada. The report, entitled “A Roadmap to Strengthening Public Safety”, contains 109 recommendations and focuses on five key areas: increasing offender accountability; eliminating drugs from prison; developing employability/employment skills; renewing physical infrastructure; eliminating statutory release and moving to earned parole. Click [here](#) for more details as well as a link to the report.

- National agencies representing 200 Canadian communities and 11 denominations questioned the efficacy of the Correctional Service of Canada's Review Panel recommendations. The Church Council on Justice and Corrections specifically encouraged the Panel to consider restorative practices that include offenders, victims and communities in order to achieve safe reintegration for individuals and communities. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) for the full CNW Group article from December 14, 2007.

Youth Justice

- Last year, the Supreme Court indicated that the purpose of the YCJA was to deal with youth without putting them in detention. However, some think the pendulum has swung too far and the YCJA is “too lax on young criminals”. A December 12, 2007 from the Metro Halifax emphasizes the goal of achieving a balanced approach. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) for the full article.
- An article in the Toronto Star, entitled “‘Tough-on-crime’ policies actually make us less safe” argues that the federal government’s recent changes to the Youth Criminal Justice Act and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act are clearly out of step with expert

thinking on crime prevention. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) for the full article from December 6, 2007.

Violence Against Women

- The Neighbours Friends and Families campaign was launched in Ottawa on February 13, 2008. Neighbours, Friends and Families is a campaign to raise awareness of the signs of woman abuse so people who are close to an at-risk woman or an abusive man can help. Click [here](#) (opens in new window) for more details about this campaign.

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Upcoming Events

April 13-19, 2008

3rd Annual National Victims of Crime Awareness Week in Canada
This year's theme is: "Finding the Way Together"

Click [here](#) (opens in new window) for more details

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Get in touch with CCJC

Your comments and suggestions are most welcome! Please send us news and articles you would like to see shared in this newsletter. To get in touch with the CCJC, please contact Maristela Carrara at mcarrara@ccjc.ca or 613-563-1688 x4.

We are located at 507 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 1Z5.

CCJC welcomes donations and new memberships, and we can issue you a charitable tax receipt. To make a donation online, please use CanadaHelps.org (opens in new window). If you prefer to send your donation by mail or to become a member, please use [this form](#) (pdf).

P.S.: We are looking for volunteer translators!

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