



In this issue:

1. [Update on Criminal Code Amendments](#)
2. [Right to Silence: S.C.C.](#)
3. [Bill 7 - Reporting Child Pornography](#)
4. [CLE at Midwinter](#)

1. Update on Criminal Code Amendments

[Bill C-2](#), known as the *Tackling Violent Crime Act*, is now before the Senate. The Bill was reported on in our November eLaw Criminal Law Update. Further details on the Bill are now available in the [Legislative Summary](#) on the [Library of Parliament's website](#). [Bill C-13](#), *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (criminal procedure, language of the accused, sentencing and other amendments)* is also before the Senate. This Bill makes numerous changes to *Criminal Code* procedures as well as to sentencing provisions and is summarized in detail in the [Legislative Summary](#) provided on the Library of Parliament's website.

2. Right to Silence: S.C.C.

In [R. v. Singh](#), 2007 SCC 48, the court considered whether the police acted in breach of the accused's right to silence in continuing their interrogation after detaining him and after the accused asserted his right to silence. A 5-4 majority dismissed the accused's appeal of his conviction and held that:

...Mr. Singh asks that the Court impose on the police a correlative obligation, comparable to s. 10(b) of the Charter, to stop questioning a suspect whenever he or she clearly asserts the right to silence. Such a bright-line rule would undoubtedly have the advantage of certainty. However, for reasons that follow, I cannot accede to this suggestion.

The approach advocated by Mr. Singh not only ignores the state interests at stake, a matter upon which I will elaborate, it overshoots the protection afforded to the individual's freedom of choice both at common law and under the Charter.

3. Bill 7 - Reporting Child Pornography

Bill 7, [The Child and Family Services Amendment Act \(Child Pornography Reporting\)](#) has recently been introduced in the legislature. The effect of the proposed legislation is to add a definition of child pornography to [The Child and Family Services Act](#), C.C.S.M. c.C80, and to include child pornography in the definition of when a child is "in need of protection." The Bill also creates a new reporting obligation for anyone who "reasonably believes" that material is or might be child pornography, but does not extend that obligation to privileged information obtained in a solicitor and client relationship.

4. CLE at Midwinter

Sex "Appeals" - The Latest Word from the Supreme Court of Canada is one of several interesting CLE topics scheduled for the Manitoba Bar Association's [2008 Mid-Winter Conference](#) on January 25, 2008. Check the [Manitoba Bar Association's website](#) for registration information and complete program details.

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