

AGE OF CONSENT/PROTECTION RAISED TO 16 IN CANADA

*Beyond Borders worked for years for this legal reform with
ECPAT International and other NGOs*

A Legal Analysis of R. v. Dabrowski***A Shameful Canadian Case on the Age of Consent and Child Abuse Imagery***

By David Matas

The Criminal Code provides that possession of child pornography is an offense. In the case of John Robin Sharpe, the Supreme Court of Canada held that this provision was constitutional, but with exceptions. One exception was “privately created visual recordings of lawful sexual activity made by or depicting the person in possession and intended only for private use”. To hold otherwise, according to the Court, would be an undue restriction on the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression. Beyond Borders’ lawyer, Mark Eric Hecht, reacted to this exception by calling it a “loophole for pedophiles”.

Was Professor Hecht’s prediction correct?

The case of Dobieslaw Dabrowski provides an insight into the scope of this exception. Dabrowski, who was 28 at the time, videotaped sexual activity with a 14-year-old female schoolgirl. He lied to her about his age saying he was 19 and invited some young male friends to a videotaping session. Dabrowski gave the videotapes to one of these male youths for safekeeping. The family of the victim found out about the abuse and the tapes. The child and her family went to the police. Dabrowski was charged with 5 criminal offenses, two involving harassment and threats to the complainant and making, possessing and distributing child pornography with the schoolgirl. Dabrowski was acquitted on all charges. Although the child was alcohol impaired, trial judge Lynn Leitch reasoned that the child consented to the videotaping and that the videos fitted within the private use exception set out in the Sharpe case. The Crown appealed the acquittals on the possession and distributing child pornography but mistakenly in the view of Beyond Borders did not contest the judge’s conclusion on the child’s consent.

The Crown argued that the tapes were not just for private use because Dabrowski had not kept the tapes; he had given the tapes to a male youth. The Court of Appeal rejected this argument. The Court reasoned that private use is different from private possession. Tapes can fit within the private use exception even when they are in the possession of someone else. The evidence was that the person to whom the tapes were given did not watch them, that he was asked not to watch them or show them to anyone, that he did not have a camera to play them on, or copy them and that he hid them. This evidence was insufficient to rebut the presumption of innocence, that the tapes were created for private use. At trial, the child victim had testified that Dabrowski had threatened her that if she did not do what he wanted, he would show the video to her family and friends or put it on a website. Counsel for Dabrowski argued in the Court of Appeal that the acquittal meant that the trial judge had rejected the

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credibility of this evidence. The Court of Appeal disagreed, noting that there was no express finding on the point. The Court remitted the case for a new trial to determine whether this evidence was credible or not. If credible, the tapes could not be considered to have been intended only for private use.

The case is troubling for a number of different reasons. One is the young age of the girl victim, 14. At the time, the sexual activity was legal, though the age of consent has since been raised to sixteen.

Second, the adult got the child drunk impairing what was an already limited child's judgment. The trial judge determined that, in spite of alcohol consumption, the victim had the capacity to consent to engage in the sexual activity that was filmed. The Crown did not appeal this finding. The situation cries out exploitation. Drunk children can not give meaningful consent.

Third, the boundaries of private use have been pushed outward. It seems that private use does not mean private possession, that child pornography can be in the possession of a third person and still be considered pornography intended for private use. This expansion increases the risk of harm.

In the Dabrowski case, the Court went beyond the rationale for this private use exception. In this case, the video tape was not made by a teenager of herself. Nor was it a teenaged couple's video of themselves. Rather it was the video of an adult showing sex with a young teenager. Nor is there any indication that the tapes were made for self-fulfilment or self-actualization - one of the bizarre, technologically naive rationales the Supreme Court gave for allowing private possession of videos of sexual activity with children over 14 with adults. The victim was judgment impaired, both because of her age and because of drink. There was no indication that she was self-fulfilling or self-actualizing through the tapes. She was rather only a passive, compliant victim. If

the evidence of the threats in a later trial is accepted as true, it seems as if the tapes were made or at least kept in order for the adult to wield continuing power over the child.

As well, it is impossible to say that in this case, in light of the power relationship, the evidence of the threats and the possession of a third party that the tapes posed little risk of harm to the child. Here, the risk, whether it materialized or not, was substantial.

The Court of Appeal in the Dabrowski case stated that the private use exception should be applied with genuine caution. But the facts of this case speak differently. Certainly that was not true at trial where Dabrowski was acquitted. After a new trial he may well be convicted, if it is established that he did utter the threats alleged against him.

But it would be going too far in this case to say that, if the credibility of the evidence of the threats can not be established at a subsequent trial, Dabrowski did nothing wrong. The combination of the young age of the victim, the fact that her judgment was alcohol impaired, the mature age of the accused, the possession of the tapes by a third party, and the risk of threats of publication, even if the risk is not found to have materialized, means that, in this case, the private use exception has been pushed too far.

The case shows that the private use exception needs reconsideration. Dabrowski may eventually be convicted despite the exception. But the fact that such an obvious case of child abuse could lead any court to an acquittal means that there is something wrong with the exception itself, that the private use exception has muddied the waters. Without that exception, Dabrowski would have been convicted long ago. If we are serious about protecting children, we should learn the lessons of this case and withdraw the private use exception.

David Matas is a lawyer in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, and member of the Beyond Borders Legal Team, who intervened in the SC case of R. v. Sharpe.

NO MORE IMPUNITY IN CANADA FOR ADULTS WHO SEXUALLY ABUSE CHILDREN UNDER 16

Beyond Borders / ECPAT thank NGOs, our supporters and volunteer legal team

Child Abuse Imagery Reporting in Manitoba - Ontario to Follow?

Manitoba is set to become the first province in Canada to make failure to report suspected cases of child pornography a crime. New legislation would make illegal any failure to report anyone who may possess videos, photographs or online computer material of child sexual abuse. Tips would be funnelled through cybertip.ca, a Winnipeg based hotline operated by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection.

Laurel Broten, MPP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore has introduced a Private Member's Bill in the Legislature to protect Ontario's children. If enacted, this legislation would require all Ontarians to report images of child abuse and online child sexual exploitation. The Child Pornography Reporting Act, 2008 is set for second reading and debate in the spring of 2008.

Protecting Our Most Vital Resource, Our Children 3RD Annual Virtual Global Task Force Meeting

By Gordon Keast

Police, NGOs and industry are continuing to make good progress in the war against online child sexual abuse and exploitation. As a result, the Internet is becoming an increasingly hostile environment for pedophiles and those seeking to profit from the sexual abuse of children.

Those were key themes of the *3rd Annual Virtual Global Task Force (VGT) Conference* in Vancouver, B.C., February 17th to 20th, 2008. The VGT is comprised of the Australian High Tech Crime Centre, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre in the UK, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Interpol.

Throughout the conference, various sessions touched on the work being done throughout the world by police, NGOs, and industry to fight online child abuse and exploitation. **Interpol**, for example, has a child abuse image database with over 500,000 distinct images. Sex tourism, missing children and child sexual abuse are all part of its mandate. Interpol also offers interlocking DNA and fingerprint databases. Its network operates to a military standard 24/7 and is available in every country.

In the **UK**, the **Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre** is teaching Internet safety to hundreds of thousands of children and young teenagers aged 5 to 16. The organization has trained over a million children how to stay safe when using mobile phones, Email, Chat, and other Internet technologies.

The **National Criminal Investigation Service** in **Norway** has established a police hotline for child abuse information. They also have signed contracts with the country's biggest ISPs and a "blacklist" of child sexual abuse sites. There are over 5000 domains on the list and they record 5.5 million hits per year. All information is shared internationally.

In **Italy**, the **Postal and Communication Police Service** works in close cooperation with international law enforcement on child sexual abuse. They are currently monitoring over 270,000 websites worldwide.

The **Australian Federal Police** have developed a high-tech crime centre that will deal with online child sexual abuse. It is staffed with 50+ officers. The child sex crimes unit has been brought under the same roof as counter-terrorism and high-tech financial crimes.

In **Canada**, the **Ontario Provincial Police Electronic Crime Section** has developed a digital picture categorizer for police. It allows investigators to process evidence more quickly, eliminating duplicates. In 2007, the OPP extracted over 19 million pictures using this software.

Second Life and other virtual reality sites have become a growing concern and present some significant new challenges to the criminal justice system. There are upwards of 10 million "residents" on the site. It's anonymous and there is no age verification process. Police in Germany and other jurisdictions are investigating its alleged use by pedophiles to exchange abuse images.

In a recent interview, VGT Chairman Jim Gamble warns such users that, although they may feel safe, some people they meet may be investigators. **"We will infiltrate these rooms whether they are in Second Life, in a chat room, a social networking environment, a peer to peer group, or outside the local youth club in the real world,"** he told CTV News.

Beyond Borders and ECPAT are proud supporters of the pioneering work being done by the Virtual Global Task Force.

Gordon Keast is a Canadian journalist and communications consultant, living in Surrey, BC.

Protecting Children in a Wireless World

By Gordon Keast

The Internet harbours many types of extreme pornography and violence. Sado-masochism, bestiality and rape sites are just a few examples of what youngsters with computers or web-enabled cell phones run the risk of being exposed to. Unlike home computers, which can be monitored by parents or care-givers, cell phones when used by minors, are usually beyond the supervision or control of adults. For this reason, we can and should be able to hold wireless companies accountable to a higher and different standard than regular ISPs.

In a recent study, Juniper Research predicted that nearly ½ of children in the United States between the ages of 12-13 and ⅓ of children ages 10-11 would have cell phones by the end of 2007. In fact, the growth of tween (children ages eight to 12) and teen cell phone users is expected to outpace that of the overall US population. Surely Canada won't be far behind. So the question is, what is being done to protect these kids?

Since 2004, major wireless companies in the UK have had

a self-regulating Code of Practice governing new forms of wireless content, including Internet access. Firms in that country are taking steps to ensure that minors do not have access to so-called adult content. This applies not only to adult content the companies may sell themselves, but also to pornography, gambling, adult chat rooms and other adult-themed material on the world wide web.

Canadian wireless companies do not have such a code. They allow unfettered access to extreme pornography and violence on the Internet via web-enabled phones to any child or young teenager who has possession of one,

no questions asked, no age-verification required.

What's really missing is a Canadian Code of Practice and at the very least, much-needed blocking of extreme pornography and violence for children and young teenagers who are using web-enabled cellphones in ever-increasing numbers on the public Internet.

Wireless technology and the Internet are changing rapidly. Regrettably, the wireless industry in Canada is not living up to its social responsibility to better protect children and young teenagers.

A Winnipeg Manitoba mother bought an MTS cell phone for her 13-year-old daughter as a safety precaution and planned on getting one for her 11-year-old daughter in the coming months. She abandoned that plan when MTS Allstream refused to deactivate the Internet option on the first phone because of a corporate policy not to do so. "You don't want your kids going on the Internet when you're not around, yet MTS is saying, 'Hey, we don't care,' she told Sun Media. "How do you keep your kids safe?"

Japan Drags Its Feet on Child Pornography Laws

By Corey Martell

Japan is well known as one of the most technologically advanced nations in the world. However, their laws concerning child sexual abuse imagery (more commonly and pejoratively labeled "child pornography") lag behind the rest of the industrialized world. Although it has been illegal to produce and distribute child pornography in Japan since 1999, it is still legal to possess it. This inadequacy in Japanese law is further exacerbated by their incomplete definition of what constitutes child pornography. The Japanese definition excludes sexual abuse images in the form of anime and manga.

"*Anime*" and "*manga*" are simply the Japanese terms for, respectively, animated video (i.e. cartoons) and drawn pictures (i.e. print comics). While most anime and manga deal with completely acceptable and innocuous subject matter, some of these materials depict children being sexually exploited. Since no real children are actually harmed in its production, this "virtual pornography" is not considered child pornography under Japanese law.

This gap in Japanese law has a significant effect on Canada and other countries because these sexually exploitative materials are considered acceptable and are available for export. In 2005, an Edmonton man was charged with importing and possession of child pornography. The material in question included very graphic, violent depictions of the sexual abuse of children in print (comic) form. Canada's child pornography laws include any visual representation which depicts the sexual exploitation of a child. The accused, Gordon Chin, pled guilty to importing but the possession charge was dropped. He received a 12 month conditional sentence, 18 months probation, and a \$100 fine. The reasons given for such a light sentence

included the fact that no actual children were harmed in the creation of the materials he tried to import.

As this is the same type of reasoning that has kept depictions of child pornography in anime and manga legal in Japan, the infiltration of this reasoning into the Canadian legal system is worrisome. This reasoning is dangerous because it ignores the contribution that these images make to what psychologists call the "spiral of abuse". In his book, *One Child at a Time: The Global Fight to Rescue Children from Online Predators*, author Julian Sher explains that viewing child sexual abuse images helps an offender overcome their guilt and fear and ignites their desire to satisfy their urges with real children. Is a person who is interested in viewing virtual child pornography really different from someone who views actual child sexual abuse images where real children are harmed in the manufacturing of the material?

Some inroads are being made in Japan but at too slow a pace. Due largely to pressure from the United States, a government committee has been formed to review the issue of possession of child pornography. Unfortunately, it is likely that any proposed amendment to make possession of child pornography illegal in Japan would exclude anime and manga, based on the argument that it would infringe freedom of expression rights. Canada's laws, which include any visual representation (including animation or drawings) in the definition of child pornography, have already withstood a constitutional challenge (*R. v. Sharpe* [2001] 1 SCR 45). Apparently in Japan, however, freedom of expression rights trump those of the children that are ultimately affected by child pornography in any form.

What's Happening in Québec

By Louise Pelland

First in Québec – Prison-hospital for sexual predators

An old prison in Percé, Québec will soon be converted into a treatment centre for sexual predators. As early as 2010, this secure prison-hospital will house 46 sexual predators serving sentences of less than two years. The sexual predators who wish to benefit from therapy must make that request.

A team of 42 correctional officers, a nurse, a doctor, a psychiatrist, two specialized educators, two sexologists, two criminologists, and two psychologists will work with the detainees. After their therapy, the detainees will be returned to the same prison to finish their sentence.

There will be no social reintegration, in that the citizens of Percé will never come in contact with the detainees.

Violence towards children – A cause to bring jurisprudence

Ms. Hélène Carle, Crown Attorney in Trois-Rivières, Québec, threw down the gauntlet against mothers who turn a blind eye to children who suffer from abuse. A specialist in childhood sexual and physical abuse, she asserts that mothers have a duty to protect their children.

In the past, some mothers have been accused of criminal negligence causing injury, but Ms. Carle takes it even further. These mothers now stand accused of complicity by omission of the same crimes charged against the aggressor, in accordance with article 21 of the Criminal Code.

At the end of January, a woman from Bécancour, in Québec-Centre, was found guilty of assault and battery for having ignored the actions of her spouse, who was found guilty on eight counts of indictment. The woman and her spouse will likely be imprisoned. Ms. Carle believes that the guilty verdict could result in a new legal precedent.

Parental vigilance is paramount!

Parental vigilance plays a primary role in the protection of children on the Internet, as depicted by the two following cases:

- Following a complaint from parents, the *Sûreté du Québec* arrested a 24-year-old man from Beauharnois, in Montérégie, for suspicion of luring

minor girls for sexual favours through his computer and production of child sexual imagery.

- Following a complaint from parents who witnessed sexual invitations towards their young boys, the *Sûreté du Québec* proceeded to arrest 56-year-old Raymond Leclair from Longueuil. He answered to accusations of luring a child, possession and distribution of child sexual imagery and having accessed child pornography. He was released with several conditions.

Henri Fournier set free

Henri Fournier, a 54-year-old teacher from Châteauguay who was suspected of having sexually assaulted 19 young girls between the ages of 9 and 13 years of age between September 2007 and February 2008, was set free, while awaiting trial. Thirty-eight charges of sexual assault and sexual touching were laid against him.

The alleged pedophile paid \$5,000 in bail and must abide by several conditions, however, out of the goodness of his heart, the judge decided not to withhold his passport so that he did not have to miss his vacation to Venezuela during Spring Break!

Accused child pornographers not always men!

A Longueuil mother is said to have abused her seven-year-old daughter between September 2006 and September 2007. She allegedly sent nude photos of her daughter, in explicitly sexual poses, to a 50-year-old Belgian cybersex predator she met on the Internet. It was this man, arrested in Europe in the midst of another investigation involving minors, who informed the police.

It seems that the man has admitted to having raped the child three times during his trips to Québec. The victim's 12-year-old younger brother is said to be a witness to the assaults. The woman was arrested last September but was released awaiting her court appearance on June 11 of this year.

Beyond Borders Congratulates the New Canadian Centre for Child Protection

The Manitoba based **Canadian Centre for Child Protection** was launched in Ottawa on January 29, 2008 to fight against the sexual exploitation of children. Significant support from the Government of Canada with an investment of \$2 million dollars was received.

Cybertip, Canada's national hotline to report child sexual exploitation, is housed at the new centre under the direction of Lianna McDonald. Bravo! Beyond Borders is one of the founders of **cybertip.ca**, and sits on the advisory board.

Unlike the USA Which Has Rescued Children from a Polygamist Compound in Texas, Canada Still Drags Its Heels on Protecting the Children in the FLDS Community in Bountiful, BC

Nancy Mereska of Stop Polygamy In Canada Reports on Where We Are Now and the 10 Top Reasons For Action

In the summer of 2007, B.C. A/G Wally Oppal appointed special prosecutor Richard Peck, QC. to submit a report and decision on what to do about the reports of child sexual exploitation in Bountiful. Peck recommended that Section 293 of the Criminal Code be tested for its constitutionality in the B.C. Court of Appeal.

Apparently unsatisfied, Oppal appointed yet another lawyer, Leonard Doust, QC. to oversee the matter. After the graphic images appeared on news casts of the women and children being evacuated from the FM compound near Eldorado, Texas, Doust announced that he agrees with Richard Peck and Section 293 must be tested in the courts before action can be taken against the polygamists in B.C.

Ten Reasons Why the B.C. Government Should Take Action Against Bountiful Now

By Nancy Mereska, Stop Polygamy in Canada

1. Polygamy is illegal in Canada making its practice a crime.
2. Canada has a responsibility to comply with not only its own laws but the international conventions it has ratified.
3. Cross-border trafficking of young Fundamentalist Mormon girls for sexual purposes will continue.
4. Women, girls and boys in Fundamentalist Mormon polygamy are denied even the knowledge of their rights.
5. Children are constantly at risk for all types of abuse.
6. Winston Blackmore, a Fundamentalist Mormon leader in Bountiful has been very open about his polygamy and marrying very young girls.
7. Jane Blackmore has birth records; and, is willing to testify.
8. Debbie Palmer, who escaped from Bountiful in 1988, has published a book on the abuses she suffered both as a child and young woman.
9. Tax funded Fundamentalist Mormon schools that teach racism and that boys hold a higher position in life than girls must be shut down.
10. Other religious sects that practice polygamy will consider Canada a safe haven for their illegal actions.

The Secret Lives of Saints: Child Brides and Lost boys in Canada's Polygamist Mormon Sect by Daphne Bramham, renowned researcher on Bountiful, published by Random House and sold in major Canadian book stores is already on the best seller's list. Ms. Bramham received the Beyond Borders Media Award in 2004.

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Retired Manitoba Judge Reacts to the Sentencing of Repeat Offender in Letter to the Editor

Without an open sex offender registry, ultra dangerous previously convicted sex offenders use their anonymity to find new victims, often children of single mothers. On February 29, 2008 Beyond Borders media award winning reporter, *Mike McIntyre*, wrote in the Free Press of a terrible case of the sexual abuse of 3 Manitoba children aged 6, 10 and 11 by an on the run sex offender. After being found guilty of victimizing 6 Ontario children, Timothy Grabon fled a court ordered treatment program, moved in with the mother of the Manitoba children who was dying of cancer, and sexually abused her children. The sentence given Grabon prompted a retired Manitoba judge to write the article below. Beyond Borders thanks *Allan James* for his submission.

Having been involved in the Criminal Justice system in Manitoba prior to retirement, I am well aware of the danger of expressing criticism of any kind on criminal matters based upon the summary of cases as reported in any newspaper. While such reports may be accurate in outlining court proceedings in a general way, they cannot take the place of, nor present full, complete, and accurate, details of events as occurring before the Courts. While bearing this caution in mind, my sense of justice in this case is so offended that I am strongly compelled to stand the risk of any criticism my comments may incur by speaking out on a case just concluded in the Court of Queen's Bench in Winnipeg, as recorded in Friday's Free Press.

Timothy Grabon, a 45-year-old sex offender, plead guilty to sexually assaulting three children, ages 6, 10, and 11, daughters of a terminally ill female friend, after moving in with her in Winnipeg, having fled from related charges against six other young victims in Ontario, for which offences he had been charged there. He apparently breached his release terms on those charges, and was unlawfully at large when the Winnipeg offences were committed. It is not clear from the report whether or not the "short jail term" he received on the Ontario charges was imposed in Manitoba, or back in Ontario. But one would think that Grabon, committing offences against six child victims in Ontario, then fleeing in breach of his release, subsequently being convicted of sexual offences against the three children in Winnipeg, would indeed serve a serious, lengthy, prison term, possibly penitentiary time. To read that he was sentenced to "time in custody", namely under 18 months, where, since he was in custody prior to the disposition of his case, he enjoyed the benefit of having been deemed to have served two days in custody for every actual day in custody, (a provision of law which in my view should be done away with), astounds me.

What message does this send to the public? I do not know how serious the details were of the assaults, but in my view, serious or non-serious is not the issue. Any sex offence involving young children should be treated harshly by the Courts. How can a six-year-old, or for that matter, a ten or eleven-year-old, protect herself against such predators, and who is to say what mental distress or harm is rendered to such a child?

This sentence was a joint recommendation of the Crown prosecutors and defence counsel, accepted by the Court, although the Court was not in any way bound to agree to the joint submission. This, I can say, is not uncommon. The Crown will no doubt say on its' behalf in justification of the joint submission, that by doing so, it saved the great inconvenience and often great difficulty, of having young children testify, which can also cause great stress to the child. That is understandable. But at some point the Crown must be prepared to carry out the provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada to the full extent of the law. There are means at the disposal of the Courts to ensure that the child is protected from harsh treatment in the proceedings. Here, surely the two older victims could have given their evidence even if the six-year-old could not.

The report indicates that the presiding Judge stated to Grabon: "It's clear you have a serious problem that needs to be attended to". This is indeed an understatement. I see nothing in the terms of his sentence which will address this offender's problems. True, a longer sentence of custody will do nothing to assist his problems either, any more that a short term will, but one of the elements of sentencing is "deterency", to bring home to others committing like offences, that they will be dealt with harshly by the Courts. I feel this case does little to give that message.

Submitted by Allan James

Sexual Exploitation in Child Modeling Update

Spurred on by Beyond Borders Child Modeling Activist, Liz Crawford - Manitoba, Canada Takes Action

The Manitoba Provincial government announced in April the first in Canada proposed new **Worker Recruitment and Protection Act** to better protect children in the modeling industry from sexual exploitation. The act will regulate the activities of talent and modeling agencies through licensing, and improve enforcement mechanisms.

You Be the Judge

By Dorothy Muller

Recent articles in the Winnipeg Sun discussed the sad case of Rene James Semple, considered a poster boy for the elimination of Canada's failed statutory release program, which allows inmates to be released after serving two thirds of their sentence. According to the RCMP he has been in and out of jail most of his life, has a long history of alcohol and substance abuse, which are contributing factors to his offending behaviour and is considered at high risk to re-offend, both sexually and violently. In 1989 he was convicted of sexually assaulting an eight-year-old child. Also last March, he was arrested by Winnipeg police for an alleged sexual assault. He is charged with sexual assault, kidnapping and uttering threats, a justice official said.

We hear a lot about early release these days and the revolving door of criminals moving in and out of prison. There seem to be several ways of keeping dangerous offenders behind bars, but some are better than others. Statutory release discourages rehabilitation because inmates can just bide their time until they are released at two-thirds of their sentence. Earned parole on the other hand encourages rehabilitation and reintegration while putting the onus on offenders to change their ways.

In March 2000 Semple was on probation when he raped a nurse at knifepoint at a nursing station in his home town of Berens River First Nation. In March 2007 he was on statutory release when he threatened to sexually assault or kill the same woman. In November he finished a seven year sentence for sexual assault with a weapon and uttering threats, but within a month was accused of breaching conditions of his December 17 bail release and a special 12 month recognizance. He was arrested by Winnipeg police on January 23rd.

A panel appointed by the federal government recommended in its October 2007 report that statutory release be eliminated and replaced with earned parole. The fact is that some people will never change and that is why Tim Brodbeck of the Winnipeg Sun suggests "we need to strengthen our dangerous offender and long-term offender laws to put chronic, violent offenders away indefinitely".

Who knows what kind of life led to the downfall of Rene James Semple, but should he be allowed to continue on this path?

YOU BE THE JUDGE!

Beyond Borders Welcomes two new members to their Legal Team / Media Spokespersons: **Corey Martell**, an Edmonton lawyer, and **Jonathan Rosenthal**, a Toronto criminal defence lawyer. Welcome Corey and Jonathan.

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