

May 8, 2001

Mr. Andy Scott
Chair
Standing Committee on Justice
and Human Rights
180 Wellington Street
Room 621
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Scott,

**RE: Bill C-24, *Criminal Code* amendments
(Organized Crime and Law Enforcement)**

The National Criminal Justice Section of the Canadian Bar Association (the Section) is pleased to have an opportunity to provide its views on Bill C-24, *Criminal Code* amendments (Organized Crime and Law Enforcement). The Section's members include both Crown and defence lawyers from every province and territory.

The Section vigorously opposes the passage of this Bill. We urge the Standing Committee to take sufficient time to carefully consider the implications of this significant shift in Canadian law. With all due respect, we do not believe that such a fundamental and critical change as to allow law enforcement personnel and their agents to commit criminal acts should be rushed through the consultative process with just two days of hearings. We also have serious concerns about the Bill's other proposals to address organized crime, and are of the view that these proposals are unlikely to achieve their objective, would erode procedural rights essential to our Canadian justice system and further, raise a number of serious constitutional concerns.

Unfortunately, the short notice for our appearance before the Standing Committee does not allow time to prepare a separate brief specifically addressing Bill C-24. We are attaching two submissions prepared in response to the Department of Justice's earlier discussion papers on the same subjects. Given that provisions in the Bill closely resemble those outlined in the discussion papers, we trust you will find the Section's submissions to be both relevant and informative.

Yours very truly,

Heather Perkins-McVey
Chair, National Criminal Justice Section