



Justice Communiqué

JUSTICE MINISTER ASKS HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL PART OF CRIMINAL CODE

OTTAWA, June 6, 1990, - - The Honourable Kim Campbell, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, has asked the Standing Committee of the House of Commons on Justice and the Solicitor General to review the General Part of the Criminal Code with a view to making its principles and rules accord with fundamental values of Canadians and the requirements of a modern criminal code.

In a letter to its chairman, Bob Horner, she explained "Most of these provisions have come down to us virtually unchanged since 1892. Although many of them have served us well over the years, the present Part I is, by the standards of modern criminal codes, at best incomplete. To date, the case law has filled in those general principles which the Code lacks. These principles contain important norms of social behaviour such as the degree of criminal responsibility for prohibited acts committed when drunk or on drugs. These important norms, established through case law, have never been reviewed by Parliament."

She also asked that the Code be reviewed in light of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms which, of course, was not in force when the Code was last revised.

The Minister asked the Committee to look at the extensive work done in this area, especially that of the Law Reform Commission before reporting back to the House, hopefully by the end of March 1991.

"The study which today I am asking you to undertake is an important one which will have an enormous impact on the development of our criminal law as well as the everyday lives of Canadians", concluded the Minister.

Ms. Campbell urged all Canadians who have views on any of these fundamental issues to make them known to the Parliamentary Committee.

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