

Bill #6

The Youth Justice Act

WHEREAS: “In 2009, police identified nearly 165,000 youth accused of committing a crime. Youth and young adults commit a disproportionate amount of crime. In 2009, age-specific rates for those accused of crime were highest among 15- to 22-year-olds, with the peak age at 17 years”¹; and

WHEREAS: “Between the ages of 7 and 9 children learn moral controls that help differentiate between right and wrong, develop a respect for rules, and discover their own values”²; and

WHEREAS: “In general, the public believes that the *Young Offenders Act* and youth court judges are too lenient, and questions the ability of the youth justice system to provide meaningful penalties proportionate to the seriousness of offences.”³

THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF MANITOBA ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. As of 01 January 2012, the Government of Canada shall consider youth 13 years of age or older as adults in the court of law.
2. The Government of Canada shall create the Board Assessing Delinquent, Bad and Offensive Young Subjects [**BADBOYS**] to implement tougher sentencing for young offenders.
 - (1) **BADBOYS** shall consist of government appointed individuals including:
 - i. citizens with no criminal records
 - ii. at least one lawyer; and
 - iii. at least one judge.
3. **BADBOYS** shall maintain records of all criminal offences committed by persons under the age of 22.
 - (1) Subjects 22 years of age or younger may apply to have offenses stricken from their record if no additional offenses have been incurred for a minimum of five years.
 - i. Subjects may apply to have offences stricken from their records no more than once.

¹ “Police Report Crime Statistics in Canada,” 2009: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2010002/article/11292-eng.htm#a15>

² “Good Times with School Aged Children,” National Network for Child Care, May 1996: <http://www.nncc.org/series/good.time.sac.html>

³ “A Strategy for the Renewal of Youth Justice,” Justice Department April 9, 2009: <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/yj-jj/about-apropos/p4.html>

4. **BADBOYS** shall develop mandatory programming to prevent the reoffense of subjects.
 - (1) Scheduled into 8 week periods, offenders will be required to:
 - (a) participate in weekly reform class; and
 - (b) complete a minimum of 25 hours of supervised community service.
 - (2) Any person who fails to comply with **BADBOYS** rules shall have their criminal sentence re-evaluated.

5. Optional programming shall be developed by **BADBOYS** for parents, family members, and legal guardians of convicted young offenders.
 - (1) The programming shall consist of professional seminars that include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) stress and anger management;
 - (b) youth psychology;
 - (c) positive re-enforcement techniques; and
 - (d) discipline techniques.
 - (2) Complementary access to psychologists, personal counselling, as well as group and family counselling will be provided by **BADBOYS**.