



CANADA

# House of Commons Debates

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**OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)**

**Wednesday, June 17, 2009**

**Speaker: The Honourable Peter Milliken**

**Routine Proceedings**

**Youth Criminal Justice Act**

**Hon. Geoff Regan (Halifax West, Lib.)**

moved for leave to introduce Bill C-424, An Act to amend the Youth Criminal Justice Act (protection of the public).

He said: Mr. Speaker, I thank my hon. colleague from Ottawa—Vanier for seconding this bill.

This bill strives to fully implement all the federal recommendations stemming from the Nunn commission in Nova Scotia. It is in response to the tragic death of a Nova Scotia teaching assistant, who was killed in 2004 in a car crash by a repeat young offender. It encompasses all of the Nunn recommendations, including those that were ignored by the Conservative government.

I should emphasize the work of Mr. Justice Nunn. I also want to thank Hugh Wright, the lawyer for the family of Theresa McEvoy, for his invaluable assistance with drafting my bill.

In meeting with Halifax's police chief and other law enforcement officials, and at town hall meetings I have held with residents of my riding, it is clear that the changes I am bringing forward are necessary. I am sure my colleagues from Nova Scotia have heard the same thing from their constituents.

A senseless stabbing in my riding just a few short weeks ago also reminded me that we have to do a better job of dealing with young offenders.

I look forward to the input from all sides of the House on this bill. I hope everyone in this place recognizes that the changes my bill proposes for the Youth Criminal Justice Act would help make our streets and neighbourhoods safe for everyone.

(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed)