

Borys Wrzesnewskyj, MP

Liberal Candidate for Etobicoke Centre

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Campaign Office • 735 Renforth Dr., Unit 11 • Etobicoke, ON • M9C 2N7
Email: electborys@gmail.com • Phone: (416) 621-1060

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Liberal Platform Includes Wrzesnewskyj's Proposed Change to Hate Crimes Legislation

Etobicoke – Etobicoke Centre Liberal Candidate Borys Wrzesnewskyj is heralding the Liberal announcement this afternoon for Safer Communities and particularly the proposed amendment to the Criminal Code to include “gender” in the hate propaganda provisions for those who would incite hatred and violence against women. This has been Wrzesnewskyj’s personal initiative, in the form of his Private Member’s Bill, Bill C-254, since he was first elected in 2004.

“Canada has some of the strongest hates crimes legislation on the planet, for which we are often lauded, however there is a gaping hole; misogyny and propagation of violence against women are not covered,” said Wrzesnewskyj. *“By including this in our platform we can once and for all make hate crimes legislation Charter compliant and state unequivocally, legislatively we will provide our judiciary with the tools to address misogyny in all of its vile forms.”*

Wrzesnewskyj went on to say that with this proposed amendment, women will now be included in the groups protected under the Criminal Code hate propaganda law. Currently, the law only protects those identified by colour, race, religion, ethnic origin, and sexual orientation. In making this part of the Liberal Platform, Canadians can now be assured that a Liberal government would make it an offence under the Criminal Code to propagate hate against individuals based on their gender.

“This amendment to the Criminal Code was extremely important to me and it was the subject of my first Private Member’s Bill. I worked diligently to get it passed, but unfortunately I was unable to get unanimous consent. As the Liberal Candidate for Etobicoke Centre and more importantly as the father of my new baby daughter Viktoria, I am proud that my Liberal party and a new Liberal government would ensure that she will be protected under the Criminal Code against hate crimes,” stated Wrzesnewskyj.

On May 11, 2005, Mr. Wrzesnewskyj introduced his original Bill C-385 dealing with hate crimes against women and on November 28, 2005, requested unanimous support from all parties at all stages for the bill to become law immediately. The motion was defeated by the Conservatives. With the new parliament, Wrzesnewskyj re-introduced the bill, now known as Bill C-254, on May 19, 2006; Conservatives again voted it down on April 19, 2007.

- 30 -

For further information contact: Borys Wrzesnewskyj (416) 621-1060