

## Re-Establishing the Death Penalty

Submitted by the Member from: Peace River (Conservative)

*Whereas:* the Canadian death penalty system was eliminated on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1976;

*Whereas:* legally convicted criminals who have been tried and convicted justly in a Canadian court do pose a threat of escape from federal prisons;

*Whereas:* the death penalty is a humane and appropriate form of punishment for criminals convicted of crimes related only to murder;

*Whereas:* re-instituting the death penalty in Canada would act as a deterrent for murder-related crimes;

*Whereas:* the maximum penalty for a crime in Canada is life imprisonment (25 years before eligibility for parole), resulting in criminals being released early on parole, posing possible risks of recidivism;

*Whereas:* re-institution of the death penalty would provide prosecutors with a bargaining chip in the plea bargain process, essential in cutting costs of an already overcrowded court system;

*Whereas:* current DNA testing and other methods of modern forensic science can now effectively eliminate almost all uncertainty as to a person's guilt or innocence, as DNA testing is almost 99% effective;

*Whereas:* the cost of incarcerating a federal prisoner is \$259.05 per person per day.

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1. The Canadian death penalty will be re-enacted in the Federal Criminal Code of Canada:
    - a. Persons convicted of crime related only to first-degree murder will be eligible for capital punishment, and institution of this penalty will be up to the judge based on the severity of the crime
    - b. Only after 10 years of time served can a criminal be considered for capital punishment
    - c. All due processes of the judicial system, including appeals, will be afforded to any convicted individual
    - d. This law will be applicable nationwide and will apply to all individuals within the country of Canada
  2. Lethal injection will be the only method of capital punishment:
    - a. No other forms of execution may be used besides lethal injection

- b. All executions will be dealt with humanely and painlessly as possible
  - c. Inmates must be deemed physically and mentally capable of execution before capital punishment is instituted
  - d. If lethal injection is not a feasible option due to medical or other specified conditions, then the inmate must serve the remainder of his life within prison
3. All those who have been convicted of first-degree murder but received life imprisonment sentences will serve the remainder of their life in prison.
- a. Multiple life sentences are applicable, as a result of number persons murdered
  - b. The minimum sentencing for first-degree murder is life sentence, to be served until the remainder of his/her life without the eligibility of parole.