



Newsletter

April 2009

## Belief in Traditional Marriage a Disqualifier?

Recently, there was an item in the news which you may have missed. An appointment to Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) has stirred up some supposed controversy.

NDP MP Olivia Chow (the immigration critic for the federal NDP) and homosexual rights activists say the appointee named is unfit for the position and that he is not qualified to make decisions on immigration appeals and questions involving refugees. Why was he unfit?

Well, because prior to his appointment to the IRB, he had opposed "homosexual marriage". So, in the name of "tolerance" (that is, because he didn't agree with the agenda of the NDP regarding marriage) he should be fired.

This so-called "controversy" got me thinking: What if I, as a Conservative, demanded that everyone who didn't agree with me on an issue (for example, gay marriage) be banned from government positions? What would the puffed up, self righteous, left wing activists (who are criticizing this IRB appointment) say?

They would rightly conclude that I was intolerant, unable to deal with opposing views and unwilling to consider a person's professional judgment and skills. They might even say that I was unable to deal with disagreements in a democratic and open way.

The point is: A democratic society only functions properly when citizens enjoy freedom of speech and freedom of conscience.

People who disagree with the opinions of their fellow Canadians should not fear to express such opinions in public.

Politicians, special interest groups and our Human Rights Commission commissars shouldn't threaten one's employment, engage in implied threats or use the power of the state to coerce people to be silent.

In contrast, I believe in toleration. Too bad we can't say that for all Canadian politicians and political activists.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Brad Trost'.

*If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please let us know at [trostb@parl.gc.ca](mailto:trostb@parl.gc.ca)*

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# In Our Community



Brad flipped pancakes (left) and served toppings at the Muenster School Pancake Breakfast on Wednesday, March 18th. The Saskatchewan Nutrition Advisory Council for Kids asks dignitaries to visit schools to help highlight the importance of proper nutrition. On March 17th, Brad inspected equipment at the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre. New federal funds will help the Centre improve testing new products for market.

## Quick Facts For Conservatives

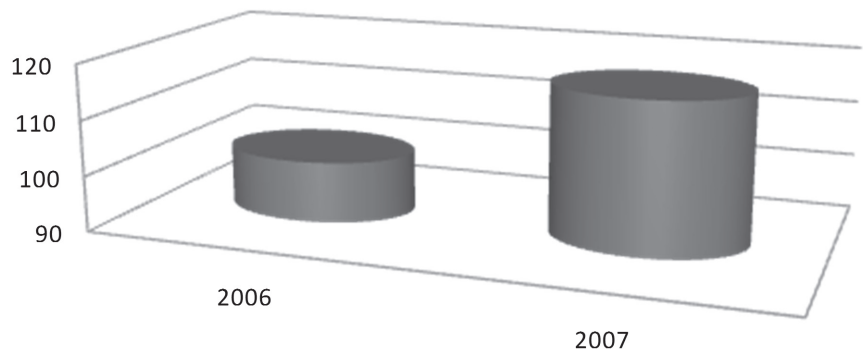
The Conservative government has introduced legislation on Feb. 26th to get tough on organized crime. The Bill, C-14, is called: *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (organized crime and protection of justice system participants)*.

If passed by Parliament, Bill C-14 will:

- Make murders connected to organized crime automatically first-degree, regardless of intent.
- Target drive-by and other reckless shootings that involve reckless disregard for life or the safety of others.
- Better address assaults against police and peace officers.

Minister of Justice Rob Nicholson pressed his fellow MPs to quickly pass C-14, stating that according to "Criminal Intelligence Service Canada, approximately 900 identifiable organized crime groups are operating in urban and rural communities across Canada."

### Gang-Related Homicides in Canada



Source: [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)  
The Daily, October 23, 2008

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