

Noah's Law Petition

WHEREAS

- Sexual violence against children has increased 118% between 2010 and 2017 according to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics;
- Just over one quarter (27%) of Canadians has experienced abuse before age 15 according to Statistics Canada;
- In 2016, 11,741 sexual offences were committed against children under the age of 17 according to Statistics Canada;
- Statistics show that the *Sexual Offender Information Registry Act (SOIRA)* has rarely been used by police agencies for its stated purpose – protecting society through the effective prevention and investigation of crimes of a sexual nature;
- On September 16, 2021, the horrific and preventable murders of Mchale Erica Busch (age 24) and her baby son, Noah Lee McConnell (age 16 months), in their apartment building in Hinton, Alberta, were allegedly perpetrated by Robert Keith Major, age 53, who was a known, previously convicted sex offender with multiple criminal convictions; and
- Mchale Busch and her fiancé, Cody McConnell, had no knowledge that the alleged offender was living in the apartment adjacent to theirs, as they had only moved in 10 days prior and had no connection to the accused. The complex was a family-friendly building where many children resided and was close to two playgrounds and a school. Police allege that the murders took place in the building.

We, the undersigned citizens and resident of Canada, respectfully request that the Government of Canada and the Attorney General of Canada immediately make legislative changes to the *Criminal Code* of Canada and *SOIRA* to:

1. Require mandatory reporting by convicted sexual offenders to the nearest police station upon any change of residence;
2. Clarify that failure to report as required is an offence for which an arrest warrant shall be issued; and
3. Create a specially designated offender classification for persons convicted of sexual assault offences against children where a sentence of more than two years is imposed or for offenders convicted of two or more violent sexual offences or offences involving abduction of women and/or children; persons so classified would be included in a special database accessible to police upon request of tenants, proposed tenants or landlords of multi-person rental residences to ascertain whether a designated offender lives in the residence or was applying to; no name would be released, but inquirers would be informed that a specially designated offender lives at the residence or was a prospective tenant.

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