



## Colin Carrie MP Oshawa

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### LEGISLATION RESTRICTING CREDIT FOR TIME SERVED COMES INTO FORCE

**OTTAWA, February 23, 2010** – The Honourable Rob Nicholson, P.C., Q.C., M.P. for Niagara Falls, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, today welcomed the coming into force of Bill C-25, legislation that strictly limits the amount of credit granted for time served in custody prior to conviction and sentencing.

“Our Government is committed to ensuring that criminals serve a sentence that reflects the severity of their crimes,” said Minister Nicholson. “Bill C-25 marks a significant achievement in implementing our tough-on-crime agenda.”

This legislation provides the courts with clear guidance and limits for granting credit for pre-sentencing custody. Bill C-25:

- makes it the general rule that the amount of credit for time served be capped at a 1-to-1 ratio (i.e., give only one day of credit for each day an individual has spent in custody prior to sentencing);
- permits credit to be given at a ratio of up to 1.5 to 1 only where the circumstances justify it;
- requires courts to explain the circumstances that justify a higher ratio; and
- limits the pre-sentencing credit ratio to a maximum ratio of 1 to 1 for individuals detained in custody prior to sentencing primarily because of their criminal record or a violation of bail.

Bill C-25 received support from provincial and territorial governments, victims' associations and police forces from across the country during the legislative process.

An on-line version of the legislation can be found at [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca).

“This legislation is a step in the right direction in restoring public confidence in the Canadian judicial system,” stated Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament of Oshawa and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health. “Canadians from coast-to-coast have spoken loud and clear and want more consistency and fairness in sentencing; Bill C-25 will help accomplish this.”

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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