



*"Dedicated to Justice" • «Au service de la justice»*

March 30, 2010

The Honourable Vic Toews  
Minister of Public Safety  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Sir:

It has come to our attention that Canada's most renowned serial killer, Clifford Olson, was granted the benefit of receiving both Old Age Security pension (CPP) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), totaling more than \$14,000 annually. The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime is strongly offended by any incarcerated offender, 65 and older, receiving these benefits.

Canadian taxpayers are already paying hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to keep the system's 500-750 senior citizens incarcerated. It is a double-benefit that they also receive the CPP and GIS payments.

Incarcerated offenders have little to no living expenses. They are able to earn a small wage and their largest expense, canteen food, is highly subsidized. The offender is therefore making money while serving time in their cell.

The CRCVC believes these benefits should cease immediately for all incarcerated offenders over the age of 65. These funds could be put back into the correctional system to fund the cost of housing this expensive group of offenders (the health costs of aging offenders are very high); or these monies could be re-directed to social service programs that benefit many Canadians. The Old Age Security pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement should be available to law-abiding citizens and those who have contributed to society throughout their lives. They can be re-instated to offenders if, and when they are released from prison.

Sincerely,

Heidi Illingworth  
Executive Director