

Minister of Justice
and Attorney General of Canada



Ministre de la Justice
et procureur général du Canada

The Honourable / L'honorable Rob Nicholson, P.C., Q.C., M.P. / c.p., c.r., député
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H8

FEB 25 2008

The Honourable Perrin Beatty
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Canadian Chamber of Commerce
Suite 420
360 Albert Street
Ottawa ON K1R 7X7

Dear Mr. Beatty:

Thank you for your correspondence of October 30, 2007, regarding the renewed policy mandate of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, which includes three issues related to criminal law. I regret the delay in responding.

I have noted your suggestion with respect to creating a criminal justice commission as a means to develop and implement a national crime-reduction strategy. As you know, our Government has made tackling crime a priority and I meet regularly with provincial and territorial Ministers of Justice to discuss justice-related issues. Additionally, I work closely with my colleague the Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety, who is responsible for the National Crime Prevention Strategy. I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your correspondence to Minister Day for his information and consideration. I appreciate your views on this issue, as I am always interested in exploring new ways to address crime, including its prevention.

With respect to your proposal to conduct an annual Criminal Victimization Survey, it may interest you to know that the Department of Justice Canada is exploring with the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) at Statistics Canada the feasibility of conducting this survey more frequently. The feasibility study will be completed by the end of March 2008. You will be receiving an invitation from CCJS to participate in consultations on this matter.

You also raised in your correspondence the issue of amending the *Criminal Code* to address identity theft. As you are likely aware, on November 21, 2007, I introduced legislation that would create three new offences directly targeting aspects of the identity theft problem, all subject to five-year maximum sentences.

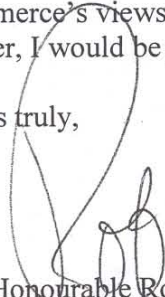
Further amendments to the *Criminal Code* would create new offences of fraudulently redirecting or causing redirection of a person's mail, possessing a counterfeit Canada Post mail key, and possessing instruments for copying credit card information, in addition to the existing offence of possessing instruments for forging credit cards.

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Moreover, a new power would also be added permitting a court to order, as part of a sentence, that an offender be required to pay restitution to a victim of identity theft or identity fraud where the victim has incurred expenses related to rehabilitating their identity, such as the cost of replacement cards and documents, and costs in relation to correcting their credit history.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to share the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's views on reducing crime in Canada. Should you wish to discuss this further, I would be pleased to meet with you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Nicholson', is written over a large, faint circular stamp or watermark.

The Honourable Rob Nicholson

c.c.: The Honourable Stockwell Day, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Safety